



IFLA Metadata Newsletter

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Bibliography Section

Cataloguing Section

Subject Analysis and Access Section

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**ABOUT THE *IFLA METADATA*
NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter is published twice a year (June and December).

Contributions are welcome at any time.

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Ongoing projects, activities, and publications can be found at:

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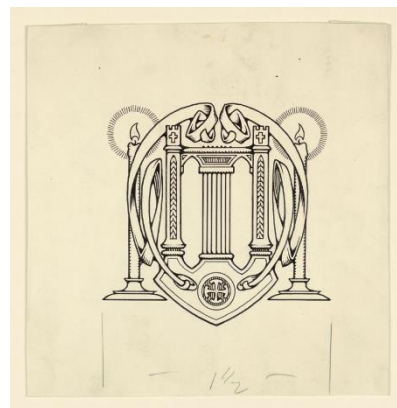
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*Tailpiece, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; Homer Wayland Colby;CC0;
https://www.si.edu/object/tailpiece%3Achnm_195_3-48-87*

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Metadata Colleagues,

Welcome to the December 2023 issue of the IFLA Metadata Newsletter! The World Libraries and Information Congress (WLIC) in Rotterdam and the various satellite meetings held in August provided opportunities for in-person, hybrid, and live-streaming meetings and events for attendees. While the overall programming for the WLIC had a strong focus on AI, this was, by no means, the only topic that the three units engaged with. Bibliography and SAA collaborated with the IT Section to host two very successful open sessions on various aspects of AI in a library setting. Other prominent topics included respectful terminology in knowledge organization systems, the future of Universal Bibliographic Control, the harmonization of metadata standards, updates to the International Cataloging Principles, and the use of Agile principles in the library setting.

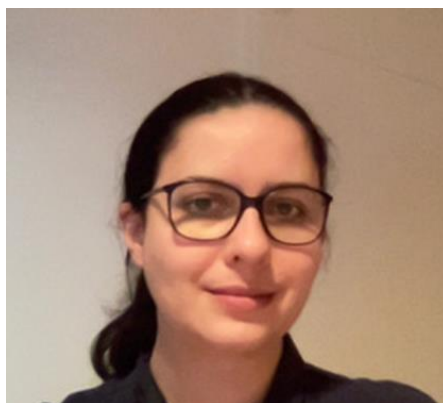
This was an election year, both for new standing committee members and officers. All

three units have new chairs, and some sections have new secretaries and information coordinators. The new Division H chair was the former chair of SAA, so the sections are in good hands and are well represented at the Professional Council. Various working groups continue to tackle important issues, such as a review of genre and form terms used across the globe, the upcoming worldwide review of the ISBDM the future of Universal Bibliographic Control, and a cross-IFLA initiative to create the first IFLA Network around the topic of "Accessibility Metadata."

As Chairs of the Bibliography, Cataloguing, and Subject Analysis and Access Sections, we encourage those interested in contributing to the work of the Sections to contact us for more information. Although we won't meet in August, stay tuned for metadata-related events in the Spring. We hope that you enjoy this issue, and we send our best wishes for the new year!



Rehab Ouf, Chair of the Bibliography Section Standing Committee; Chief Research Specialist, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt



Mélanie Roche, Chair of the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee; Head of Applied Models, National Library of France



Caroline Saccucci, Chair of the Subject Analysis and Access Section Standing Committee; Cataloging Division Chief, Library of Congress, USA

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM CANADA

MARC21 Web Site

The [French translations](#) of MARC 21 [Update N° 36](#) (June 2023) and [Field Code Lists](#) (February 22 to August 22, 2023) are now available. The French translation of MARC 21 [Update no 37](#) will be published in early 2024.

Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) Project

The new LAC processes for acquiring digital publications that publishers submit with ONIX metadata are now operational. In 2024, LAC will continue to contact publishers to arrange for the on-boarding of ONIX submissions. ONIX metadata for audiobooks can now be submitted using the DAMS processes. This year, the project team expects to implement new workflows for ingesting serial issues and creating issue-level metadata. The testing of these new workflows is well underway.

Canadian Subject Headings (CSH) related to Indigenous Peoples

Canadian Subject Headings (CSH) is a list of access points in the English language developed by LAC, using controlled vocabulary, to express the subject content of documents on Canada. The scope of CSH is mostly limited to the Canadian cultural, economic, historical, literary, political and social experience, with a few subject headings in other fields of study. While the headings in CSH are only in the English language, they have French language equivalents in Répertoire de vedettes-matière (RVM), published by the Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval. The existing CSH do not fully reflect current terminology used by First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation for

describing material with Indigenous content. Therefore LAC has an ongoing initiative to modify CSHs to be more respectful. As of September 2023, 560 topical subject headings have been added, 138 have been revised, 13 remain to be updated, and more remain to be added. LAC also continues revising Indigenous community names in CSH to ensure that respectful names are used.

FC and PS8000 Classification Schedules

New editions of FC: a Classification for Canadian History and Class PS8000: a Classification for Canadian Literature were published in 2023. The focus of both editions (supplements to the Library of Congress Classification system) was revising terminology related to Indigenous Peoples to make it more respectful. These new editions can be found on LAC Cataloguing and Metadata Wiki: [English](#); [French](#).

