



IFLA Metadata Newsletter

Volume 11, Number 2, December 2025

Bibliography Section

Cataloguing Section

Subject Analysis and Access Section

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| About the IFLA Metadata Newsletter | 3 |
| Letter From the Chairs | 4 |
| National and Regional News | 5 |
| News From Sweden | 5 |
| News From Germany | 7 |
| News From Croatia | 9 |
| News From Türkiye | 10 |
| News From Ibero-American Countries | 12 |
| Section News | 14 |
| Bibliography Section | 14 |
| Conference and Meeting Reports | 15 |
| Exploring AI, Bibliographic Control, and Legal Matters: Highlights From the 2025 WLIC Satellite Meeting..... | 15 |
| Insightful Connections and Bountiful Hospitality: A Report on the Joint Satellite Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan | 17 |
| BIB's Open Session at WLIC 2025 | 19 |
| Jackpot or Jeopardy? Exploring AI and Subject Indexing (WLIC, August 18, 2025) | 21 |
| EDUG Annual Meeting, May 8-9, 2025..... | 22 |
| Standards News | 24 |
| 2025 Updates of the UNIMARC Manual | 24 |
| ISBD for LRM, Phase 2: Strengthening IFLA's Content Standard for an Entity-Based Online Environment | 24 |
| News from METATEC, the Metadata Technical Standards Review Group..... | 27 |
| News from the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) | 28 |
| Subject Metadata in Library Discovery Systems: a survey report | 34 |
| New Books | 37 |
| New Members | 40 |
| Bibliography Section | 40 |
| Cataloguing Section | 42 |
| Subject Analysis and Access Section..... | 45 |
| Upcoming Events | 48 |
| In Memoriam: Agnese Galeffi (1974-2025): A Personal Tribute | 49 |

ABOUT THE *IFLA METADATA NEWSLETTER*

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

Contributions are welcome at any time.
Please contact any of our editors:

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

<http://www.ifla.org/bibliography>

<http://www.ifla.org/en/cataloguing>

<https://www.ifla.org/subject-analysis-and-access>

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Metadata Colleagues,

Welcome to the December 2025 edition of the IFLA Metadata Newsletter! 2025 was an exciting year for IFLA and the metadata sections. After the WLIC could not take place in 2024, we had two opportunities for face-to-face exchanges this year. In March, the Metadata Sections, the Advisory Committee on Standards, and Review Groups met for the [Standards and Metadata Mid-Year Meeting and Symposium](#) at the National Library of Greece in Athens. And in August, the WLIC took place in Central Asia for the first time in its history, and we met in Kazakhstan's beautiful capital, Astana.

As at previous conferences, Artificial Intelligence was one of the dominant topics. The Bibliography Section, in collaboration with the IT Section and the AI Special Interest Group, organized a satellite meeting on [Artificial Intelligence, Bibliographic Control and Legal Matters: Navigating New Horizons](#) on August 14-15 at Astana IT University.

For its open session during WLIC, the SAA Section also focused on the topic of AI and at the same time tried out a completely new conference format: Under the title "Jackpot or Jeopardy? Exploring AI

and Subject Indexing," SAA, together with the Continuing Professional Development Section (CPDWL) and the New Professionals SIG, organized a fishbowl discussion in which participants could present their personal views on the impact of AI in libraries.

UBC was another big topic for the Metadata Sections and was discussed in the Bibliography and Cataloguing Section joint open Session (co-sponsored by SAA) "Reliable Data, Stronger Libraries: Universal Bibliographic Control for the Future."

A third focus was on advocacy for libraries. The presentations in the Committee on Standards' Open Session "Standards Matter: Building a Sustainable Future for Information" discussed why metadata and standardization still matter today.

2025 was also an election year, for both new standing committee members and officers. The SAA and Cataloguing Section have new chairs and some sections have new secretaries and information coordinators. The new Division H chair is Albina Krymskaya. We are looking forward to working together with our continuing and incoming standing committee members!



