



IFLA Metadata Newsletter

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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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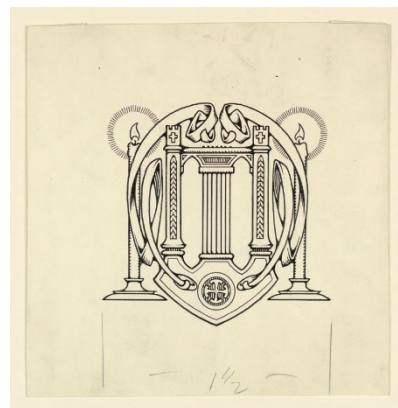
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*Tailpiece, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; Homer Wayland Colby;CC0;
https://www.si.edu/object/tailpiece%3Achndm_195_3-48-87*

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Metadata Colleagues,

Welcome to the June 2024 issue of our Metadata Newsletter!

We hope you've had a productive spring and are now looking forward to exciting new endeavors at your institutions this summer!

The work of our committees thrived this winter and spring, driving innovation in both individual and collaborative projects.

With the WLIC on hold this year, our metadata sections have joined forces on projects to strengthen collaboration around metadata standards and bibliographic control.

The establishment of the IFLA Accessibility Metadata Network was made possible thanks to the sponsorship of six IFLA units, including our three sections. The metadata sections are uniquely situated to harness their areas of excellence to bring about a comprehensive standard improving resource discovery and inclusivity of library catalogues.

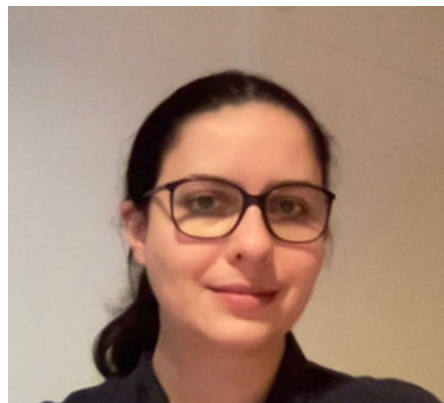
One of the many interests that bring us together is a joint initiative between the Metadata Sections the National Library Section and the Advisory Committee on Standards to reaffirm the core principles of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and update the UBC Statement (2012) to reflect current realities in information creation and dissemination.

On individual action plans, the three sections deployed efforts and activities, each in their areas of core specialization, targeting innovation in topics and outputs. Knowledge organization and subject access, national bibliographies and the national bibliographic agencies, core professional competencies, cataloguing principles and semantic integration of IFLA bibliographic standards, represent the top highlights.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue, and we look forward to shared activity outside the WLIC bringing us in-person soon!



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



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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BELGIUM

Joining forces in GLAM¹: Towards the Belgian authority file MetaBelgica

By Sven Lieber, PhD, Data Manager at the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR) in Brussels

Capturing and maintaining authority data is an essential part of the cataloguing process. Yet authority data can play a vital role beyond cataloguing in facilitating research by ensuring consistency and accuracy in identifying and accessing information. Take, for example, the Belgian painter Anna Boch: when we look her up in the KBR OPAC ([14466901](#)), we see not only 58 linked bibliographic records, but also information about when she was born and when she died, as well as that she was a painter and that she was Belgian.

However, authority data about her can also be found at other Belgian institutions because they have paintings *by* her or *of* her, for example at the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA) ([111491](#)). If everyone agrees to annotate their authorities with the same international identifier such as ISNI, the identifiers can help to connect the dots. In the provided example, researchers could fetch information from KBR and KIK-IRPA if both use ISNI. However, even with this bridge identifier, the actual data still resides in different institutions and might be of different quality, so it is up to the user to do get the data and compare it. This can be surprising, as the authority records are not copies of each other, but have often been curated independently and with different use cases in mind.

The following large scale example illustrates this problem. Within the [BELTRANS](#) project, the two

Belgian Universities KU Leuven and UCLouvain worked together with KBR to create and study a corpus of French to Dutch and Dutch to French book translations from 1970 to 2020. In order to make the corpus as complete as possible, we had to look beyond the KBR catalogue, which in theory should include all Belgian publications. This is because Belgians also publish books abroad and not all authors are aware of Belgian legal deposit. As an aggravating factor, nationality was not always systematically included in our authority data which made the monitoring of legal deposit challenging.

In this ongoing project, we collected bibliographic and authority data from many large and small data sources such as the National Library of France, the Royal Library of the Netherlands or the Online database Unesco Index Translationum. Whereas international identifiers such as ISBN, ISNI or VIAF helped us to connect the dots, our semi automated data integration also revealed inconsistencies across the data sources. Wrongly merged bibliographic or authority records due to assigning a wrong ISBN or ISNI, as well as inconsistent information about the nationality of an authority are examples we have encountered. The latter was especially important for BELTRANS, because the aim is to study translations with Belgian contributors.

Based on this specific corpus, we were able to improve the quality of the KBR catalogue and also to inform the curators of the other data sources about specific inconsistencies in their data. While this project illustrates some of the problems of decentralised authority control, it also highlights the usefulness of international identifiers in identifying inconsistencies. However, none of this is straightforward. The steps taken require (i) that users are aware of the relevant data providers, (ii) that all data

¹ Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums

providers provide authority data in an automated way, and (iii) that users are familiar with data integration techniques. In addition, in this scenario, each data provider invests time and money to curate its own data.

We want to offer a simpler solution in Belgium by providing a single, trustworthy source of authority data for researchers and the public. That is why the Royal Library, as a federal scientific institution, has launched the [MetaBelgica](#) project together with other federal scientific institutions. Namely the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium and the Royal Museums of Art and History. Our aim is to publish FAIR data on people, organisations, places and time/events.

The added value for users is that they have a single point of entry and access to high quality, up-to-date data. After all, the data from the participating partners is the combined result of the daily curation work of dozens of staff, for example as part of legal deposit or other legal obligations. In addition, the participating institutions also benefit as we collectively improve the quality of our data.

This research infrastructure project, funded by the Belgian Science Policy Office, runs from 2023 to the end of 2026. Within this project we are working on several entangled topics that we briefly list below in a non-exhaustive list.

(1) Screen the current data cataloguing practices in the participating institutions. We are interested in which standards, data fields and standard identifiers are used, but also how the workflow with their current cataloguing tools works.

(2) Develop a shared RDF data model and integrate the data accordingly. This involves the semi-automatic matching of authority records for which we can build upon our tools and knowledge from the BELTRANS project.

(3) Set up a collaborative entity management platform for authority data. For this we are evaluating the open source software Wikibase, because it offers a straightforward user interface, persistent identifiers and different Application Programming Interfaces. Furthermore we have to explore how to integrate the platform and its data as transparently as possible into the current cataloguing workflows.

(4) Investigate a suitable data governance model. We are different institutions with different backgrounds, hence we have to clearly define how we govern our data. This includes looking at the state of the art for collaboratively authority management such as the GND in Germany, Austria and Switzerland or the Luxembourg Shared Authority File. Eventually we have to come up with a suitable model for ourselves.

With the new MetaBelgica platform, users interested in Belgian cultural heritage will be able to search for people like Anna Boch and will receive basic multilingual information as well as links to the different partner catalogues. In addition, the data will be FAIR-compliant, i.e. openly available in interoperable formats and accessible via various APIs. The Belgian authority data will therefore have the potential to become a building block available in future data spaces or the European Open Science Cloud. More information about MetaBelgica can be found on Zenodo:

<https://zenodo.org/communities/metabelgica>

NEWS FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Presenting the *Cataloging Code of Ethics* to the Bosnian community

by Dalila Mirović, PhD student at University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

On May 16th 2024, Information Sciences Department of Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, together with University Library, had the honor and the pleasure of hosting a webinar that introduced the *Cataloging Code of Ethics* to the Bosnian librarian community. Our guests were *Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee* (CESC) members Karen Snow, professor at School of Information Studies, Dominican University, Illinois, USA and Elizabeth Shoemaker from Victoria University in the University of Toronto, Canada. The event was joined by Dalila Mirović, translator of the Code to Bosnian and moderated by Džejla Khattab, professor at Information Sciences Department of Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo.

Organizing the information universe is an extremely important and responsible job performed by a special type of librarian: cataloger. By cataloging and managing metadata, they "bring order to chaos" on a daily basis. Therefore, the community of catalogers from all over the world, especially in the last two decades, advocated for the adoption of a comprehensive and collaborative Cataloging Code of Ethics, specific to their profession. Their wish came true in 2021, when CESC published the final version of the Code, which as of 2024 is available in Bosnian as well. (Link to the translation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CbIXICSHcblykXCQhCxXQ9UzvvIH3F/view>). The translation of this very important document comes at just the right time for the Bosnian community of practice, since the authority control for personal names is under development in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, as authority control becomes increasingly important, ethical situations may arise. But also, the Code provides a framework for approaching cataloging in ethical ways in many other instances and we truly hope that it becomes widely accepted and utilized, both nationally and internationally. By translating the

Code to other languages and thus making it more accessible to non-English speaking countries, as well as by organizing events like this, bringing order to chaos will hopefully be more ethical and equitable.