RDA Policy Statements

LAC has been working closely with the American Library Association to develop and test the LAC bilingual Policy Statement structure in the RDA Toolkit. The first version of LAC RDA Policy Statements on manifestation elements (English and French) will be available in the January 2024 RDA Toolkit release.

RDA-MARC authority mapping

LAC submitted the latest RDA MARC authority mapping in December to be incorporated into the upcoming January 2024 RDA Toolkit release. The update to the authority format mapping incorporates the changes made in the recent MARC21 Update.

Francophone Name Authority Program (PFAN - Programme francophone des autorités de noms, PFAN)

Ongoing documentation updates are being made to the PFAN [bilingual wiki](#) (English /

French) and a summary of [additions and changes](#) on the PFAN wiki is now available.

PFAN's current focus is on developing procedures for RDA policy statements and harmonizing approaches for Romanization, Music, Ambiguous entities, and bibliographic file maintenance.

NEWS FROM MAURITIUS

The National Library's participation in the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award 2023

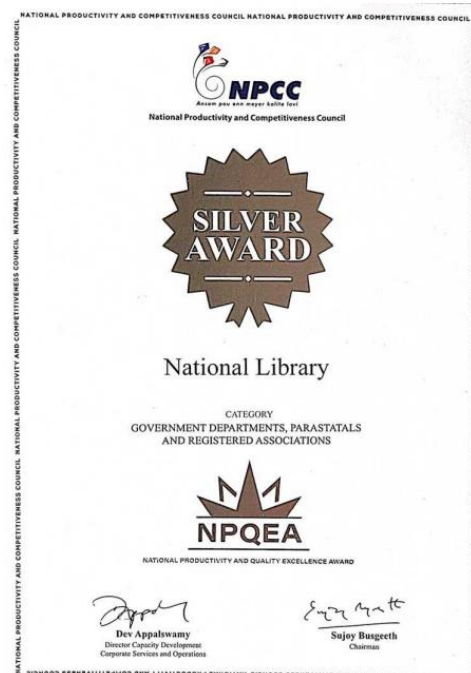
By Mrs T. K. Ramnauth, Director of National Library of Mauritius

The National Library of Mauritius participated in the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award 2023 and won the Silver Award in its category. The National Library participants, namely, Messrs Narain and Jodhun and Mses Sahadew and Sellapillay gave a presentation on the theme Unleashing Productivity and Quality through the application of Change Management: Principles from an adaptive Quality Management System National Library Successful Pathway. The National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award is an initiative of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, a national body established during the year 2000 by the Government of Mauritius.

The aims of this award are to encourage organisations to share their best operational practices, processes, systems and initiatives and this, in a view to share the experiences and best practices of each and every organization. In turn, the initiative would help organisations in achieving excellence.

The National Library, through its participation in the National Productivity and Quality

Excellence Award sought to share its best practices. The National Library clearly demonstrated how its objectives were met through its vision, mission and strategic plans. Furthermore, the National Library put forward the various data, information and knowledge it collected on a regular basis and analysed in order to bring up systematic improvements. The National Library's principles in achieving best organizational and managerial practices were well appreciated by members of the jury.





Staffs presenting their paper to the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council via Zoom

NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

Metadata developments at the KB, National Library of the Netherlands

By specialists of the KB, National Library of the Netherlands

A minor reorganization has taken place this year, with the KB recently establishing a Metadata Office under the Collection Data department. For some years, the KB only had a partnership between metadata specialists and a strategic advisor. The Metadata Office is the central place in the organization for metadata issues. Depending on the issue, the metadata specialists seek collaboration with other specialists in the organization.

Over the past two years, dedicated efforts have been directed toward implementing the digital archive Rosetta and the library service platform Alma, both provided by Ex Libris.

June 2022, Alma successfully went live, encompassing cataloging holdings, acquisition and lending. By December 4, 2023, the KB will catalog all physical resources in Alma. An implementation process has just been started

for the born digital resources in conjunction with Rosetta.

The migration to Alma also marked a transition from the PICA standard to MARC21, coupled with the further implementation of original RDA. Later, the KB wants to switch to official RDA. A number of application profiles, various manuals and cheat sheets have been prepared. The metadata specialists also had the opportunity to enhance the quality of the metadata and the existing mapping.

We started with an AI-experiment to support our cataloguers, specifically for the older books that the KB collects (through, for example, by donations). Some of these books are possibly already part of our collection. Through photographs of the book (cover, titlepage, colophon etcetera) an AI-tool collects metadata of the book and matches it with existing records in ALMA. The human cataloguer checks the collected metadata, adds extra information and completes the bibliographic record. We hope to test the tool in the first part of 2024. This experiment was inspired by our Belgian colleagues at the KBR, which are also experimenting with AI and cataloguing.

Next year, the KB will also start a project to design the infrastructure of the renewed national bibliography. Preparations for supplementing the national bibliography and improving the quality of the metadata will also continue.

RDA Application profile for library domain in the Netherlands

By **Meta van der Waal-Gentenaar**, Metadata Specialist, National Library of the Netherlands

Metadata specialists from the KB, national library of the Netherlands, have drawn up an

official RDA Application profile for monographs together with Digital Heritage Network. This was made possible by a subsidy from the Connected Digital Heritage program of the Pica Foundation. With this profile, an RDA-based linked data has been created, which can take a major step in digitally connecting Dutch heritage. The application profile has been published via Digital Heritage Network at <https://netwerk-digitaal-erfgoed.github.io/rdanl/>.