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



Mathilde Koskas, Chair of the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee; Head of the French National Bibliography (Books), National Library of France



Julijana Nadj-Guttandin, Chair of the Subject Analysis and Access Section Standing Committee; Subject Librarian and Metadata Specialist, German National Library

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM SWEDEN

Collaborative Development of National Bibliographic Cataloguing: The NB+ Initiative

By **Camilla Smith**, Project Lead, National Library of Sweden

In 2025, the National Library of Sweden launched the NB+ project to investigate potential models for collaboration with Lund University Library in the cataloguing of printed legal deposit monographs for the National Bibliography. As legal deposit libraries, both institutions share the mandate to preserve all material printed in Sweden. Their primary distinction lies in access policy: material held by the National Library is restricted to on-site consultation, whereas material at Lund University Library is available for loan. The National Library also bears responsibility for producing national bibliographic metadata within the union catalogue Libris.



Linda Jerrewing Strömberg and Olof Osterman, mentors and instructors in cataloguing at the National Library

The NB+ initiative aims to increase efficiency in the cataloguing workflow of legal deposit

material by distributing cataloguing responsibilities between the two libraries. Should Lund University Library begin contributing directly to the National Bibliography, duplication of cataloguing efforts in Libris—currently performed independently by both institutions—could be substantially reduced.



Cecilia Kaiserfeld, Cataloguing and Metadata Librarian at Lund University Library, one of the mentees in the NB+ Mentorship Programme

To date, NB+ has established regular joint Zoom sessions with cataloguers at the Lund University Library to discuss cataloguing standards and practices, developed a shared resource-sharing system, and delivered a four-week training programme in cataloguing at the national level during the autumn. Workshops and evaluations have enabled us to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges, informing a revised approach to be implemented in the spring. Beginning in January 2026, a mentorship programme will be introduced for two cataloguers at the Lund University Library.

Parallel to NB+, the National Library is developing an automated system capable of scanning incoming legal deposit monographs,

identifying duplicate items, and generating holdings linked to existing bibliographic records in Libris. Once this system or a similar one is deployed at the Lund University Library, both institutions will be able to identify material awaiting cataloguing at each respective location, enabling a division of cataloguing responsibilities.



Librarians from the National Library and Lund University Library at the NB+ workshop in Lund in October

A subsequent phase of NB+ will involve formalising the collaboration through a letter of intent or an agreement between the two legal deposit libraries. The overarching aim is to rationalise cataloguing workflows, eliminate extensive backlogs, and prevent duplicated effort. By sharing responsibility for the creation of bibliographic records, the two libraries will better ensure that Sweden's National Bibliography remains current, complete, and correct.

Project members from the National Library of Sweden, Department of Metadata and National Bibliography: Eva-Karin Annemark, Acting Head of Department; Miriam Björkhem, former Head of Department, Lisa Hederus Lindroth, Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian; Linda Jerrewing Strömberg, member of the IFLA Bibliography Section, Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian; Olof Osterman, former member of IFLA Automated Subject Analysis and Access Working Group, Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian; Camilla Smith, Project Lead NB+, Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian

Project members from the Lund University Library, Department of Metadata and Cataloguing: Ewa Giniewska, Head of Department; Marita Blomberg, Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian; Cecilia Kaiserfeld, Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian; Mikael Lindgren, Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian



Lund University Library

The Swedish WebDewey Now Fully Translated

By **Harriet Aagaard**, National Library of Sweden

The Swedish WebDewey started in 2011 as a mixed translation. Records that had been translated appeared in Swedish, and non-translated records remained in English. Only 40 % was translated, but using a mixed translation proved to be a good starting point when Swedish libraries began using the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) instead of the Swedish classification system SAB.

Today, the Swedish WebDewey is fully translated and has been updated to the standard version of WebDewey as of November 11, 2025. We can now have access to features such as updates, user-built numbers and the ability to share user-built numbers with other countries using DDC.

A fully translated WebDewey also offers significant benefits for users, as the DDC hierarchies and metadata help them find the information they need. Since the Swedish National Union Catalogue Libris is based on linked data, we hope to be able to use [DDC linked data](#) as well.