The recording of the webinar will be available on Youtube channel of the University of Sarajevo: <https://www.youtube.com/@UniverzitetuSarajevu1949>.

NEWS FROM CANADA

MARC21 Web Site

The [French translations](#) of [Field Code Lists](#) (January 23 to February 27, 2024) are now available. LAC will work on the translation of MARC21 Update 38 this summer.

Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) Project

LAC's new processes for acquiring digital publications that publishers will 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-advanced.

Legacy Metadata Project

Work continues on the review of the remaining bibliographic descriptions created from the legacy InMagic database of 45 rpm sound recordings. These abbreviated descriptions are being reviewed for accuracy and to provide basic name headings for performers in as many records as possible. 36,572 bibliographic

descriptions have been reviewed and loaded into WorldCat in the spring 2024. The remaining 21,500 bibliographic records will be made available as a finding aid list in Excel as an interim measure until these records can be revised for accuracy and enhanced with name headings.

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. LAC has an ongoing initiative to modify CSHs to reflect current terminology used by First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation. As of April 2024, 650 topical subject headings have been added, 97 have been revised, and more remain to be added. LAC continues revising Indigenous community names in CSH to ensure the current, respectful terminology is used.

RDA Policy Statements

LAC has been working closely with ALA to develop and test the LAC bilingual structure in RDA Toolkit. New policy statements on manifestation elements (English and French) had been added to the March 2024 release, and the first policy statements (also English and French) will be added for expression elements in the July 2024 release.

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

The PFAN Standards Committee provided a free training session on the description of musical works and expressions in the Canadiana authority file in May.

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.

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

Cataloguing Policies

LAC continues its multi-year review and update of its cataloguing policies and procedures. New information is posted on LAC's [Cataloguing and Metadata Wiki](#) as it is ready to be made available.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

By Florian Betz
Digital Services
German National Library (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, DNB)

GND cross-concordances

In the opening up of the Integrated Authority File (GND) for cross-disciplinary use by other GLAM sectors (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums) cross-concordances to external thesauri play an important role. The German National Library (DNB) has carried out a project ([GND-mul](#) (only available in German), 2021-

2022) to develop an environment for the administration, cooperative maintenance and use of cross-concordances.

The authority data of [GND cross-concordances](#) to external thesauri (LCSH, RAMEAU, EMBNE, NSogg, AGROVOC, MeSH, STW, TheSoz) is available as separate terminology data sets (RDF) for download at

<https://data.dnb.de/opendata/> free of charge under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license (CC BY 4.0) terms for general use; the GND-STW cross-concordance is available free of charge under Creative Commons Zero (CCO 1.0) terms for general use.

The terminology data sets can be used in a wide range of ways (e. g. multilingual catalogue search, intellectual and automatic indexing etc.). They are updated annually.

The GND cross-concordances to LCSH and RAMEAU in the core go back to the joint project „Multilingual Access to Subject“ (MACS; 1997-2016) which was coordinated by CENL and carried out by the Swiss National Library, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the British Library and the German National Library. It involved the linkage of equivalent subject headings from the LCSH, RAMEAU and GND (respectively the former Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD)).

Since then, terminology experts from the Swiss and German National Libraries have been continuing the mapping process in close cooperation with the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Library of Congress. Also the other mappings are curated on an ongoing basis by terminology experts. The mappings are created and maintained in line with the [rules for GND cross-concordances](#) (only available in German) and with regard to the international thesaurus norm ISO 25964-2 "Thesauri and interoperability

with other vocabularies / Part 2: Interoperability with other vocabularies".

Further information on the authors and their attribution as well as statistics can be found at [GND mappings to external thesauri](#) (only available in German).

If you have any questions or comments on the provision of the GND mapping dumps, please contact: metadatendienste@dnb.de

If you have any questions or comments about the GND mappings, please contact: GND-Mappings@dnb.de

CATALOGUE ENRICHMENT (TOC)

As part of its [catalogue enrichment](#) activities, the German National Library (DNB) digitises the tables of contents of new accessions, as well as retrospectively the tables of contents of its entire collections. The DNB has already linked the tables of contents of more than two million books with their bibliographic data; moreover, it has been scanning the tables of contents of all newly acquired books since 2013.

From February 2019 to February 2024 the DNB carried out the project "Catalogue enrichment 1945–2012" for filling gaps in the years between 1945 and 2012. By this major project, the tables of contents of all the books in the stacks at the Frankfurt am Main location acquired up to 2012 (around 5.3 million) had to be checked to find out whether they have tables of contents, while over 2 million tables of contents comprising around six million pages were to be digitised, enriched with text recognition, linked with the relevant data records. They are made freely accessible through the [catalogue](#) (PDF and searchable fulltext) and the [metadata services](#).

Bibliographic data as well as the PDF files are available free of charge for general use under Creative Commons Zero ([CC0 1.0](#)) terms.

The metadata services provide the related bibliographic records, which contain a hyperlink to the digitised table of contents. PDF files themselves are not provided but can thereby be downloaded independently or indexed for searching your own catalogue. The metadata services offer two access options: full copy or ongoing update via OAI interface:

The full copy of all bibliographic records with hyperlinks to digitised tables of contents is provided annually in MARC 21 (also in XML structure) and can be downloaded at <https://data.dnb.de/TOC/>. The metadata is structured into several sets according to publication date.

Update via OAI interface: The catalogue enrichment service available via [OAI-PMH](#) (set "dnb:toc") offers the following options:

- ongoing subscriptions to bibliographic records with a hyperlink to a digitised table of contents (TOC)
- ongoing subscriptions to individual subject categories
- retrospective copies from a period defined by the user

The bibliographic data via OAI-PMH is available in MARC21-XML and RDF/XML formats, each in [UTF-8 decomposed](#).

The use via OAI-PMH is free of charge without any registration. Comprehensive information on the OAI interface is available at www.dnb.de/EN/oai.

FROM JAPAN

A Brief History of the Japanese National Bibliography

By Kazue Murakami

The National Diet Library (NDL) has been publishing the Japanese National Bibliography (JNB) since 1948, and a [Brief History of the Japanese National Bibliography](#) explains how the title, coverage, frequency, and other aspects of the Japanese National Bibliography have changed over time.

When the National Diet Library Law was promulgated in February 1948, it stipulated that the NDL publish a catalogue of publications issued in Japan, and in October of that year, the NDL published its first issue of 納本月報 (*Nohon geppo*, legal deposit monthly), which was the predecessor of the JNB.

The April 1981 launch of distribution paved the way to making the JNB available in data format. And in April 2002, the JNB became available online with the launch of the JNB webpage.

The rapid advance of information technology has transformed library catalogues from card catalogues and update booklets to online databases like OPAC. The National Diet Library Law, too, was amended in March 2007 so that the wording was changed from "publish" to "arrange and offer by methods suitable for the people's use." This change has afforded flexibility in how the JNB is made available.

The JNB and other bibliographic data from the NDL has been made available free of charge to anyone for either commercial or noncommercial use since April 2019, thereby providing users even greater accessibility from a legal perspective.

Finally, in January 2024, the Web Japanese National Bibliography was launched as part of a

redesign of the NDL's search service, now called the NDL Search.

The new NDL Search

Previously, the NDL Online was a service for searching and requesting materials held by the NDL, while the NDL Search was a service for searching materials held by libraries in Japan. As of January 2024, however, these two services have been integrated and relaunched as a new service called [NDL Search](#). (Figure 1)

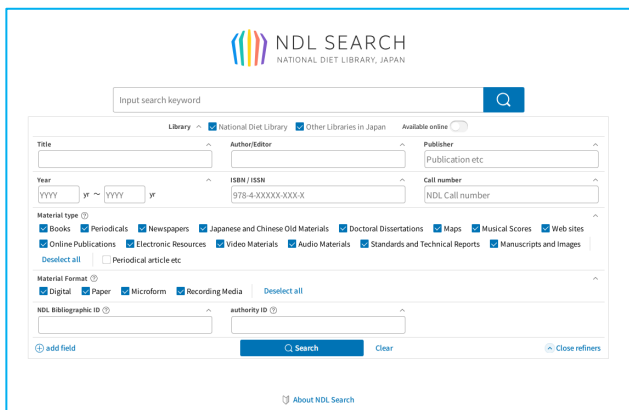


Figure 1: Top page of the new NDL Search

The new NDL Search enables patrons not only to search and request both physical and digital materials held by the NDL but also to search for materials held by other libraries in Japan that make linked data available. For example, the new NDL Search shows patrons which libraries in their city hold a material, links to free access e-books or e-journals, and suggestions about materials on related subjects.

Patrons also can download bibliographic data in a variety of formats, including MARC and MARC Tag formats (the green border in Figure 2). The new NDL Search also permits patrons to perform bulk downloads (red circle) of multiple bibliographic records in MARC and MARC tag format, which was not possible in the old NDL Search.