The application profile is not only aimed at creating linked data. It also helps organizations that want to prepare for RDA. A step-by-step plan for making the metadata suitable is added.

Hopefully an application profile for other resources can be prepared next year.

Connecting performing arts collections in The Netherlands with RDA

By **Eric van Balkum**, Music Metadata Specialist,
Podiumkunst.net/Muziekschatten.nl

Since 2021 Podiumkunst.net – a consortium consisting of six heritage organisations in the performing arts sector – has been given the assignment of connecting collections containing video, audio, notated music and other document and object types via linked data.

RDA (Resource Description and Access) – based on the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) - has been chosen as the most prominent ontology for modelling and publishing existing and future datasets from these organisations. At the end of the project these metadata will be available in a shared knowledge graph. Various visualisation and discovery tools can then be developed to serve the user tasks *Find*, *Identify*, *Select*, *Obtain* and especially *EXPLORE*.

In order to reach this goal librarians, archivists, metadata specialists, linked data wizards and ICT architects work together in working groups. One is dedicated to composing one or more application profiles in which will be specified which RDA elements must, should and could be used and which RDA recording method(s) should be used and which string encoding schemes or vocabulary encoding schemes are applicable. These decisions result from a practical approach in which examples from existing metadata sets (describing manifestations of different document types) are transformed to RDA entities, classes and properties.

As knowledge of and experience with RDA are not very wide-spread the working group holds short lines of communications with the KB, National Library of the Netherlands and the RDA Steering Committee. The application profiles and policy statements are intended to be published within the RDA Toolkit.

In the RDA linked open data scenario (Scenario A) metadata description sets are expressed in Resource description framework (RDF) using Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs). The second working group inventories which controlled linked data vocabularies – providing these IRIs - are already available and which should be created. Recently a multi-language thesaurus for Mediums of Performance (musical instruments, singing voices, ensembles etc.) was published, drawing on the IFLA/UNIMARC list, the Dewey Decimal Classification (780: Music) and the MIMO Thesaurus.

The Connected Digital Heritage program line has started

The Connected Digital Heritage program line has started. With this program line from the Pica Foundation in collaboration with the KB, national library of the Netherlands, digital heritage collections can be connected. This makes it easier to find information about 1 subject in different collections.



Renée Schilling, Program coördinator. Photo: Jacqueline van der Kort.

Pilot

The pilot phase with 10 projects from various libraries and heritage institutions was successfully completed in April 2023. An example of a project is [Allmaps maakt digitale kaarten zichtbaar - Netwerk Digitaal Erfgoed](#). As a result, the board of the Pica Foundation has asked the KB to set up the Connected Digital Heritage program line for the coming years. With the opening of this program line, libraries can submit a project application to gain knowledge and experience in NDE compatibility (Linked Open Data, Persistent Identifiers, IIF, Data Register and the Term Network). (See also the contribution about the pilot phase in [IFLA Metadata Newsletter December 2021](#).)

Why this program line?

With the Connected Digital Heritage program line, the Pica Foundation wants to connect digitized historical collections in the Netherlands. There are many digital heritage collections, but at the moment they are often separate from each other. By linking collections, users can find everything about a specific subject in 1 search. This is useful for scientists but also for leisure researchers, the creative industry and education. Connecting collections thus increases their social value. Heritage organizations with digital library or heritage collections can now submit project proposals. This allows them to explore, connect and enrich their digital collections.

Subsidy options

The Connected Digital Heritage program line consists of 3 different financing schemes. This allows heritage institutions to explore, connect and enrich their digital library or heritage collections. More information about this can be found on the [project page](#).

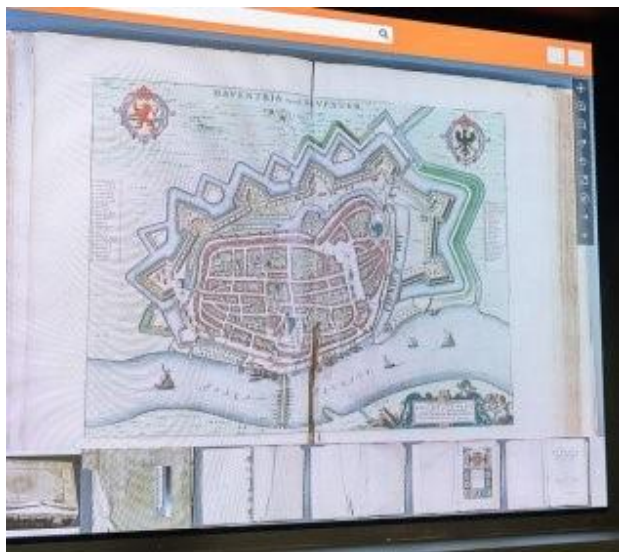
How does connecting collections work?

New techniques such as Linked Open Data (LOD) and persistent identifiers are used for this. LOD is a way of offering data that makes it easy to connect to other data. A persistent identifier is a permanent reference to certain information. This is all done with new open standards such as IIF. All this means that information remains in your own collection, but is also linked to information from other collections. This way the user can search different collections in 1 search.