We are currently in discussions with OCLC about how Dewey might be used within our linked data infrastructure. Libris remains committed to open data principles and will share further updates as the path forward becomes clearer.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

News From the German National Library

By **Florian Betz** and **Tracy Arndt**, German National Library

SPARQL: German National Library Has Launched an Endpoint

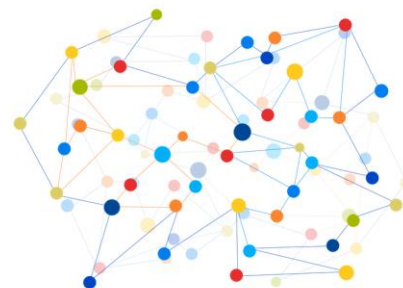
The SPARQL endpoint enables users to query bibliographic records of the German National Library (DNB) and authority records of the [Integrated Authority File \(GND\)](#) using [SPARQL](#), a standardised query language for RDF data. This functionality is accessible via user-friendly web interface or via application programming interface (API). It should be of interest to a wide range of users, from researchers to developers. The endpoint allows complex semantic queries that go beyond traditional text-based searches,

enabling deeper insights into the library's collections.

Pages / Linked-Data-Service der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek

DNB SPARQL Service (BETA)

Created by Betz, Florian, last updated on 2025-09-25 • 2 minute read



DNB's wiki page with resources and documentation related to the SPARQL service (in German only)

Technically, the metadata is structured in RDF format, utilising triples (subject-predicate-object) to facilitate machine readability and processing. This structure not only enhances data integration but also supports innovative applications in research and development.

Currently, in its public beta phase, the SPARQL endpoint is continually being refined, and users may encounter occasional interruptions. For those eager to explore its capabilities, the endpoint is accessible at <https://sparql.dnb.de> (web interface). Additional resources, including examples and documentation, are available on the German National Library's [wiki page](#) (available in German only).

The German National Library invites feedback and suggestions to further enhance this tool. Interested users can reach out to the metadata services team at metadatendienste@dnb.de.

This new SPARQL endpoint represents a significant advancement in DNB's commitment to innovation and open access, offering a powerful tool for the global metadata community to explore, integrate and be

innovative with bibliographic records of the German National Library and authority records of the GND (Integrated Authority File).

Online Publications of Music: German Music Archive Starts Providing Records of Individual Tracks

In recent years, the [German Music Archive](#) of the German National Library (DNB) has been working more intensely on the collection of digital music. Digital music publications made available via download or streaming are part of the DNB's collection mandate in the same way as physical sound recordings.

Until 2024 online music publications could not be incorporated into the collection. In 2024 the technical prerequisites for automated import have been created. A pilot phase began in early summer of 2024, and productive import started in autumn 2025.

Bibliographic records for music audio files must be delivered in the Digital Data Exchange (DDEX) Standard Electronic Release Notification Message Suite (ERN) version 4.3 or 4.2: <https://www.dnb.de/ddexop>.

Bibliographic records of online music publications at the track level are published in series O (Online Publications) of the [Deutsche Nationalbibliografie](#).

For exports in MARC 21 (including XML format) of data records describing individual tracks, MARC field 773 (Host item entry) (R) is used, along with the MARC Leader: position 06 (Type of record) is set to value "j" (Musical sound recording) and position 07 (Bibliographic level) is set to value "a" (Monographic component part). In addition, MARC field 720 (Added Entry – Uncontrolled Name) (R) is used for delivering uncontrolled names, which can designate either persons or corporate entities. More detailed

information is provided in the announcement of MARC 21 export release 2024.02 of the German National Library.

By early December 2025, some 70,000 online music publications (an average of about 2,000 per day) have been deposited, automatically harvested, and imported, starting with one of the world's biggest music publishers, Sony Music, and his backlist of approximately 1.5 million tracks. More publishers are expected to follow in 2026. An overview of available publications can be found in the DNB's catalogue ([OPAC](#)).

ISNI, ORCID, GND: MVB, VG WORT and DNB Have Established a Consortium

In January 2025, the German National Library (DNB), the [Verwertungsgesellschaft WORT](#) (VG WORT, Collective Management Organisation) and [MVB GmbH](#) (the marketing and publishing service provider for the book trade, a subsidiary of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels), founded a [consortium](#) for introducing, supporting and further developing person identifiers in the publications and media market of the German-speaking region.

