

Report of the RBMS/BSC Liaison to the ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA)

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At ALA Midwinter 2020, CC:DA began taking [collaborative notes](#) in a Google Doc to supplement the formal minutes. A substantial portion of the meeting was focused on the [RDA 3R Project](#) and the effect of organizational and procedural changes associated with changes in the RDA governance structure which added an intermediary layer (the [North American RDA Committee](#) (NARDAC)) between CC:DA (representing ALA) and the [RDA Steering Committee](#) (RSC).

A primary concern was enabling efficient mechanisms for soliciting community feedback on RDA development and for communicating NARDAC and RSC decisions back to CC:DA and liaising communities. Prior to the change in RDA governance, the RDA Joint Steering Committee (JSC) met once a year and had elaborate protocols for community review of proposals and discussion papers. The RSC now meets quarterly, meaning that communities will be asked for comments and feedback more often, but the protocols for soliciting feedback are intended to be less onerous. The RSC and NARDAC are continuing to evaluate the new protocols to determine if communities have enough time to review and respond to discussion papers and change proposals.

Communication around the outcome of the joint CC:DA/Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) fast track proposal to add an element for “curator agent of work” was given as an example of a communication failure. NARDAC ultimately decided not to move forward with the proposal as written, and notified ARLIS/NA, but this outcome wasn’t broadly shared.

NARDAC is continuing to work on the proposal with ARLIS/NA, and asked RBMS to restate its concerns, as mentioned in the March 2020 BSC meeting. Due to other commitments, no further work has been done on this to date.

The merger of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (CC:DA’s parent body), the Library and Information Technology Association, and the Library Leadership &

Management Association into a new ALA division, [Core](#), is not expected to impact CC:DA significantly, and the chair of CC:DA has been told that it is not at risk for being disbanded.

Feedback from RBMS on the MARC discussion paper [Defining a New Field for Manifestation Statements in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format](#) was conveyed to the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC). The RSC supported the RBMS suggestion that any new field be able to record the transcription “rules” used.