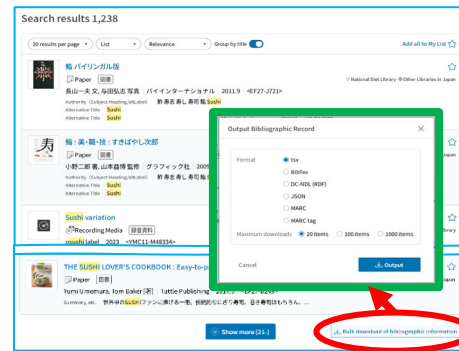


Figure 2: Search results, showing a dialog for downloading bibliographic records on the new NDL Search

New search pages

There are four new search pages for specific types of bibliographic data available on the new NDL Search website: [Web Japanese National Bibliography](#), [Web NDL Catalog](#), [Web Japanese National Bibliography Records of e-books and e-periodicals](#), and [Bibliographic Records of e-books and e-periodicals Published in Japan](#).

These pages enable patrons to search for specific types of bibliographic data. Unfortunately, only Japanese-language versions of these pages are available at this time.

The JNB is published by the NDL and includes bibliographic data for materials published in Japan and Japanese materials published outside of Japan. The Web Japanese National Bibliography allows patrons to search the entire JNB. Since Japan has never had a cataloguing in publication (CIP) system, prompt updating of the JNB has long been an issue. The Web JNB does include in-process bibliographic data, which does help to mitigate these issues somewhat. (Figure 3)



Figure 3: Web Japanese National Bibliography

Web NDL Catalog enable patrons to search for physical resources held by the NDL, which is to say, the materials included in the Web JNB plus non-Japanese language materials published outside of Japan, old materials, doctoral dissertations in Japan, and other materials. (Figure 4)



Figure 4: Web NDL Catalog

E-books, e-journals, and archived websites acquired by the NDL can be search on the Web Japanese National Bibliography Records of e-books and e-periodicals. (Figure 5) The NDL acquires e-books and e-journals via E-Legal Deposit of Online Publications, which is a legal deposit system for digital resources. Digital resources stored in institutional repositories other than the NDL are not eligible for this legal deposit system. Therefore, Bibliographic Records of e-books and e-periodicals Published in Japan enables users to search both the Web

Japanese National Bibliography Records of e-books and e-periodicals and the digital resources not eligible for legal deposit. (Figure 6) The scope, however, is limited to that provided by the new NDL Search.



Figure 5: Web Japanese National Bibliography Records of e-books and e-periodicals



Figure 6: Web Japanese National Bibliography Records of e-books and e-periodicals and digital resources not eligible for legal deposit

Expanding the use of linked data

The four new search pages described above have unique scopes and search parameters. The detailed bibliographic records that can be accessed from the search results are the same as those in search results from the new NDL Search's main search page. Just like the NDL Online, the detailed bibliographic records show both links to authority data (the [Web NDL](#)

[Authorities](#), black circle and border in Figure 7) and links to metadata from other institutions via a URI. (sky blue border).

Bibliographic Record

You can check the details of this material, its authority (keywords that refer to materials on the same subject, author's name, etc.), etc.

Paper

Material Type: 図書

ISBN: 1942993277
9781942993278

Title: *Sushi chef: Sukibayashi Jiro*

Author/Editor: Shinzo Satomi
photography by Yohei Maruyama
translated by Rei Perovic.

Edition: First edition.

Author Heading: 里見, 真三, 1937-2002 サトミ, シンゾウ, 1937-2002 (00735651) [Authorities](#)
小野, 二郎, 1925- オノ, ジロウ, 1925- (00939941) [Authorities](#)

Publication, Distribution, etc.: New York: Vertical, Inc (出版)

Publication Date: 2016

Bibliographic ID (NDL): 029057897

LC Control Number: 2016439366
<https://lcn.loc.gov/2016439366>

OCLC No.: 913499834
<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/913499834>

Cataloging rule: RDA

Bibliographic Record Category (NDL): 211

Web NDL Authorities

里見, 真三, 1937-2002

ID: 00735651

Type of Authority: Personal Names

Name / Title: 里見, 真三, 1937-2002

Katakana Transcription of Name / Title: サトミ, シンゾウ, 1937-2002

Roman Transliteration of Name / Title: Satomi, Shinzo, 1937-2002

Date of Birth: 1937

Date of Death: 2002

Related Links: [NDL \(00735651\) \(VIAF\)](#)

Sources: すきやふし次郎の巻を巻る / 里見真三 著 奥付

Figure 7: Detailed bibliographic record with links to the Web NDL Authorities and metadata from other institutions

The new NDL Search has an interface that will be familiar to patrons who are accustomed to using common search engines but is also designed to enable further exploration of a variety of materials. In contrast to this, the four new search pages are designed for ease of use yielding precise results when used by specialists familiar with the traditional library OPAC.

NEWS FROM MAURITIUS

National Library of Mauritius—Digital Transformation Journey

Although the idea of establishing a National Library for Mauritius was initially advocated by Dr Auguste Toussaint in 1956, this project became a reality four decades later when the National Library Act No. 32 of 1996 was enacted by the National Assembly as a body corporate, under the Ministry of Arts and Culture. The National Library was officially opened to the public in December 1999.



Mrs. T.K Ramnauth, Director

Mr. Anish Khugpath, Chairman

Role of the national library

The main role of the National Library of Mauritius is to build the most comprehensive collection of our national heritage and making same available to the Mauritian public for consultation. The National Library has a mandate to preserve for posterity all literary output of Mauritius. The National Library acquires most of its materials through the legal deposit system as per the National Library Act. To ensure that access is given to the most comprehensive collection of Mauritania materials, the National Library also acquires print and non-print materials published and produced abroad, whose subject matter is related to Mauritius.

Besides the main functions, the National Library has the responsibility to offer to its users a rich and varied collection of foreign reference materials.

Mission

To collect, preserve the collective memory of the country and to give access to information to the public at large.

Vision

To be a World-class Information Centre using the latest technologies to best serve the Mauritian nation and people at large.

Statutory Objectives

- To promote and encourage the use of library materials;
- To acquire library materials generally, and, in particular, a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Mauritius;
- To collect, receive and preserve all library materials required to be deposited in the library;
- To lend library materials to other libraries;
- To make library materials available to the public for reference;
- To participate in planning library services in Mauritius, promote research in library fields and provide assistance in information handling techniques;
- To act as the national bibliographic center and maintain the national bibliography and other bibliographies;
- To act as an organizing agency for national and international lending and exchange of library

materials;

- To initiate and promote cooperation between the library and other libraries, both at national and international levels.

Values

- Accountability
- Trustworthy
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Innovation

Digital Transformation Journey

The National Library's Digital Transformation Journey represents a significant shift in how one of the nation's most prestigious cultural institutions adapts to the digital age. This article delves into the motivations behind this transformative initiative, exploring the key drivers and objectives that have propelled the library towards embracing technology and innovation. From enhancing access to its vast collections through digitalization to improving user experience and operational efficiency, the National Library's journey will serve as a compelling case study in navigating the complexities of digital transformation in a heritage institution.

National Library's Digital Transformation Initiative

The National Library, much like your overflowing inbox, has decided it's time to clean up its act and go digital. This initiative aims to bring the library's treasure trove of knowledge into the 21st century, making it more accessible and user-friendly.

Rationale for Undertaking Digital Transformation

In a world where everything from ordering pizza to finding a date happens online, the National Library realized it needed to step up its game. By going digital, it aims to reach a

wider audience, preserve delicate materials, and keep up with the times.

Key Drivers and Objectives of the Digital Transformation Journey

Just like your GPS guides you to your destination, the National Library has its own set of drivers propelling it towards digital transformation. Let's take a look at what's fueling this journey. By digitizing its collections, the National Library is opening its virtual doors to anyone with an internet connection. Now, instead of needing a library card, all you need is a Wi-Fi signal to dive into its literary pool.

Improving Operational Efficiency and Sustainability

In an effort to streamline operations and make sure the lights stay on, the National



Library is embracing digital tools to work smarter, not harder. It's like switching from a quill pen to a fancy fountain pen – same purpose, but much more efficient.

Overcoming Challenges in Implementing Digital Transformation

The road to digital transformation is paved with good intentions and a few bumps along the way. The National Library is facing its fair share of hurdles as it navigates this journey.

This journey has required Legacy Systems and Integration Issues. Imagine trying to fit a square peg into a round hole – that's how the National Library feels trying to integrate new digital systems with its existing infrastructure. A paradigm shift was necessary to get engaged in Staff Training

and Change Management. Getting everyone on board with digital changes is a challenging task, to say the least. The National Library has invested time and resources into training its staff to handle the digital shift like a pro.

With great digital power comes great responsibility – and the National Library is acutely aware of the need to protect its digital assets from cyber threats.