The purpose of the consortium is to coordinate the introduction, support and development of identifiers for persons and organizations to enable largely unambiguous identification and attribution of creative professionals, as well as other persons or organizations involved in the creation and distribution of publications.

The identifiers for persons and organizations include, in particular: [ISNI](#) (International Standard Name Identifier), [ORCID](#) (Open Researcher and Contributor ID), and [GND](#) (Integrated Authority File). They are of particular interest for the [purposes of the book and media market](#) (the document is available in German

only), as well as for the settlement of royalties via the Collective Management Organisation (VG Wort) and the improvement of metadata quality in the library sector. In the book and media market, person identifiers assigned to the names of authors or contributors are part of the metadata for advance announcements and newly released publications provided by publishers in the Verzeichnis Lieferbarer Bücher (VLB – German Books in Print), a product of the MVB GmbH and the „central platform for the automated exchange of product information within the German-language book industry“.

Since 2020, MVB GmbH has served as an [ISNI registration agency](#). Since then, the adoption of ISNI has significantly advanced the unambiguous identification of authors and other contributors to publications. In 2025, both ISNI and ORCID were introduced to the German book and media market and subsequently into the German-speaking library sector, with notable progress.

As of the end of 2025, the inclusion of ISNI and ORCID in the [MVB GmbH pricing model](#) (available in German only) will affect pricing tiers based on metadata quality for advance announcements and newly released publications submitted by publishers. By March 2025, a significant share of 19.9% of the more than 2.5 million bibliographic records in the VLB had been enriched with ISNI and/or ORCID.

The [New Release Service \(ND\)](#), offered weekly by the German National Library (DNB), provides information on both advance announcements and new publications. It is based on reports provided by publishers to the VLB. In accordance with the DNB's collection mandate, and limited to non-online publications, a selection of these title registrations is displayed unchanged in ND. The metadata provided by ND now increasingly includes ISNI and ORCID. The identifiers are also

included in the subsequent bibliographic records of the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie.

In addition to bibliographic data, ISNI and ORCID are also represented in the authority data for persons and corporate bodies in the Integrated Authority File (GND). As of 3 December 2025, ISNI and ORCID coverage is as follows:

- GND (in total approximately 5.7 million personal entities used for formal indexing): 32.152 records with ISNI, 366.267 records with ORCID
- DNB bibliographic records (in total approximately 36 million): 47.648 records with ISNI, 1.993.486 records with ORCID; additional 1.3 million scheduled for enrichment.

NEWS FROM CROATIA

Code for Description and Access to Resources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums

By **Elia Ekinović Micak**, **Ana Knežević Cerovski**, **Lana Krišto Lončarić** and **Petra Pancirov**, National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia

The Code for Description and Access to Resources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums (*Pravilnik za opis i pristup građi u knjižnicama, arhivima i muzejima*, KAM) is a recently published set of data elements and provisions intended for identification and description of materials held in heritage institutions in Croatia. In addition to providing guidance on how to select and structure descriptive data about information resources, the KAM Code also addresses data relating to persons, corporate bodies, families, places and timespans associated with those resources. It is based on

both national and international standards, with the IFLA LRM model serving as a main point of reference.

The primary goal of the KAM Code is to standardize entity identification and data content in order to facilitate exchange, sharing, linking, integration and reuse of data within and beyond the Croatian heritage sector. This provides the foundation for the development of shared services that will facilitate access to materials and support the comprehensive presentation of national heritage in the digital environment. As a data content standard, KAM can be used across a wide range of information systems, and it is compatible with different data formats. It is currently being developed as a formal ontology. In the context of the growing development of AI applications, the main objective of the KAM-based ontology is to help formalize rules and semantics of heritage metadata, thereby enabling their automatic extraction, enrichment, validation and generation.



The interface of the KAM code, available at <https://pravilnik.kam.hr> (in Croatian only)

KAM is intended primarily for library cataloguers, archivists, museum documentation specialists and curators. However, it can also be used – according to the needs and context of use – by any institution, group or individual involved in the creation, organization and management of heritage data. This includes, but is not limited to personal archives, researchers, cultural

associations, galleries, publishers, booksellers, and copyright- management bodies.