Collaboration NDE

The program line is implemented in collaboration with the Digital Heritage Network (NDE). Within this network, the heritage sector develops national facilities to make digital heritage visible and usable for everyone. The

use of collections becomes much larger, more accessible and very diverse. The KB is part of this network. The new Connected Digital Heritage program is in line with the principles in the National Digital Heritage Strategy. This describes how collections can be connected from the perspective of the users. Many institutions are already working together to establish mutual connections.



NEWS FROM SWEDEN

By Andreas Andersson, National Library of Sweden

In an ongoing move towards better utilisation of its linked data environment, the Swedish union catalogue Libris was in 2023 remodeled to enable cataloguing of stand-alone bibliographic BIBFRAME work entities.

Simultaneously, potential works were identified on a subset of the catalogue (fictional literature in Swedish) by grouping resources sharing titles and contributors. This was followed by a cluster analysis and subsequent extraction process where properties describing the content of the

resources were merged into new, separate work entities.

When implemented in December, 53 000 stand-alone work entities were created, linked to 146 000 BIBFRAME instances.

All Libris cataloguers are now able to link instances to existing works, while a designated group of cataloguers are authorised to create new works.

The structural change of the catalogue of separating the “conceptual essence” of a resource from its “material embodiment” will provide benefits for both cataloguers and patrons by reducing duplication and facilitating hierarchies and navigational tools.

A detailed account on how the work extraction project was carried out is provided in the presentation “Clustering, extracting and linking bibliographical work entities” at this year’s BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe: https://www.bfwe.eu/brussels_2023

NEWS FROM THE USA

Revised Library of Congress Classification for Ukraine

The Library of Congress is pleased to announce the publication of a revised classification for Ukraine in subclass DK (History of Russia. Soviet Union. Former Soviet Republics). This represents a major revision to the Library of Congress Classification standard. The revised classification scheme is found at DK5001-DK5995 and replaces the previous classification at DK508. Use of the revised classification will begin immediately; the Library of Congress will not reclassify existing collections.

This project is a joint effort between the Germanic and Slavic Division and the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division. The published revision closes the first phase in an ongoing initiative to systematically review and revise classification for the so-called “former Soviet Republics” at subclass DK. The next phase will focus on revisions for the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and Kyivan Rus. Experts from the Library of Congress presented the new classification for Ukrainian history at the 55th annual convention of the [Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies](#).

Please send feedback to reclassproject@loc.gov.

Links to approved special lists

Classification: <https://classweb.org/approved-test-class/2310b.html>

Subjects: <https://classweb.org/approved-subjects/2310a.html>

The U.S. ISSN Center’s Music Project

By **Regina Romano Reynolds**, Director of the U.S. ISSN Center, Library of Congress

Library of Congress U.S. ISSN Center staff are providing support for a music periodicals digitization project endorsed by the Music Library Association. The project is comprised of two collections: Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale/International Repertory of Musical Literature; and Répertoire International de la Presse Musicale/Retrospective Index to Music Periodicals. At the request of the project’s directors, the U.S. ISSN Center is coordinating assignment of ISSNs (International Standard Serial Numbers) to the over 700

digitized historic print periodicals in these databases that lack ISSNs. Separate ISSNs are being assigned to the original print and the digital versions.

The majority of the periodicals are from the United States. Over 300 ISSNs have been assigned to these U.S. titles and numerous other ISSNs previously assigned have been confirmed. The remaining titles are from 50 other countries, mostly in Western Europe. The U.S. Center is now engaging with ISSN centers in these countries to request that they assign ISSNs to the periodicals from their countries. France and Germany have already begun the process. Engagement with the other ISSN centers will follow, with the hope that most centers can assign ISSNs to the periodicals from their country. In the event that a center does not have the staff to make the assignments, with their permission, the U.S. ISSN Center will assign ISSNs to the digitized versions and submit the records to the international ISSN Register to be placed under the non-U.S. ISSN center’s jurisdiction. In addition to LC staff that assign the U.S. ISSNs, experts from LC’s Music Division are also collaborating on the project. Benefits to the Music Division, in addition to the ISSNs, are the identification of older and incomplete LC catalog records so the Music Division or a serials cataloger versed in music cataloging can update and complete the existing records.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Universal Bibliographic Control at the crossroads, a report on the satellite meeting

by **Maud Henry, Mathilde Koskas, and Pat Riva**

Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) is a fundamental principle for national libraries,

formulated over 50 years ago by IFLA and UNESCO. IFLA's last official document on the subject, the [IFLA Professional Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control](#), dates back to 2012, and the federation had not devoted a general meeting to the subject since the Lyon Congress in 2014. In the meantime, the international normative landscape for the production, sharing and dissemination of metadata has continued to evolve rapidly. The question arose: is the principle of Universal Bibliographic Control still valid?

To launch a reflection on UBC today, IFLA's metadata sections – Bibliography, Cataloguing, and Subject Analysis and Access – held a satellite meeting in [KBR](#) (Royal Library of Belgium), Brussels, on August 18-19, 2023. This event drew 49 participants onsite, from 18 countries. The satellite meeting devoted its time to understanding Universal Bibliographic Control and the challenges of unifying IFLA bibliographic standards.



The one and a half day event was divided into three sessions, each session of presentations being followed by round-table discussions.