Technology Infrastructure and Digital Resources at the National Library

The idea of digitization has been for long a matter of serious concern at the National Library. However, due to lack of funding and limited resources the project could not be materialised until 2020. In June 2020, the Mauritius Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage approved the appropriate funding for the setting-up of a digitization Unit at the National Library. In October 2021, the technological infrastructure and software application were already set and the digitization processes started. This digital transformation was thus the fruit of investments in Digital Infrastructure.

Launching of the Digitization Project by the Minister of Arts & Cultural Heritage, Hon. Avinash TEELUCK

The National Library will shortly say goodbye to dusty shelves and hello to a virtual space to store and access its vast collection. This shift not only frees up physical space but also ensures information is safe and accessible from anywhere.

Cataloguing and setting Metadata Standards for Digital Collections is very crucial in the building up of a proper digital repository. The National Library is meticulous about cataloguing its digital collections. Using standardized metadata ensures that every digital item is easily searchable and accessible to users.



Setting-up of the Digital Infrastructure by Cybernaptics Ltd, Mauritius.

Collaborations with External Partners for Content Integration

The National Library knows it can't go digital alone – it needs some digital buddies to help integrate content seamlessly. By partnering with external organizations such as the Government Online Centre, Central Informatics Bureau, Central Information Systems Division, and Rogers Capital Technology Services Ltd, it can expand its digital reach and offer users a richer and more diverse array of resources.

Expected Impact of Digital Transformation on User Experience and Accessibility

- Enhanced Search and Discovery Capabilities
- Personalization Features for Tailored User Experiences
- Global Accessibility for users

Future Directions and Opportunities for Innovation

Harnessing Smart Library Services

Revolutionizing the way library services must be delivered, the future of the National Library is looking smarter than ever.

Expanding Digital Outreach and Engagement Initiatives

Who said libraries were just about books? The National Library will break boundaries with its digital outreach and engagement initiatives.

Exploring Virtual and Augmented Reality Applications in Libraries

Step into a realm where books come alive and history unfolds before your eyes. Virtual and augmented reality applications are set to transform the library experience, offering immersive journeys through time, space, and imagination.

Milestone of the Digital Transformation Journey

As the National Library continues its digital transformation journey, the impact of these advancements on both the institution and its users will be profound. Through overcoming challenges, embracing new technologies, and prioritizing accessibility, the library is not only preserving its rich heritage but also shaping a more dynamic and inclusive future for all who engage with its resources. The ongoing evolution of the National Library serves as a beacon of innovation and progress in the realm of cultural preservation and knowledge dissemination, setting a precedent for libraries worldwide to navigate the digital landscape with resilience and vision.

Digital transformation is crucial for national libraries to adapt to the changing needs and expectations of users in the digital age. By digitizing collections, enhancing access through online platforms, and improving operational efficiency, national libraries can better preserve cultural heritage, expand audience reach, and stay relevant in a rapidly evolving information landscape.

Digital transformation at the National Library will enhance user experience by offering improved search and discovery tools, personalized services, and increased accessibility features. These enhancements make it easier for users to access and engage

with the library's resources, fostering a more seamless and enriching experience for visitors both online and in-person.

The National Library encountered challenges such as systems integration, staff training needs, and cybersecurity concerns during the digital transformation process. Overcoming these obstacles required strategic planning, investments in technology infrastructure, and a commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability within the organization.

To conclude, future directions for innovation at the National Library include harnessing technologies in library services, expanding digital outreach initiatives, and exploring virtual and augmented reality applications. These innovative approaches aim to further enhance user engagement, promote digital literacy, and ensure the library remains a dynamic hub of knowledge and culture in the digital era.

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NEWS FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

"The library community in the Digital Age: fundamentals of subject indexing"

by Stanislav Golubtsov, Deputy Director for Library Work of the National Library of Russia (NLR); Helen Voronenkova, Head of the division, Cataloguing Department, NLR; and Karina Esman, Chief Librarian-cataloguer NLR

The rapid pace of penetration of digital technologies into all spheres of modern society, as well as all kinds of socio-cultural changes in

society as a whole, have led to an active change in the ways of production, presentation and consumption of information. As a result, the question arose about the formation of new professional approaches to document processing in order to fully reflect the information presented on various media.

The above-mentioned reasons gave an impulse for the development of a document combining the experience of specialists in the field of subject indexing in recent years. This work was carried out as professionally, competently and in a short time by the staff of the National Library of Russia. The publication can be considered a methodological guide to subject indexing. It is assumed that the publication will be multi-volume.

The first edition of this series, the toolkit on the organization of subject access "Fundamentals of subject indexing in the digital environment", is currently being prepared for publication. This toolkit reflects new approaches to the subject indexing of traditional printed publications.

The toolkit describes in a simple and visual form the technological stages of subject indexing using examples of traditional text documents of the library fund – books and serial publications. Each stage is analyzed: the analysis of the document content, the selection of the subject, the formulation of the subject heading and the search image of the document, the choice of the indexing term from the Authority file of subject headings of the National Library of Russia (NLR), authority control. The analysis of each stage is accompanied by explanations using the basics of the method of subject indexing. The strategy of searching for subject headings in the Authority file of NLR subject headings is considered. Special attention is paid to the principles of the application of subject headings adopted in the NLR, the analysis and evaluation of the results of subject indexing.

This toolkit is intended for specialists who are starting to study the basics of the method of subject indexing and for all those who are interested in studying and using this method in order to organize subject access in a digital environment.

It is also necessary to take into account that at present the professional library community strives for the most complete reflection of information about a person, an object and other characteristics. This is due to the active work on conceptual data models in recent years. Conceptual data models are characterized by a higher degree of abstraction and allow you to determine the type of entities being described, a set of metadata relevant to the description of these entities; as well as clearly understand the relationships between entities. The need to develop such models and rethink the theory and practice of cataloguing was caused by fundamental changes that occurred in the cataloguing process, the increasing spread of bibliographic data exchange, the emergence of new types of cataloging objects and methods of access to them, as well as new user tasks that the catalog should provide. The development of models is aimed at using bibliographic information in a linked data environment.

Changing the ways of production and consumption of information entails a change in the models of information and library services for users, the organization of search engines. Libraries remain the custodians of accumulated knowledge in the traditional paper format, while the introduction of new methods of working with them in the digital environment is required. The release of a new methodological guide on in the electronic environment will effectively form the digital environment of the library.

SECTION NEWS

NEWS FROM THE BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

Building a National Bibliography, the First in a Webinar Series by the Bibliography Section

By Rehab Ouf, Bibliography Section Chair

The practicalities of establishing and operating a national bibliography drawing inspiration from successful models in diverse countries, was the theme of a free webinar organized by the Bibliography Section on 30 April 2024.

Building a national bibliography is a complex undertaking with several key frameworks and foundations to consider. While there is no single model for national bibliography development, there are essential considerations that underpin this undertaking.

The requirements of this national project are not confined to establishing national metadata standards adhering to international norms to record and share the national output, but extend this already strategic mandate to functions tied to the mission of the national bibliographic agencies (NBAs). From national library acts and legal deposit laws to institutional capacity and staffing, and from coverage policies to acquisition strategies; and from infrastructure and technology to data creation and distribution. Through careful consideration and thoughtful application of these frameworks, countries can establish and maintain comprehensive national bibliographies, offering a valuable record of their intellectual output and cultural heritage.

The webinar titled "Building a National Bibliography: Models from Around the World", explored these practicalities, providing valuable insights into bibliographies at different development stages and maturity. Truly

international in scope, the programme featured four national bibliographies from four countries in three continents: France, Philippines, Germany and Brazil.

- Mathilde Koskas presented the French National Bibliography, highlighting its 213-year history and ongoing development;
- Jennifer Dimasaca and Marbilyn Egidio presented a comprehensive overview of Philippine National Bibliography (PNB) from past to present and through planned developments;
- Florian Betz and Katharina Schöneborn discussed the structure and evolution of the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie, from its historical genesis to current status and future plans;
- Eduardo da Silva Alentejo and Gabriel Pereira Alves presented on the current state of the Brazilian Bibliography in the digital era.

The landscape of national bibliographies is indeed diverse, reflecting variations in national resources, contextual development, and technological adoption. Rich in their coverage, the presentations did not only present ranges of choices and settings, they also offered a multifaceted view of national bibliographies as unique entities within their countries. Among different points:

- they revealed how the oldest established national bibliographies recreate themselves continuously in face of developments;
- they underscored the typical collaborations of NBAs with publishers, libraries, and other stakeholders to ensure the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the bibliography;

- they showed how to organize and manage the production of the national bibliographic output into series;
- they highlighted the increasing utilization of online platforms to make the bibliographic data readily accessible and interoperable with other bibliographic systems.

The presentations also shed lights on different sets of challenges. The evolving information landscape, the implications of new publications formats, and the rise of new publishing movements, challenging the established setups and policies and requiring continuous revision and adaptation of the acquisition policies, the legislations, in addition to the tools and the technologies. Also, the staffing of national bibliographic agencies, difficult and long to build and train, and hard to attract or retain in a competitive information landscape, is a big challenge for NBAs.