The KAM Code is the result of the joint effort by all three heritage communities – libraries, archives, and museums – in cooperation with university departments of information and communication sciences. Its development has been funded by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia. KAM is published and maintained by the [National and University Library in Zagreb](#), the [Croatian State Archives](#), and the [Museum Documentation Centre](#), which also hold ownership of its content.

NEWS FROM TÜRKIYE

Hüseyin Sermet Civil Engineer Archive is Now Accessible

By **Vuslat Naz Bayçifci**, Archive Specialist, Koç University



Since 2007, the [Koç University Digital Collections platform](#) has served as a central and continuously expanding resource supporting research communities nationwide and internationally by providing sustained access not only to the university's academic, cultural and historical heritage, but also to a diverse range of private collections and materials originating from various regions of the world including significant historical, archaeological, and photographic documents.

Developed and maintained under the umbrella of the Koç University Suna Kiraç Library, the platform reflects a collaborative digitization and preservation effort undertaken jointly by its constituent libraries and research centers.

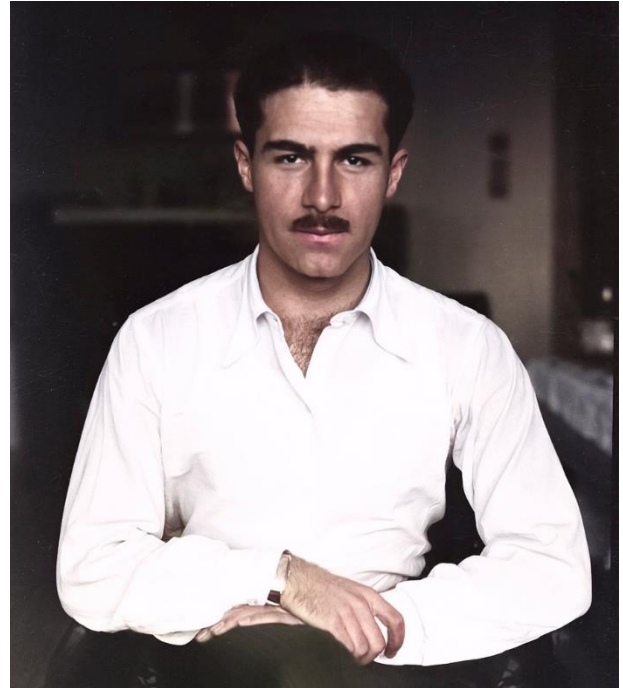
The Koç University Digital Collections bring together digitized materials from the Koç University Suna Kiraç Main Library (SKL), the Koç

University Suna & İnan Kıraç Research Centre for Mediterranean Civilizations (AKMED), the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), and the Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM), in addition to departmental archives and partner initiatives. Through these shared digitization projects, the platform aims to ensure long-term preservation, open accessibility, and wide dissemination of unique cultural heritage materials.

Today, the Digital Collections platform hosts 43 distinct cultural heritage and archival collections, including manuscripts, photograph albums, personal papers, technical drawings, and many other rare materials. Each item is enriched with comprehensive metadata and made openly available to support research not only within the university but also across national and international scholarly communities. By doing so, the platform contributes to cultural memory, interdisciplinary scholarship, and the global exchange of knowledge.

The newly added [Hüseyin Sermet Civil Engineer Archive](#) represents an important addition to this expanding ecosystem. Documenting engineering practices of the early Republican era and Türkiye's broader modernization processes, the archive offers valuable primary sources for historians, architects, engineers, and cultural heritage researchers worldwide.

Koç University Suna Kıraç Library has digitally opened the personal and professional archive of Hüseyin Sermet (1907 - 1989), one of the earliest engineers involved in Türkiye's modernization era. Sermet's archive, which highlights his infrastructure projects, bridge constructions, and architectural work for international representation during the early years of the Republic, offers a valuable resource for both engineering and cultural history.