Session 1: Universal Bibliographic Control and Other Frameworks for Metadata Standards Development

During her keynote presentation, Pat Riva outlined the milestones of Universal Bibliographic Control (from the UNESCO conference on the improvement of bibliographical services, in 1950, to present), its goals (reduce cataloguing costs through metadata reuse on an international scale) and its assumptions. While stressing the roles of a national bibliographic agency and of IFLA's international standards, Pat explained the evolution of the technological context in which metadata creation operates and the view of what constitutes authoritative data, which prompted us to ask these questions: Do we need a new UBC statement? Is the goal of UBC still valid? Do we need an IFLA statement? If so, how would we state it now? These questions guided discussions throughout the conference, and were addressed at the end of each thematic session. In her conclusion, she underlined the enduring meaning of UBC.

Mo'men S. Elnasharty's presentation, called "For Whom We Should Create the Bibliographic data" focused on this important concern: are bibliographic control tools currently meeting users' needs? His perspective being that knowledge integration is crucial. Bibliographic control tools need to integrate with others, such as search engines. This is achieved by linked data and the semantic web and models such as Bibframe. To meet the users' needs, bibliographic agencies should embrace AI and generative data. Mo'men's argument is that we should create bibliographic control for use by machine, generative AI, not for human users.

Vincent Boulet then gave a presentation under the title "IFLA Metadata Standards Facing With a Fragmented World" during which he outlined

the challenges facing IFLA metadata standards such as: consistency, user's tasks and massification of information and resources. To succeed in the transition to a new kind of interoperability, Vincent underlined the importance of semantics and structure and suggested possible actions to be taken at different levels (systemic, syntactic, structural, semantic).

Renate Behrens couldn't come to the Satellite Meeting, but she kindly agreed to prepare a presentation which Vincent was able to give for her, titled "Standards in changing times". Starting with traditional cataloging for print resources, she highlighted the flaws in cataloging other types of resources. In her slides, she stressed the need for flexible international standards that have more the character of a framework model and that are supplemented by local or community-specific application profiles. To illustrate her point, she made a comparison between RDA and ISBDM based on a list of requirements, adding some to-dos for the near future and a suggestion on how to balance the use of AI/human metadata creation for different types of collections.

Session 2: "Cataloguers", "Metadata Creators" Competencies for UBC

In this second session, Lia Contursi presented "Bibliographic Description and Data Management: Expanding Cataloging Responsibilities". Catalogers are faced with a strong dichotomy between the need to adhere to sometimes rigid standards and the need to create agile metadata. Lia has highlighted the change of the role of the cataloger in recent years and its dual nature by looking at some examples such as the example of a list of fragments of ancient Japanese documents acquired by Princeton University and the use of the MarcEdit program to manipulate the data.

In her presentation, she also lists other tools applicable to MARC records editing and metadata management tasks.

During the following presentation, called "Nélida Piñon Personal Collection: Cataloguing Documents from the Nélida Piñon Library at Cervantes Institute Rio de Janeiro: A Case Study", Carlos A. Della Paschoa showed some of the characteristics of the cataloging process and the cataloguer's skills profile applied to dealing with personal collections. Some particularities are challenging (the diversity of knowledge areas and fields, the language diversity, the marginalia, the thematic sections) and in the specialised literature there is still no consensus on the standards to be adopted for the description of dedications, comments, annotations, markings and provenance marks. The experience highlighted that a series of competencies are needed for this type of work.

Session 3: Ethics of Cataloguing

The second day of the Satellite Meeting opened with a presentation by Bobby Bothmann with the title "Equity, Division, and Classism in Descriptive Cataloging Units". His starting premises are: priced access to the RDA Toolkit creates a gap between those who have access and those who don't, that is, a classist division of libraries and power structure which lies with a minority, excluding the majority of catalog librarians and libraries in the U.S. and globally, furthering classism. All of this is at odds with UBC, which is a professional ethical ideal. He then referred to UBC principles and philosophy and went on to discuss professional ethics and classicism. Bobby then presented the results of a survey carried out in July 2023 on the access to the RDA Toolkit. The respondents with access to it were asked to rate their institution's general overall satisfaction with the standard.

This was followed by the presentation by Rowena Griem about “Approaches to Addressing Problematic Language in Controlled Vocabularies as seen in Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)”. She explained the issues with LCSH (reflects historical norms of past eras, the huge size of LCSH, the direct consequences on FAST Headings, and the little agreement on how best to address the problem) and discussed the diverse approaches that librarians and libraries have taken to tackle this problem: the local initiatives, the use of other controlled vocabularies and using the LCSH change proposal process. She also explained the project she worked on and how she submitted an LCSH change proposal. Rowena concluded her presentation by calling on the library community to review and update their subject vocabularies.

Hannes Lowagie then gave the final presentation, called “From Bias to Transparency,

Ethical Imperatives in AI-Based Library cataloging” during which he proposed a new approach based on AI and linked subject indexing to create standardised cataloguing. The first question he asked was: “Can NBAs collaborate and can we create a single model and thus harmonise inputs (instead of focusing on a standardised output)?” A major difficulty would be to embrace different interpretations. He then made the following proposal: a unified interconnected knowledge graph by combining and mapping local classifications and subject vocabularies. Hannes explained the challenges of the proposal, its advantages and the ethical considerations.

Presentations from the satellite meeting are available on the [KBR website](#) and some papers are available in the [IFLA repository](#).