The overall webinar's programme permitted to inspire practices, identify challenges and explore solutions, while highlighting the unique role of national bibliographic agencies as the apex of the national library systems.

The webinar came as the kickoff of a virtual event series by the Bibliography Section aiming at exploring a wide range of topics pertaining to the scope of work of the Section. Titled "[Topics in National Bibliographies](#)" and arranged in two tracks, the series aims at highlighting the unique mandates of NBAs and to take their work to new horizons.

Programme and details of the presenters of the first webinar are available [here](#). The recording can be checked out [here](#).

STANDARDS NEWS

NEWS FROM THE RDA STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC)

By Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

New Website Addresses

We have a website address, so you may need to update any bookmarks you have. ALA Digital Reference upgraded the content management system for [rdatoolkit.org](https://www.rdatoolkit.org) and you can now find all the web pages of committees working on RDA together:

- RDA Toolkit website:
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/>
- RDA Board:
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rdaboard>
- RDA Steering Committee:
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc>
- RDA Regions:
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/regions>, including
- Europe (EURIG):
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/europe>
- North America (NARDAC):
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/northamerica>
- Oceania (ORDAC):
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/oceania>
- Archived JSC site:
<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/archivesite>

Automatic redirects are in place, but please bear with us as we tidy up after this major move. You can report any broken links to James Hennelly (ALA Digital Reference): jhennelly@ala.org. You can read more about the changes at [rdatoolkit.org/drupalmerge](https://www.rdatoolkit.org/drupalmerge).

Note: RDA Toolkit (access.rdatoolkit.org) is not impacted by these changes. There has been no interruption to Toolkit service.

Protocol between the RSC and the IFLA Committee on Standards (CoS)

The RSC has long-standing protocols in place with several groups within the Committee on Standards, but there had been no formal protocol between the CoS and the RSC. It was decided to create a protocol encompassing the existing representation and the CoS review groups and will allow for future working. [RSC/Chair/2023/3/rev](#) sets out the relationship going forward.

RDA Teaching & Training Tips

Education and Orientation Officer, Elisa Sze has created a handout offering tips for educators and trainers who plan to incorporate RDA into a course or training program on knowledge organization, metadata schemas, or resource description (including cataloguing). [RDA Teaching & Training Tips](#) includes key points from Elisa's [Report on Approaches to Teaching RDA in the LIS Classroom \(RSC/Papers/2022/1\)](#) and complements her webinar ([recording on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#)).

RSC Action Plan 2024-2026

The RSC published its latest Action Plan ([RSC/Chair/2024/1](#)) on 30 January. The committee's annual action plans provide an overview of the general direction of travel, based on achieving the aims of the [RDA Board's Strategic Plan](#).

Proposals

Alongside its Action Plan, the RSC develops RDA in line with proposals received from its various Working Groups and the wider RDA community. The following proposals have been discussed

since our last news item in the *IFLA Metadata Newsletter* (June 2023).

RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1: Preferred names and official languages of corporate bodies, governments, and places in RDA

The original proposal, [RSC/LanguagesWG/1](#), is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion at the July 2023 Meeting is recorded as Item 409 in [RSC/Minutes/393-412](#). [RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1/Decisions](#) was created in September 2023 with the intention of implementation in the January 2024 release of the RDA Toolkit, but following discussion of RSC/Places/WG/2023/2 in October 2023, it was decided to complete implementation of the proposals from the Places/Jurisdiction Working Group first. This will avoid confusion between the three proposals dealing with the Place and Corporate Body entities (RSC/LanguagesWG/2023/1; RSC/PlacesWG/1 ; RSC/PlacesWG/2). It also avoids implementation of individual proposals piecemeal.

RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2: Revision of Corporate Body: jurisdiction governed and Place: jurisdiction governed of

In May 2023, [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/1](#) made several recommendations for removing ambiguity concerning the use of the term jurisdiction in RDA. Recommendations 4 and 7 from the proposal were withdrawn at the meeting due to RSC objections ([RSC/Minutes/372-392](#) Item 380.4) and so the Place/Jurisdiction Working Group considered the best way to deal with the issues and returned in October 2023 with a fresh proposal.

[RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2](#) is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion in the meeting is recorded as Item 418 in [RSC/Minutes/413-443](#).

All three recommendations were approved by the RSC, with the additional change of wording from “place governed of” to “place governed by” to reflect the more usual preposition used in standard English. [RSC/PlacesWG/2023/2/Decisions](#) was implemented in the January 2024 RDA Toolkit release.

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1: Religious Titles

The Religions in RDA Working Group was charged to identify examples of religious and Western bias in the toolkit. One of the issues it identified was the presence of problematic options related to access points for persons. These options are specific to one religion and their application to other religions is often unclear. Even if there were a clear parallel in another religion, the options assume enough awareness of the tenets of Catholicism to know what would be parallel. Furthermore, the fact that all of the options relate to one religion is inherently biased. A comprehensive list which would include all religions would be impractical to create and would always be incomplete. Therefore, the options should be removed. Instructions on the inclusion of titles for specific religions should be community based and not part of base RDA.

[RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1](#) is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion at the July Meeting is recorded as Item 408 in [RSC/Minutes/393-412](#). Its recommendations were approved on a majority vote on the understanding that all these options were covered in RDA by the general [option \(06.58.35.33\)](#) to “Include an appropriate designation associated with a person in a language preferred by the agent who creates the metadata.”

[RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/1/Decisions](#) was implemented in the January 2024 release of the RDA Toolkit.

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2: Proposal to Revise Term of Rank or Honour or Office

Proposed changes to the instructions for the element [Person: term of rank or honour or office](#) (<http://rdaregistry.info/Elements/a/P50110>).

This proposal eliminated some conditions, condition options, and options that are specific to Christian denominations from base RDA, added a new general condition and condition option group that is not specific to Christianity, and generalized the condition group on terms of address for religious vocation. It also proposed a change to the definition of the element to make it applicable to religious denominations beyond those in Christianity.

The original proposal, [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2](#), is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). The discussion in the meeting is recorded as Item 419 in [RSC/Minutes/413-443](#).

RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2 consisted of 3 recommendations. They were all approved by voting members of the RSC, with some changes to the wording proposed by the working group. [RSC/ReligionsWG/2023/2/Decisions](#) records the wording approved by the RSC on 17 October, and implemented in the RDA Toolkit in January 2024.

RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/1: Proposal to revise the element hierarchy for appellations of work groups

Analysis of the hierarchy of the work group appellation elements with a domain of Work revealed inconsistencies when compared to the hierarchy of their inverses in Nomen. This

proposal suggested changes to the hierarchy of the work group appellation elements with a domain of Work and revises the definitions of Work: authorized access point for work group and its inverse for consistency and clarity.

[RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/1/rev](#) is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). It was discussed in the April 2024 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/456-468](#) Item 463) and approved unanimously. [RSC/TechnicalWG/2024/1/Decisions](#) is under preparation and will be implemented in the RDA Toolkit.

RSC/ORDAC/2024/1: [Proposal on] Dual-naming of Corporate Body and Place

This proposal sought to introduce specific instructions to deal with instances in which a name contains words from two or more languages but is not intended to be interpreted as parallel language values.

[RSC/ORDAC/2024/1](#) is available [on the RSC website](#) and with a stable URI [in the institutional repository](#). Following the [written responses](#) from the voting members of the RSC, [RSC/ORDAC/1/summary](#) was prepared. ORDAC followed this with a response ([RSC/ORDAC/2024/1/summary/ORDAC](#)).

Following extensive discussion at the April 2024 RSC Meeting ([RSC/Minutes/456-468](#) Item 462), it was decided that further discussion of this topic was needed. A subgroup consisting of the RSC Chair, Regional Representatives, Wider Community Engagement Officer and Translations Team Liaison Officer, will meet to discuss next steps ahead of the RSC Meeting in July. The Examples Editor will add examples based on those submitted in the proposal in the appropriate place in the Toolkit, so that

cataloguers wondering how to enter names formulated in this way.

It is worth bearing in mind that information submitted through the feedback button on the RDA Toolkit is monitored and responded to. Many fast track changes and some proposals made by RSC members have started their life-cycle as suggestions from the wider community via the feedback button. The RSC Secretary, Technical Team Liaison Officer and the Director of ALA Digital Reference also make changes to the Toolkit, Registry and text of RDA following feedback received in this way, or raise it with the wider RSC for discussion if it has wider implications.

RSC Meetings



The RDA Steering Committee in October 2023 at OBVSG Headquarters in Vienna.

On screen: Ahava Cohen (Regional Representative for Europe)

Standing: Szabolcs Dancs (Translations Team Liaison Officer), Robert Maxwell (Regional Representative for North America), Kathy Glennan (Past Chair), Charlotte Christensen (Regional Representative for Oceania), Charlene Chou (Widening Community Engagement Officer), Damian Iseminger (Technical Team Liaison Officer), Anne Welsh (Secretary), Elisa Sze (Education and Orientation Officer)

Seated: James Hennelly (ALA Digital Reference), Renate Behrens (Chair), John Trevor-Allen (RDA Board Chair, ex-officio), Honor Moody (RDA Examples Editor)

Photo by Verena Schaffner.