Portraits of Hüseyin Sermet, Hüseyin Sermet Civil Engineer Archive, HSE S04 ngv 01 02, Suna Kıraç Library, Koç University

Born in Istanbul, Hüseyin Sermet began his engineering education at Robert College and graduated as a civil engineer from Purdue University in 1929. Upon his return to Türkiye, he took up duty within the Ministry of Public Works (Nafia Vekâleti) as part of the Republic's development efforts. He actively participated in bridge, road, and infrastructure projects across the country, contributing to the establishment of modern engineering principles. The collection's bridge construction photographs from the 1930s document not only the technical and structural processes but also the development ideals of the early Republic.

One of the most notable assignments in Sermet's career was serving as the project engineer for the Turkish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Photographs, postcards, and correspondence related to the construction

process of the pavilion designed by Sedad Hakki Eldem, a highly influential figure in 20th-century Turkish architecture, are among the most valuable materials in the collection. These documents are rare sources reflecting Türkiye's international promotion strategy and modernization vision.

The collection comprises over 900 documents, photographs, postcards, technical drawings, and personal materials donated to Koç University Library. This extensive content offers a comprehensive look at both the professional life of an engineer and the technical, cultural, and social transformation of the early Republican era.

A thorough cataloguing and digitization effort was carried out to prepare the archive for access. The Dublin Core metadata standard was used to ensure international interoperability. All documents were scanned at 300 dpi, with high-quality master files in TIFF format for preservation and derivative JPEG files created for online access. This workflow supports both long-term digital preservation and user-friendly, high-resolution viewing.

The online presentation of the collection is provided through the Suna Kiraç Library's Digital Collections platform, which forms an integral part of the library's digital archive infrastructure. Its advanced search and filtering capabilities allow researchers to examine materials in detail by document type, date, or subject. High-resolution viewing tools additionally support close analysis of technical drawings, engineering details, and visual materials.

The Hüseyin Sermet Civil Engineer Archive presents a rare corpus of documentation concerning Türkiye's infrastructure history, modernization vision, and international representation. Beyond conveying the personal story of an engineer, it serves as a significant primary source for historians, engineers, and

scholars interested in the early Republican period.

It is our hope that this collection will serve as a valuable resource and inspire further scholarly research. We invite all the librarians, researchers, historians, and engineers around the world to discover this collection and hope it will inspire new studies on Türkiye's modernization journey.

NEWS FROM IBERO-AMERICAN COUNTRIES

News From ABINIA Related to RDA

By **ABINIA Working Group on RDA**

ABINIA is the Association of Ibero-American Countries for the Development of National Libraries of Ibero-America, formed by 19 National Libraries from America, Spain and Portugal. The institution's official languages are Spanish and Portuguese. One of its committees is the Working Group on RDA, which aims to promote understanding of RDA and facilitate the exchange of experiences relating to RDA among national libraries.

As part of this commitment, ABINIA signed an agreement with the RDA Copyright Holders (ALA, CFLA, CILIP) for the translation of RDA Toolkit into Spanish. ABINIA consequently signed a distribution agreement with the company Información Científica Internacional (ICI) for the initial translation. The translation was officially handed to RDA Copyrights Holders in the 36th General Assembly, held in Santiago de Chile in October 21-24th, and its first version has been published at the official RDA Toolkit website. It is a full translation of the Entities and Guidance sections of the Toolkit, plus the Glossary.

The Working Group on RDA has a busy agenda for the coming year following this achievement. First, cataloguing experts from national libraries will carry out a thorough review of the existing translation, focusing on the consistency across pages and alignment with other source documents translated into Spanish, such as MulDiCat, LRM or ICP.

At the same time, a full training program is being developed to provide practitioners with the general skills in the key concepts and use of the RDA instructions, using the official version as its basis. The training will begin with more general and basic knowledge of the underlying principles of RDA, the use of the Toolkit, and the development of application policies and profiles, and will then progress to advanced training on more complex subjects. The program will be useful both for comparing and exchanging practices among the professionals and adjusting them to specific needs and circumstances of national libraries.