To conclude the event Mathilde Koskas and Pat Riva endeavoured to summarise the ideas from the discussion groups which each table had captured on post-it notes. The tables generated a wealth of ideas, not only on UBC itself, but relating to the role of cataloguing and cataloguers, and metadata generation in the broadest sense.

Focusing on the comments around the 2012 UBC statement itself, the consensus from the discussion groups was that it needs a review and update. As one participant aptly expressed it: “It’s not so much a question of whether the goal of UBC is still valid, but rather whether it is still *expressed* in a valid way.” Areas where practices have evolved include identity management instead of authorised forms, and the emphasis on interoperability of metadata rather than the uniform application of the same international standards. Several participants commented that the statement should be more explicit about the reasons for UBC and link directly to its benefits.

Mathilde and Pat also entered into a dialogue on the role of UBC within IFLA. IFLA metadata standards can be seen as fitting together. ICP provides the basic principles, the IFLA Library Reference Model gives a conceptual model of bibliographic data, the ISBD provides cataloguing guidelines, with UNIMARC as the encoding standard. The whole is supported by MulDiCat and the IFLA namespaces. But this picture doesn’t show a role for the UBC statement, and this will need to be clarified to move forward.

As an outcome of the satellite meeting, the three sponsoring sections have created a working group charged with framing a mandate for a revision of the UBC statement. So far this group consists of 11 members representing the Bibliography, Cataloguing, National Libraries and Subject Analysis and Access sections, as well as the Advisory Committee on Standards. It is co-chaired by Maud Henry (Bibliography Section) and Mathilde Koskas (Cataloguing Section). The first meeting was held on 4 December 2023 and meetings will continue monthly with the goal of producing a revision mandate by July 2024. One aspect that will be included is what sort of document is most appropriate: a short statement of principles, or longer guidelines or best practices? The working group will also be clarifying where the UBC statement falls in terms of the IFLA standards approvals process.



We'd like to thank all the participants, the speakers, KBR, the organizing committee and also OCLC for sponsoring this event.

VI Colloquium on RDA in Latin America and the Caribbean and the III Meeting on RDA in Brazil

by Isabel Ayres Maringelli

The VI Colloquium on RDA in Latin America and the Caribbean and the III Meeting on RDA in Brazil was organized by the Brazilian Federation of Associations of Librarians, Information Scientists and Institutions (FEBAB) and the National Library of Mexico and took place on October 18- 20, 2023.

The presentations can be viewed on Febab'schannel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@FEBAB>

Program

18th October

- RDA an international path to community-driven solutions
- LRM y BIBFRAME: dos modelos para la organización de la información
- RDA Board y su representación en América Latina
- Diez años de datos enlazados en la Biblioteca Nacional de España (2013-2023)
- A catalogação de agregado na perspectiva da RDA/LRM: reflexão a partir da obra "Dom Quixote"
- Considerações a respeito da Inteligência Artificial (IA) e o futuro do bibliotecário na catalogação da Biblioteca Central da PUCRS
- Desafios na implementação da RDA: um estudo da produção científica brasileira

19th October

- RDA Toolkit–Built for today and tomorrow
- Análisis terminológico de las entidades obra y manifestación dentro del dominio LRM
- Catálogo Colectivo de Bibliotecas Patrimoniales de México
- Catálogos digitales: navegando hacia el futuro de las publicaciones seriadas

- RDA na RVBI
- Gênero e RDA: descrição do atributo em catálogos internacionais
- Implantação da RDA na biblioteca do Tribunal de Contas do Município de São “BIBFRAME for Discovery: Creating a library knowledge graph” (by Haliza Jailani, senior deputy director, Resource Discovery & Management Division of the National Library Board of Singapore) and “Lifting a Union Catalogue to linked data” (by Niklas Lindtröm, technical specialist, from the National Library of Sweden). The presentations are published in PDF and available [online](#).

BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe

Experts from the Library of Congress in the United States participated in the 7th annual [BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe](#), held in Brussels, Belgium at the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR). From the Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO), Sally McCallum gave the lead-off presentation “BIBFRAME at Last?” with Jodi Williamschen and Kevin Ford joining McCallum for a panel discussion “A Conversation on Conversion”. From the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP), Judith Cannan gave a presentation on “Linked Data for Catalogers”. Kevin Ford also joined the closing panel on “Exchanging experiences”. The workshop had over 80 in-person attendees and over 200 online. EBSCO, ExLibris, and OCLC also each gave a separate presentation, discussing their linked-data plans. EBSCO has already had a number of institutions that will test its version of the Marva BIBFRAME editor. ExLibris is incorporating the Sinopia BIBFRAME editor into future development. OCLC is preparing to accommodate those transitioning from MARC

to non-MARC standards by providing extra services. Staff from the National Library of Sweden discussed their move into BIBFRAME, taking a leap without having first resolved all issues. Casalini Libri described its [ShareVDE program](#), a family of BIBFRAME projects that use the JCricket editor. The journey of the National Library Board of Singapore into a linked-data management and discovery system was also covered.

STANDARDS NEWS

REPertoire DES VEGETTES-MATIERE NEWS

By **Susanne Brilliant**, Librarian, Library – Access to Information Resources Department, Université Laval

In recent months, a team from the Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval, responsible for the Répertoire de vedettes-matière (RVM) used by 180 libraries and documentation centres in Canada and around the world, has undertaken a monumental project to update all terminology associated with First Peoples. Supported by Université Laval's Indigenous Team, this vast project, now in its first phase, is being carried out and co-created with First Nations and Inuit partners in Quebec.