Since the last RSC news in *IFLA Metadata Newsletter* (June 2023) there have been 4 RSC meetings, three asynchronously and one in-person in Vienna in October 2023. Minutes are available for all four meetings:

- [RSC/Minutes/393-412](#)
- [RSC/Minutes/413-443](#)
- [RSC/Minutes/444-455](#)
- [RSC/Minutes/456-468](#)

The next RSC meeting will be asynchronous, 15-18 July. Its Public Session will take place on 16 July 2024, 9-11pm Central European Summer Time (CEST) [as announced in December 2023](#). There is a handy time converter at <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/meeting.html>. All are welcome – the RSC Secretary will post a call for observers in June to [the announcements section of the website](#).

Working Groups

The RSC has three standing Working Groups: the [Examples Working Group](#), chaired by Jessica Grzegorski, the [Technical Working Group](#), chaired by Damian Iseminger, and the [Translations Working Group](#), chaired by Szabolcs Dancs.

The [Official Languages Working Group](#), chaired by Peter Rolla, concluded its work in December 2023, as did the [Place/Jurisdiction Working Group](#). The [Extent Working Group](#), chaired by Thomas Brenndorfer and the [Religions in RDA Working Group](#) are continuing to work on Discussion Papers and proposals. At the April 2024 Meeting of the RSC, it was decided to establish a new Task and Finish Working Group

on Archives ([RSC/Minutes/456-468](#) Item 457.2). If you work in archival documentation and are interested in RDA, and might be interested in contributing, please look out for calls for participants in the news section of the website.

Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence

A new Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been established by the RDA Board and RSC. Chaired by Ahava Cohen (RSC Regional Representative for Europe), its members are Christian Aliverti (RDA Board), Renate Behrens (RSC Chair), Colleen Barbus (RDA Board Chair), Judith Cannan (RDA Board), Charlene Chou (RSC Wider Community Engagement Officer), and James Hennelly (ALA Digital Reference).

They [launched a scoping survey at the end of May](#), and would love members of the cataloguing community to respond with their views by 5 June 2024.

Looking for More On RDA?

[The RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#) includes recordings of the NARDAC Update Forum meetings in November 2023 and April 2024, as well as 'What's New (and Upcoming) with RDA Toolkit' by James Hennelly and a webinar by Damian Iseminger on 'Making RDA Work for You: Leveraging the Semantic Coherency of the RDA Toolkit'. This was based on a presentation at the RDA Outreach Day in Vienna on 16 October 2023, which also included '[RDA DACH](#)' by Barbara Pfeifer; '[RDA in Austria](#)' by Christoph Steiger; '[Examples and Examples Development in the RDA Toolkit](#)' by Honor Moody; and '[Planning to Teach RDA](#)' by Elisa Sze.

NEWS FROM THE ISBD REVIEW GROUP

ISBD for Manifestation, where we are and the next steps

By Renate Behrens and Mikael Wetterström

The ISBD for Manifestation has been worked out for a few years now, so it certainly makes sense to report on the latest steps. But first, let's take a look back.

A large-scale strategic discussion about the future of the ISBD took place over the years 2015 and 2016. As an important IFLA standard, the ISBD needed to be updated and adapted to modern requirements. However, it became clear that this would take some time, but that the ongoing work with the standard would have to continue. In addition, there was the ongoing work on the the IFLA Library Reference Model (IFLA LRM) which would bring fundamental changes.

With the publication of the IFLA LRM in 2017, the revision of the ISBD could follow. Work aligning RDA with the IFLA LRM was already ongoing and discussions around possible scenarios for the future ISBD had been taken place, not only in this context, but also in the context of a long-standing need expressed by the library community to update the ISBD. The Cataloguing Section asked¹ the ISBD RG in 2016 to investigate alternatives and to produce a discussion paper to highlight issues² and to come up with a proposal for the Advisory Committee on Standards.

Although the element alignment work had already started the year before, the ISBD Review Group submitted a plan to the Advisory Committee of Standards (COS) in 2018 to proceed with the revision step-by-step, starting with the Manifestation entity. This proposal was approved in principle by the COS in May 2018³.

Later the same year at the WLIC 2018, the ISBD Review Group established the ISBD Editorial Group to work on the revision, and two subgroups were created, one working with the content, and the other focusing on structure. The revision work started after WLIC 2018.

The task was complex in the sense that there were two different needs. On the one hand, there was the library community's need for immediate updates and the need to extend the ISBD to include unpublished resources. On the other hand, there was the need to align the ISBD with the IFLA LRM and to transform it to a relevant standard in an evolving bibliographic universe. It was a challenge for the ISBD Editorial Group to advance the two objectives simultaneously. The proposed workplan had to be adjusted accordingly.

At the WLIC in Athens 2019, as part of a revised work plan⁴, two task forces, the ISBD Content update Task Force and the ISBD for Manifestation Task Force, were established. This way, the revision work could be separated based on the two different objectives.

Two areas of work were defined and planned for two separate Task Forces:

- Objective 1: Urgent updates
Ensuring that the ISBD continues to fulfil the needs of its user communities as expressed by the proposals submitted to the ISBD RG. The ISBD Content Update Task Force was to produce and publish an update to the ISBD Consolidated Edition 2011
- Objective 2: Alignment with LRM
Aligning the ISBD with IFLA LRM to keep a consistency between IFLA standards by providing the overarching conceptual model with an ISBD implementation. The ISBD for Manifestation Task Force Work was to work out this implementation,

and produce a reflection document on the future ISBD concerning a full implementation of IFLA LRM

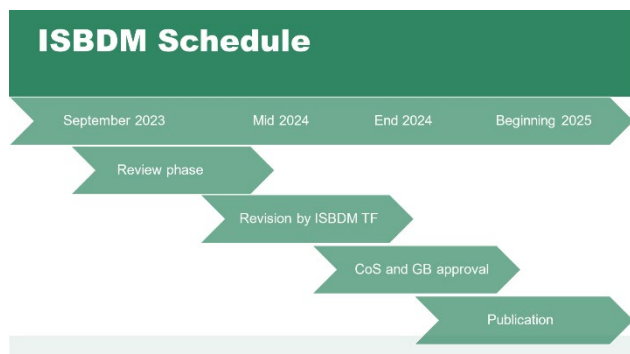
The division of the revision in this manner proved to be successful, and the work found a new momentum. An updated edition of the 2011 Consolidated ISBD was published in 2021, and in summer 2023, a first stable draft of the ISBDM was available and the planned extensive review phase could begin. The review was conducted in stages in order to obtain the most targeted and structured feedback possible.

- ISBDM Task Force review July-September 2023
- ISBD Review Group review November-December 2023
- Experts review mid February to mid-April 2024 with invited stakeholders started with an introduction meeting on 8 February 2024
- The official World-wide review from 15 May to 15 July 2024, initiated through an information meeting on 25 April 2024

Further steps

- The ISBDM Task Force has to review, check and, if necessary, incorporate comments and suggestions from all review phases.
- A final draft of ISBDM goes through the IFLA standards approval process (Committee on Standards and Governing Board)
- Parallel to the review, ISBDM Task Force, together with the responsible IFLA bodies, will ensure a sustainable and reliable provision of the ISBDM as an interactive online tool.
- The ISBDM Task Force will produce a working document for the ISBD Review

Group on the future ISBD concerning a full implementation of LRM



NEWS FROM THE LRMoo WORKING GROUP

LRMoo, the Essentials

By Pat Riva for the LRMoo Working Group

As soon as the IFLA Library Reference Model (IFLA LRM) was approved as an IFLA standard in August 2017, the Bibliographic Conceptual Models (BCM) Review Group mandated a working group to update the FRBROo object-oriented conceptual model to align with the new model. FRBROo version 2.4 was approved in 2016, just before the completion of IFLA LRM, and it reflected the models consolidated and superseded by IFLA LRM: FRBR, FRAD, and FRASAD.

The mandate given to the LRMoo Working Group was to develop an object-oriented version of IFLA LRM, based on FRBROo and continuing its role as a compatible extension of the museum community model, the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM). CIDOC is the International Committee on Documentation, the division of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) that is concerned with the description and documentation of museum collections. A Special Interest Group (SIG) is charged with maintaining the CIDOC CRM model. The collaboration between the

BCM RG and the CIDOC CRM SIG started in 2003 with the idea of creating a bridge between the models of the two communities by stating the library model, at the time FRBR, in a way that could be used in concert with the CIDOC CRM. This model was named FRBROo and its version 1.0, approved in 2010, was the first compatible extension of the CIDOC CRM.