RDA Spanish Translation at the XIV Latin American Cataloguing and Metadata Meeting

The XIV Latin American Cataloguing and Metadata Meeting was held on October 1-3 at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). The event took place in person and was also broadcast via the Zoom platform. This year, the theme was "Reflections Around the Official RDA Toolkit." It was organized by the RDA Mexico Group and sponsored by the Institute of Research in Library Science and Information Studies (UNAM), the General Directorate for Libraries and Digital Services (UNAM), and the National Library of Mexico. Keynote speakers included Charlene Chou from the Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, who presented the lecture "RDA and Artificial Intelligence," and Michalis Gerolimos from the National Library of Greece,

who presented "Implementing the official RDA in the National Library of Greece: challenges and lessons learned." It is important to mention that the RDA Spanish translation was presented at this meeting, having been published and opened to all RDA subscribers on September 29th.

The RDA Spanish translation was carried out through an agreement between the RDA copyright holders and the Association of Ibero-American States for the Development of National Libraries in Ibero-America (ABINIA). Participants in this presentation included Renate Behrens (RDA Steering Committee Chair), James Hennelly (RDA Toolkit Director), Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano (RDA Steering Committee Representative to LAYC and Spanish Translation Coordinator), Cecilia Hernandez (ABINIA Executive Secretary), and Ricardo Santos (Coordinator of the RDA Working Group of ABINIA). All of them shared remarks regarding the importance of this translation for Latin American countries. Likewise, Filiberto Felipe Martinez gave the keynote lecture, "Challenges for RDA Official Toolkit Implementation in Latin America." The RDA Spanish Translation will be distributed to Latin American countries and Spain by the company ICI (Información Científica Internacional), which provided economic support for the translation.

Further information in Spanish:

<https://difusion.iibi.unam.mx/ECyM/>

<https://web.facebook.com/grupordamx/>

SECTION NEWS

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

Now Available: New Translations of the IFLA Professional Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control

By **Maud Henry**, Agence de l'information bibliographique - Agentschap voor bibliografische informatie, Royal Library of Belgium; IFLA Bibliography Section

The [IFLA Professional Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control \(2025\)](#) is expanding its global reach! We are delighted to announce that several new translations of the Statement are now available. The following translations have been published and can be accessed through the IFLA Repository:

- [Armenian](#)
- [Dutch](#)
- [French](#)
- [Greek](#)
- [Italian](#)
- [Portuguese \(Brazil\)](#)
- [Romanian](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Kazakh](#)

Our sincere thanks go to all translators for their commitment to making these resources accessible to a wider international audience. Additional translations are currently underway, so stay tuned for more language versions coming soon.

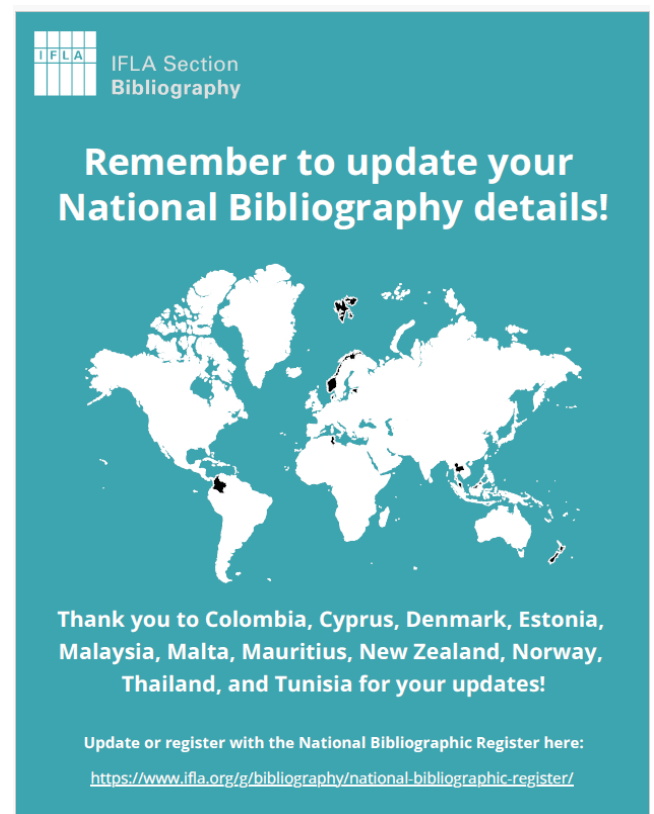
We encourage you to share this announcement within your networks. Each new translation helps broaden engagement, foster

collaboration, and strengthen our shared bibliographic landscape.