The RVM, used for indexing information resources, is a set of standardized terms, linked in a semantic network that allows efficient database searches. The RVM has been the Canadian standard for indexing in French since 1974. “It is crucial to create conditions that will allow Indigenous terminology to evolve as society does and to avoid any such discrepancies in the future,” explains Susanne Brilliant, librarian at Université Laval and head of the project. “For the moment, the project is limited to subject headings related to the First

Peoples who inhabit the territory of Quebec. The subsequent step will be to extend the revision to the subject headings related to the Indigenous Peoples in all other Canadian provinces, followed by the countries of America”.

As this project is part of a decolonization effort, engaging with communities in line with Université Laval’s “By, for, and with” approach is a priority for the RVM team. The Atikamekw Nation Council was the first partner to join the project. “When the Bibliothèque’s team approached us, we quickly agreed to participate in the project. We believe it is important that the vocabulary related to the Atikamekw Nation reflects its current reality. We are pleased to have been able to collaborate in this project,” said Nicole Petiquay, coordinator of the Atikamekw language services of the Atikamekw Nation Council.

For Michèle Audette, Senior Advisor for Reconciliation and Indigenous Education at Université Laval and the project’s “kukum”, revising the Bibliothèque de l’Université Laval’s RVM is no easy task. “This work of reconciliation and decolonization of the RVM used in the francophone library network means a lot to Indigenous communities. It is very meaningful to know that, from now on, every person who researches our different nations will do so using the respectful terms and words used by First Peoples”, said Michèle Audette.

The first corrections began last April. More than 1,500 subject headings have been modified and are available to libraries. The terms “Premières Nations” (First Nations) in the Canadian context, and “Peuples autochtones” (Indigenous Peoples) for other countries in the Americas, are now used as headings. Corrections in nine subject headings pertaining

to the Atikamekw Nation are part of these first adjustments, as well as the removal of the parenthetical qualifier for 695 nation names. Several changes remain to be made. They will continue to be made in consultation with partners and will be made available to libraries in the update released on the first day of each month.

“The decolonization of the terms of the RVM associated with First Peoples is one of the many actions being undertaken as part of the [En action avec les Premiers Peuples](#) plan, which is being deployed for, by and with the First Peoples,” said Catia Bergeron, Vice-Rector, Academic and Student Affairs at Université Laval. “More than ever, Université Laval is implementing actions to recognize the importance of traditional knowledge. With this project, we are taking one more step together on the long road to reconciliation”.

[Revised vocabulary describing Indigenous peoples in the RVM](#)

NEWS FROM THE ISBD REVIEW GROUP

By **Renate Behrens**, Chair of the ISBDM Task Force and member of the ISBD Review Group

The ISBD for Manifestation Task Force has been able to successfully continue its work in recent months and can now present a first draft of the ISBD for Manifestation (ISBDM). As planned, this draft will be the basis for a review process. For this review phase, the Task Force decided to have a step-by-step procedure with the following timing.

ISBDM Task Force Review (from mid July until October 2023)

Following the extensive development of the ISBDM, the responsible task force conducted an

initial review of the draft from July to October 2023. This included a coverage review (check for completeness, consistency, and coherency) and an editorial review (check for typos, shredding consistency, etc.).

ISBD Review Group Review (Beginning of November until end of December 2023)

As the ISBDM Task Force is a working group of the ISBD Review Group, the review phase began with this group. For this purpose, documents were prepared that firstly explain the background and history of the ISBDM and secondly explain the handling of the ISBDM as an online standard. One aspect of this phase is also the official approval of the ISBD Review Group for the draft of the ISBDM itself as well as for further planning for the subsequent phases of the review process. At the beginning of December, the ISBD Review Group gave its approval to this review process. Initial comments to the draft have already been received and questions were clarified.

Experts Review (from mid February until mid April 2024)

This part of the review process will be with metadata experts like the ISSN International Centre (ISSN IC), the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) and all relevant IFLA sections. Starting point will be a meeting with the invited experts at 8 February 2024. Invitations for this kick-off meeting were sent out in mid December 2023.

Official world-wide Review (from mid May until mid July 2024)

This review phase will be initiated through information events such as webinars etc. The

first webinar for all interested colleagues before starting this phase is planned for 25 April 2024.

With this comprehensive review process, the ISBDM Task Force wants to ensure that the new

online tool ISBDM becomes a sustainable and reliable set of rules for the user communities worldwide and at the same time can be the basis for the expansion to other entities of the LRM.

Following the review phase, the ISBDM will go through the official IFLA approval process and can be published as an IFLA standard.

Learn more: <https://www.ifla.org/g/isbd-rg/isbd-for-manifestation-isbdm/>

SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

The National Bibliographic Agencies in the Information Landscape: How Do We Help?

By Rehab Ouf, Bibliography Section Chair

The Bibliography Section maintains two tools:

- The [IFLA's Common Practices for National Bibliographies in the Digital Age](#) (CPs), meant to be a supportive tool for countries and national institutions seeking information for creating and maintaining a national bibliography.
 - The [National Bibliographic Register](#) (NBR), a register resource made of profiles contributed by national bibliographic agencies through answers to standard questionnaire.
- Both tools are complementary.

