

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 2-3, 2018
Chicago, Illinois**

**Standards Committee: Proposal to Participate in Art & Rare
Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension Working Group
(Prepared by John Bence)**

In July 2018, Francis Lapka, chair of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee, contacted Standards Committee co-chair John Bence and ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee chair Bronwen Bitetti to gauge whether our respective organizations would be interested in participating in an inchoate working group charged with developing specialist ontologies to extend [BIBFRAME](#), including models for the description of art and rare materials. This work continues previous projects, most notably the Mellon-funded Linked Data for Production ([LD4P](#)) project that recently concluded. Below, the Standards Committee proposes SAA participate in this working group by appointing Elizabeth Russey Roke as rotating chair and an additional 3-4 members identified by an open call for volunteers.

BACKGROUND

From the Library of Congress [website](#): "BIBFRAME provides a foundation for the future of bibliographic description, both on the web and in the broader networked world that is grounded in Linked Data techniques. A major focus of the initiative is to determine a transition path for the MARC 21 formats while preserving a robust data exchange that has supported resource sharing and cataloging cost savings in recent decades."

Among LD4P's [goals](#) was "extending the BIBFRAME ontology to describe library resources in specialized domains and formats." While the LD4P project [produced initial models](#) for art and rare materials, project participants recognized the need for more thorough development of these ontologies. Thus, in June 2018, RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee committed to further developing these ontologies and contacted both SAA Standards Committee and the ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee as potential partners.

DISCUSSION

Following an initial phone call with RBMS, ARLIS/NA and LD4P representatives, John Bence sought input from Standards Committee members and ex-officio representatives. There was general consensus that participation would be worthwhile, given the potentially high impact of the working group's output could have in making archival description more integrated with BIBFRAME.

John Bence contacted Elizabeth Russey Roke for input on the proposed working group, being familiar with her participation in an [archives and linked data interest group](#) and [publication](#) on the topic in the past. Elizabeth expressed strong support for SAA's participation and was amenable to participating in an official capacity as well.

As of October 9, 2018, the RBMS Executive Committee had approved the proposed charter; the ACRL Executive Committee still needs to confirm their approval. ARLIS/NA and SAA approval are being sought concurrently.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT the Council agree to SAA participation in the Art & Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension Working Group (ARM WG) by adopting the group charter below;

THAT Elizabeth Russey Roke be appointed as SAA representative to the ARM Working Group, serve as the ARM WG representative on the SAA Standards Committee, and act as rotating co-chair for the group in the second year of its charge; and

THAT an open call for volunteers (to include a statement of interest) be made to find 3-4 additional SAA representatives to the ARM WG, with recommendations provided by the ARM WG representative.

Art & Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension Working Group

Working with a broad representation from library and archival special collections communities, the Art and Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension Working Group (ARM WG) will publish and refine a BIBFRAME[1] ontology extension for the description of special collections materials. The work will build upon the Art and Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension[2] established as part of the first phase of the Linked Data for Production (LD4P) project, 2016-2018[3]. Potential partners of the joint working group include the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), the Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RBMS) of ALA/ACRL, and the Society of American Archivists (SAA).

Objectives:

- Review initial modeling of the Art and Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension (ARM) and build upon areas for future work identified by the LD4P project. Identify use cases not yet covered by ARM, especially those that may be required for discovery of archival material. Extend and refine the ontology as appropriate.
- Publish an initial version of the ARM ontology extension, potentially in coordination with the Library of Congress Linked Data Service.
- Identify long-term strategies and structures for the administration of ARM.
- Work with the Library of Congress to further define the relationship between the core ontology (BIBFRAME) and the ARM extension.

- Work with the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) to incorporate ARM into PCC application profiles for the description of special collections materials.

The working group will be charged with a term of two years to complete initial project goals.

The size of the working group is envisioned to be between 10 and 15 members. Each of the three primary partner organizations will have a representative responsible for chairing the group (in rotation). The tentative chairs are Marie-Chantal L'Ecuyer-Coelho (ARLIS/NA), Jason Kovari (RBMS), and Elizabeth Russey Roke (SAA). The three partner organizations will also name liaisons to their respective standards bodies: the SAA Standards Committee, the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee, and the ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee. The chair and liaison roles may be combined and served by one individual, at the discretion of the partner organization. The remaining membership will be based on an open call for volunteers. A group representing the primary sponsors will select the membership.

[1] BIBFRAME (Bibliographic Framework Initiative): <http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/>

[2] Art & Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension (ARM):
<https://wiki.duraspace.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=101781410>

[3] Linked Data for Production (LD4P):
<https://wiki.duraspace.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=74515029>

Support Statement: SAA participation in the Art & Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension Working Group affords members the opportunity to contribute to cross-disciplinary efforts to make archives and library resources more discoverable and accessible to our shared users.

Impact on Strategic Priorities: The work of the proposed working group would directly contribute to Goal #3 of the strategic plan by (3.1) participating in the developing of a new standard while also (3.3) participating in relevant partnerships with allied organizations. It is our hope, too, that the working group membership can (4.2) afford opportunities for member participation in a key association activity.

Fiscal Impact: There are no anticipated fiscal impacts of this work, as the majority of it will be done remotely. Space and time may be required at the Annual Meeting to host an open forum.