Transforming FRBROo into LRMoo was an interactive process that took over six years of work. After consultations at WLIC 2022 in Dublin, Ireland, version 0.9.3 was released for world-wide review in February-April 2023. The feedback received was analysed and the resulting model received approval from the CIDOC CRM SIG in May 2023. The BCM RG approved the document in principle at WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Next, LRMoo was submitted for Committee on Standards approval in fall 2023, and received endorsement from the Professional Council in April 2024, the final approval step. Since then LRMoo version 1.0 has been published on the CIDOC CRM website along with its working drafts and previous FRBROo versions at: https://www.cidoc-crm.org/frbroo/fm_releases. Publication in the IFLA repository is in progress.

A major release of CIDOC CRM in 2022 (version 7.1.2) was the basis for the 2023 update of its corresponding ISO standard (ISO 21127:2023 Information and documentation – A reference ontology for the interchange of cultural heritage information). Minor corrections noted during the ISO process resulted in the official CIDOC CRM release (version 7.1.3) in February 2024. LRMoo was developed at the ideal time to integrate with this latest CRM release, including modifications to terminology and style that have been recently adopted in the CRM family. It is a big step forward, as FRBROo version 2.4 was compatible with CIDOC CRM version 6.2.7.

The LRMoo Working Group consists of: Pat Riva as chair, with members Trond Aalberg and Maja Žumer. Former BCM RG chair Mélanie Roche also participated in discussions at the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group meetings. As described in the WLIC 2023 presentation at the Committee on Standards Open Program, [LRMoo, navigating standards development processes in two communities](#), the LRMoo WG had to work within the practices of the CIDOC CRM SIG, as well as with the procedures in the IFLA Standards Manual.

The document defining the LRMoo model follows the format and layout prescribed for the CRM family models, making it possible to take advantage of tools developed by the maintainers of the CRM family, notably the direct generation of RDFS from the declarations, and online publication of the model definition.

The sections in the document are:

1. **Introduction.** Situates the LRMoo model and introduces the document.
2. **Scope.** Clarifies both what the model includes and what is not included.
3. **Status.** Details the formal adoption process of the model by both ICOM and IFLA.
4. **Description of the Model.** Introduces the formal terminology used in object-oriented models in the CRM family and presents an overview of LRMoo. This section also describes the presentation conventions for the formal specifications found in sections 6 and 7.
5. **Class and Property Hierarchies.** Tables that summarize the hierarchical structure of LRMoo classes and properties and put LRMoo into context with CIDOC CRM.
6. **LRMoo Class Declarations.** The formal definitions of the 16 classes in LRMoo.
7. **LRMoo Property Declarations.** The formal definitions of the 37 properties in LRMoo.
8. **IFLA LRM to LRMoo Mapping.** Maps the entities, attributes, and relationships declared in the IFLA LRM entity-relationship model to their equivalents in the object-oriented model using constructs from LRMoo and when needed, from CIDOC CRM.
9. **FRBRoo Classes and Properties Transferred to CRMsoc.** This section provides a temporary home for three classes and eight properties declared in FRBRoo to capture some constructs that issued from the FRAD model but that do not align with IFLA LRM. Now out of scope for LRMoo, these formerly declared classes and properties are intended to transition to the CRM family model CRMsoc, the model for Social Phenomena, which is under development.
10. **Migration from FRBRoo to LRMoo.** Tables that align all classes and properties declared in the superseded model, FRBRoo version 2.4, with the LRMoo model, providing migration instructions.
11. **Bibliography.** Points to related models and key WLIC presentations on the model's development.

A note about the status of PRESSoo

Version 1.3 approved in 2015 remains the latest version of [PRESSoo](#). Built as a compatible extension to both FRBRoo version 2.4 and CIDOC CRM version 6.2.7, it is not compatible as an extension to LRMoo. Any application implementing PRESSoo cannot therefore move forward in the CIDOC CRM or FRBRoo elements that it uses. LRMoo 1.0 retains the definitions of class F18 Serial Work (a subclass of F1 Work) and

property R11 *has issuing rule (is issuing rule of)*, which formed the link between FRBRoo 2.4 and PRESSoo. However, the intention would be to relocate these two elements into an updated version of PRESSoo that is aligned with LRMoo. Presently, there is no updating work underway.

Major differences between FRBRoo and LRMoo

In contrast to FRBRoo, LRMoo is a high-level, compact model, with a minimum of hierarchy between classes. LRMoo is tightly aligned with IFLA LRM and reflects its decisions about scope and granularity. In particular, IFLA LRM and LRMoo both avoid declaring elements for specific types of materials.

The reassessment of all elements in the development of LRMoo included the labels of classes and properties, which were renamed to better align with IFLA LRM when possible. For example, class F30 Publication Event was renamed F30 Manifestation Creation and class F32 Carrier Production Event was renamed F32 Item Production Event to more clearly show the WEMI entity that these events give rise to.

However, renaming could not extend to elements within the CIDOC CRM model itself that are used with LRMoo to express concepts from IFLA LRM. Notably, the entity LRM-E6 Agent maps to the CRM class E39 Actor. This label could not be changed as it is declared outside of LRMoo.

Changes to Classes

LRMoo integrated changes in how the CIDOC CRM family of models handles the relationship between the base CRM model and its extensions. As a result, extensions can no longer declare classes that are exact equivalences to CIDOC CRM classes. This led to deprecating 7 classes in favour of their CIDOC CRM

equivalents, including F10 Person (equal to E21 Person), F9 Place (equal to E52 Place).

FRBRoo had modeled the concepts of Work and Expression with a number of refinements and specialized relationships, particularly around aggregation, leading to subclasses of F1 Work such as F16 Container Work, F17 Aggregation Work and also specific format subclasses F19 Publication Work, F20 Performance Work, and F21 Recording Work linked to F24 Publication Expression, F25 Performance Plan, and F26 Recording. At the work level F14 Individual Works, expressed in F22 Self-Contained Expressions, were gathered into F15 Complex Works. Reducing this complexity, which did not lead to significant semantic advantages, allowed 7 subclasses of F1 Work and 6 subclasses of F2 Expression to be deprecated in favour of using the superclasses directly.

In FRBRoo the concept of Manifestation was split into two classes: F3 Manifestation Product Type for the manifestations published in multiple identical items, and F4 Manifestation Singleton, those created in an artistic or artisanal process resulting in a single item. In the meantime, with the influence of FRBRoo, CRM added the class E99 Product Type, a general way of expressing products manufactured to give rise to multiple identical objects. This allowed LRMoo to revise class F3 to align with LRM-E4 Manifestation and deprecate class F4 Manifestation Singleton. The distinction between manifestations with a single item and those with multiple identical items is expressed by multiple instantiation with E99 Product Type. That means declaring a specific instance of a manifestation as both an F3 Manifestation and an E99 Product Type, when applicable, so that the properties of both classes can be used.

A feature of the CRM family models is to focus on the events that result in the creation or

production of significant entities by modeling these events as classes. Thus, FRBROO declared classes and properties for the creation or production of each WEMI entity. In LRMoo these are retained. However, in FRBROO the event giving rise to instances of F1 Work focused on the initiating spark or idea for the work, something that is rarely documented. The class was called F27 Work Conception and was linked to the instance of work with the R16 *initiated (was initiated by)* property. It was refocused in LRMoo to F27 Work Creation and the property renamed R16 *created (was created by)*. F27 Work Creation comprises activities by which instances of F1 Work come into existence and can document the agents responsible for the work and related places and time-spans. This approach is closer to IFLA LRM which models the outcomes of creation processes.

A significant feature of IFLA LRM is the LRM-E9 Nomen entity, following FRAD and FRSAD, defined as “an association between an entity and a designation that refers to it”. Implementing the consequences of this abstract entity which models a relationship as an entity (or reifies it), allowed LRMoo to fold together the class F12 Nomen (mapping it to LRM-E9 Nomen) with the class F35 Nomen Use Statement, which could then be deprecated along with 6 related properties.

The one class added in LRMoo is class F55 Collective Agent, declared as the mapping for LRM-E8 Collective Agent. It is a subclass of CRM class E74 Group, a more general class that does not imply bibliographic responsibility, and serves as the superclass for classes F11 Corporate Body and F39 Family, both retained despite being more granular than IFLA LRM. All these changes reduced the 48 classes in FRBROO to the 16 classes needed in LRMoo.

Changes to Properties

The reduction in subclasses of works and expressions and the simplification of F3 Manifestation allowed 10 properties to be deprecated in favour of their superproperties that were already declared at the F1 Work, F2 Expression, or F3 Manifestation levels. Additionally, the direct definition of F3 Manifestation as a subclass of E73 Information Object, rather than as a type of product, no longer required the concept of “class properties”. Of the 8 former class properties, 3 were deprecated in favour of existing properties, and 5 were consolidated into 3 new LRMoo properties with domain and range F3 Manifestation: R69 *has physical form (is physical form of)*; R70 *has dimension (is dimension of)*; and R71 *has part (is part of)*.