While the CPs provide guidance and propose ranges of approaches for establishing a National Bibliography, the NBR provides concrete examples to understand how National Bibliographic Services are organized, what

services they provide, and what standards and tools they use to create and share their outputs.

Broadly speaking, both resources are tied to the mission of the National Library and to the functions of the National Bibliographic Agency/Centre (NBA/C).

Almost 50 years after Dorothy Anderson's article titled "The Role of the National Bibliographic Centre", the fundamental roles of the National Library (NL) and of the National Bibliographic Agency (NBA) remain unchanged. It is the landscape in which they operate that changes. It is also their relationship that can vary from country to country, depending on the specific country and its organizational structure and their establishment history.

"If the primary purpose of the national library is to build and conserve the national collection, the primary objective of the national bibliographic centre is to produce the comprehensive bibliographic records of the national imprint. All of its other activities evolve from that basis" (citing Dorothy Anderson), including the maintenance of the office for deposited publications or the "Copyright Office".

Speaking in more precise terms: the NBA is in charge of creating the National Bibliography of the country's output, aka cataloguing bibliographic records, according to internationally agreeable standards, and the production of authority files, responding to the criteria of data quality, authoritativeness, consistency, and completeness. Together, these aspects make up the whole of the *National Bibliographic Control (NBC)*.

The National Bibliographic Control is at the heart of the Universal Bibliographic Control

(UBC). The UBC strives for universal exchange of bibliographic and authority data (reliable, authoritative, consistent) and on avoiding duplication of efforts. It relies these responsibilities to National Bibliographic Agencies and the development of internationally agreeable bibliographic standards to international institutions, or specifically to IFLA. NBC therefore forms the building blocks for UBC. In other words, the UBC is the collection of NBCs which responsibility lies in the National Bibliographic Agencies (NBAs).

Extended roles of the NBAs are establishing and maintaining bibliographic standards in their countries and devising rules for the description of resources for libraries in their countries.

Again, these are the foundations that are constant. It is the landscape, the technology, the users' needs and expectations that change. The Common Practices for National Bibliographies are therefore a living document undergoing continuous iteration and refinement by the Bibliography Section. Their iterative nature must reflect the dynamic environment in which the National Bibliographic Agencies operate. By continuously adapting to changes in information formats, user needs, technology, and the broader information landscape, National Bibliographies can remain relevant and effective in their national and international roles.

As the Bibliography Section is moving with updating the Common Practices, specific guidelines for the National and Universal Bibliographic Control as well as for the National Bibliographic Agencies, could sometimes be developed to give accurate guidance in response to emerging developments, or on how to face specific cases. Two cases are in point: the Accessibility Metadata and Accessible

Formats, and the fast-growing Generative AI field.

National bibliographic agencies (NBAs) are the institutions that have a crucial role in promoting accessibility for people with print disabilities, first by including accessibility metadata in National Bibliographies. Other roles cascade from the National Libraries and NBAs' position in the country and their extended relationships with different actors and players. Standardizing and implementing accessibility Metadata in catalogues, raising awareness and building capacity, promoting inclusive information access, advocating for accessibility standards, and for national policies for the availability of born accessible formats. These needs are addressed through the work of the Bibliography Section.

The role of the National Library and of the National Bibliographic Agency in regard to Generative AI materials (GAMs) is still evolving, with exciting possibilities and challenges alike and endless question marks. Overall, they have both the potential and the role to formulate a position and devise policies about their worthiness to the library's collection, their copyrightability and their value to the national cultural heritage. Once affirmed, they need guidelines about their bibliographic processing.

National Bibliographic Agencies/Centers are actively collaborating and sharing knowledge through the work of international professional organisations like IFLA. The ongoing exchange of experiences and best practices leads to continual refinement and improvement of standards and guidelines that adapt to emerging developments. The Bibliography Section has a central role in providing the guidelines, and in developing and promoting the best practices to assist the National Bibliographic Agencies perform their mandates

and achieve National and Universal Bibliographic Control.

NEW MEMBERS

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

Annette Dortmund



Since 2001 I have worked for today's OCLC across Europe, analysing trends affecting library workflows and infrastructure in a variety of roles. For a couple of years now I have been responsible for following trends and identifying needs specifically in the area of next-generation metadata. Exploring and shaping the future of bibliographic work while not cutting ties with the past—these are considerations of key relevance to me as a historian. National libraries play a vital role in providing much needed authoritative sources of descriptive

metadata, including in a linked data environment. They are also central to the implementation of regionally diverse reparative and inclusive descriptive practices. My academic background is in history (book sciences) and philology. I joined IFLA's Bibliography Section in August 2023, where I will contribute to the National Bibliographic Register and co-chair a working group focusing on the application of new technologies in national bibliographic work.

Linda Jerrewing Strömberg



Linda Jerrewing Strömberg joined the National library of Sweden in 2018 where she now works at the Acquisitions and Metadata Department, in the Metadata and National bibliography unit, cataloguing for the National bibliography. She is also member of the Metadatabyråns editorial board, helping librarians in Sweden to interpret and use RDA within Swedish conditions. Among her interests are selection criteria, and how to organize efficient workflows. Before starting her position at the National Library of Sweden she worked for many years as librarian at the

Swedish Agency for Accessible Media, a government authority producing and distributing literature in accessible formats to persons with reading impairments. She graduated as a librarian in 2005.