In FRBROO the property R10 *has member (is member of)* gathered F14 Individual Works into F15 Complex Works, and also expressed the work-level whole-part relationship. Since LRMoo deprecated both of those subclasses of F1 Work, the R10 property was entirely reformulated. In LRMoo, the R10 *is member of (has member)* property serves to link instances of F1 Work that belong to a broader idea, modeled as an instance of the CIDOC CRM class E28 Conceptual Object, that serves as a “superwork” for these works. The R10 property can now express such situations as novels that are all set in the same fictional universe, or artworks that exist in related forms or media.

LRMoo added 11 new properties not found in FRBROO. LRMoo is intended to provide mappings that are equivalent to IFLA LRM, with a very few that use CIDOC CRM elements that are slightly more granular. Thus 5 properties were added to provide equivalences for relationships declared in IFLA LRM. At the work level, the property R67 *has part (forms part of)* was declared to match

the relationship LRM-R18 *has part (is part of)* and separated this relationship from the reformulated R10 property; R68 *is inspired by (is inspiration for)* corresponds to LRM-R21 inspiration; R77 *accompanies or complements (is accompanied or complemented by)* corresponds to LRM-R20 accompanies/complements. At the expression level, the property R76 *is derivative of (has derivative)* is the equivalent to the relationship LRM-R24 *is derivation of (has derivation)* between expressions (since derivation at the work level was already provided for with the existing R2 property, equivalent to the LRM-R22 transformation relationship). And the symmetric property R78 *has alternate* provides an equivalent for the manifestation level relationship LRM-R29 *has alternate*.

The IFLA LRM definition of a single attribute of the work LRM-E2-A2 Representative Expression Attribute is a much simpler approach to representativity than had been originally modeled in FRBROO. Thus LRMoo declared just two properties: R73 *takes representative attribute from (bears representative attribute for)* with domain F1 Work and range F2 Expression to link a work to an expression which provides a representative attribute value, and R79 *has representative expression attribute (is representative expression attribute of)* with range F1 Work and range E55 Type to categorize the type of attribute. In contrast, FRBROO had declared 2 classes and 13 properties, all of which have been deprecated.

LRMoo takes a new view of the modeling of performances and recordings. In FRBROO the steps from a work to a recording were modeled explicitly in iteration using work and expression subclasses and subproperties for both performances and recordings. This required 5 classes and 8 properties that have been deprecated, as well as class F31 Performance for

the performance activity itself. This is considerably simplified in LRMoo where the focus is on works and those expressions that are created through the recording of performances. The definition of class F31 Performance was reviewed to focus on activities where an instance of work is presented or communicated to an audience. Since F31 Performance is a subclass of CRM class E7 Activity, the CRM properties that link activities to agents, places, and time-spans can all be applied to document performances. New LRMoo property R80 *performed (is performed in)* with domain F31 Performance and range F1 Work associates an instance of work with a performance of it. Another new property R81 *recorded (is recorded in)* with domain F28 Expression Creation and range F31 Performance captures a process that creates an expression of a work through recording one of its performances.

The final pair of new properties in LRMoo model a situation that is not yet covered by IFLA LRM, the use of expressions of pre-existing works in the creation of new works. An example of this situation is a musical work that uses the text of an existing poem. For instance, different expressions of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 may use different language versions of Friedrich Schiller's poem "An die Freude" (or "Ode to Joy" in English), but every expression of the 9th symphony will use an expression of the poem. With domain and range both F1 Work, the property R74 *uses expression of (has expression used in)* states that all expressions of the work that is the domain use some expression of the work that is the range. Linking at the expression level, the property R75 *incorporates (is incorporated in)* relates the specific expression that is used in an expression of another work.

Despite the additions, these changes resulted in reducing the 72 properties in FRBROO to the 37 properties needed in LRMoo.

Overall Changes

The changes described above are those that are more significant for applying the model and understanding the transition. The transformation of FRBROO to LRMoo also involved critically reading the whole text and making many editorial changes to clarify the scope notes, standardize the presentation, ensure editorial consistency, and add information normally presented in the more recently developed CIDOC CRM family models. In fact, all the declarations of classes and properties were edited. The overview material in section 4 was entirely rewritten.

Another major improvement was the re-evaluation of all the examples, with the aim of making them more pedagogical. Examples are systematically reused between classes and properties, better illustrating the application of the model. Highly specialized examples are avoided, preferring typical cases in literature, music, and art, which are likely known to a broad audience. Many examples will be familiar from IFLA LRM.

A note on the relationship between F2 Expression and F3 Manifestation

In the approved version of LRMoo, as well as in the draft version 0.9.3 issued for world-wide review in 2023, the classes F2 Expression and F3 Manifestation are both direct subclasses of the CIDOC CRM class E73 Information Object. E73 Information Object is itself a subclass of E89 Propositional Object, as is F1 Work. This directly translates the disjointness of the WEMI entities in IFLA LRM.

However, some earlier drafts of LRMoo include the proposal to treat F3 Manifestation as a subclass of F2 Expression, considering manifestations as expressions that are elaborated in more detail. This was reported in the LRMoo WG paper given at the Committee on Standards Open Program during WLIC 2022, [LRMoo, a high-level model in an object-oriented framework](#). Readers should now disregard section 2.2 and figure 3 in that paper. The proposal was discussed at the BCM RG meeting at WLIC 2022 and found problematic, leading to the modification found in drafts from fall 2022 onwards.

Namespaces

LRMoo is intended to be integrated into the IFLA namespaces with the prefix: <http://iflstandards.info/ns/lrm/lrmoo/>. The LRMoo WG is working with METATEC on this next step to complete the publication of the model and make it fully available for use.

NEWS ABOUT THE **RÉPERTOIRE DE VEDETTES-MATIÈRE (RVM)**

50th Anniversary of RVM as the national indexing standard

By Susan Brillat, Bibliothécaire spécialiste en vocabulaire contrôlé, Répertoire de vedettes-matière (RVM)

Given that Université Laval is one of the oldest educational institutions in North America, it is not surprising that some of the school's achievements have stood the test of time and are now among the most trusted resources in their field. Topping the list of most notable successes must certainly be the Répertoire de vedettes-matière (RVM).

Created in 1946, RVM was designed to provide controlled, reliable vocabulary for the University's library collection. It is well known in the library world that before a document can be used, it must first be described and indexed. That is what makes it traceable for research purposes. While indexing with uncontrolled vocabulary has some advantages, especially in terms of cost, people generally agree that controlled vocabulary is a more efficient indexing method.

On that basis, the idea of Université Laval having its own thesaurus, modelled on the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), was floated among the library's team of cataloguers. The first edition of RVM was published in 1962, and it was obvious that although the new tool was modelled on the LCSH, it bore the unmistakable stamp of Université Laval in several ways, « à savoir l'universalité des sujets, la note scientifique et l'expression française.¹ » (namely, the universality of subjects, the scholarliness, and the French language).

1974: a turning point for RVM

The controlled vocabulary was initially intended for internal use at Université Laval, but it sparked growing interest among other French-language libraries, both in the academic world and in public libraries. Because the thesaurus was in continuous development, there were more and more requests for access coming from outside the UL community, and in 1974 the National Library of Canada adopted RVM as the national indexing standard in French.

We've now reached the 50th anniversary of that event, which marked the beginning of a momentous period of collaboration for RVM. There was a partnership with the National Library of Canada, of course, but also with other educational institutions and municipalities and

with Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. RVM even gained recognition internationally and was used by Bibliothèque nationale de France to build its own controlled vocabulary, Répertoire d'autorité-matière encyclopédique et alphabétique unifié (RAMEAU).

Over the decades, Répertoire de vedettes-matière has continuously evolved, both in vocabulary and in technology. Now made up of five separate thesauruses with over 730,000 authority records, RVM is used by over 200 libraries and documentation centres in Québec, elsewhere in Canada, and in other countries, primarily in Europe.

<https://rvmweb.bibl.ulaval.ca/rvmweb/contenu/contenu.do?chemin=/cinquantieme&locale=en>

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Bibliographies: Wider Perspectives

The [Bibliography Section](#) will have its second webinar "*National Bibliographies: Wider Perspectives*" in its [virtual event series](#), on 27 June 2024, 2:00 – 3:30 pm CEST (GMT/UTC +2).

The webinar aims at providing extended views about national bibliographies, as they are examined collectively, integrated into a wider portfolio of bibliographic services, or considered as a part of a larger cultural landscape.

Registration and further details are available [here](#).

International Congress on Metadata 2024 (CIM2024): Call for Proposals

The **Institute of Library and Information Research**, through the **Metadata Research Seminar**, invites researchers, professors, information professionals, as well as graduate and undergraduate students in Library Science, Information Studies, Documentation, Archival and related areas to submit their work and/or research results to be presented at the **International Congress on Metadata 2024 (CIM2024) "Sustainable Communities and the Green Library Movement: Opportunities and Challenges for the Organization of Information and Knowledge"** to be held on **October 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2024**.

The full call for proposals can be found here:
https://iibi.unam.mx/f/CONVOCA_CIM2024_act_mar24.pdf

Coordinator: [Dr. Ariel Alejandro Rodríguez García](#)