National Bibliographic Register (NBR)

By **Rebecca Higgins**, University of New England, Australia



Update or register with the National Bibliographic Register here:

<https://www.ifla.org/g/bibliography/national-bibliographic-register/>

CONFERENCE AND MEETING REPORTS

EXPLORING AI, BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL, AND LEGAL MATTERS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 WLIC SATELLITE MEETING

By **Rehab Ouf**, Bibliotheca Alexandrina; Chair, IFLA Bibliography Section

In August 2025, the Bibliography Section marked one of its main highlights with our joint Satellite Meeting in Astana, "[Artificial Intelligence, Bibliographic Control and Legal Matters: Navigating New Horizons](#)," organized in collaboration with the IFLA Information Technology Section and the Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group.

Our Section envisioned this Satellite not just as an event, but as a space to explore how AI is reshaping bibliographic work and cultural responsibility. Our goal was to move beyond AI hype to provide national bibliographic agencies with a clear understanding of how AI and generative AI are influencing collections, workflows, and core functions.

This vision led to a collaboration with the IT Section and the Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group, led by their respective Chairs, Cory Lampert and Andrew Cox, aligning with their expertise in AI and technology. Together, we built a theme that addressed both the foundations of AI and critical ethical and legal challenges. This partnership ensured our focus remained broad enough to serve the entire library ecosystem, while maintaining the precision required by national agencies.

We chose [Astana IT University](#) as our host because its specialized environment provided an

ideal framework for our discussions on AI. We developed a programme that balanced practical applications with local and global perspectives, focusing on real-world projects and experiments rather than just general trends. Designed across 1.5 days, the Satellite moved from foundational broader discussions toward a deeper engagement with bibliographic matters.

Day 1 sessions grounded the conversation in local innovation through Astana IT University's projects, followed by a global session on academic services and inclusive research. Central to this Day 1 groundwork were two workshops by our AI and IT collaborators, Andrew Cox on ethical AI and Edmund Balnaves on RAG and Local LLMs, which engaged local professional communities and created a perfect bridge to the core topics of Day 2.

Day 2 formed the heart of the Satellite theme, designed to bridge technical innovation with high-level institutional and legal strategy. The programme had core thematic tracks, exploring metadata's new frontiers and generative AI's cultural impact, alongside dedicated sessions on professional skills, institutional roadmaps, and a high-level panel on AI and copyright.

The technical core of the day was bookended by two metadata sessions: Cory Lampert moderated the closing session on "Experiments at the Edge of AI and Next-Generation Cataloguing," and I moderated the morning session on "Metadata's New Frontiers: AI-Driven Systems and Standards." In this session, speakers from Singapore, Chile, and Belgium illustrated how AI is reshaping bibliographic workflows in practice. Ng Hui Ling demonstrated the SGCAT prototype's ability to draft MARC records in seconds using "smart assistants"; Diaz and Vergara presented a "human-in-the-loop" process that uses mobile tools to capture data with high accuracy; and Hannes Lowagie

discussed an innovative transition of cataloguing rules into machine-readable JSON files to ensure AI prompts stay aligned with institutional standards. Taken together, these projects suggest a shift in professional focus: from manual data entry toward designing and governing the systems that sustain institutional and global data quality. In an AI-driven environment, our foundations for Universal Bibliographic Control - standardized data and interoperability - matter more than ever.

I also moderated a session on Generative AI's impact on collections and cultural responsibility, which shifted our focus from technical frameworks to the "newcomers" in our collections: content entirely generated or significantly altered by AI. Through a global lens, this session moved beyond "how-to" demonstrations to address a fundamental evolution in our role as collectors. Two critical strategic highlights emerged:

- **Rethinking Bibliographic Integrity:** Selena Chau (USA) illustrated how AI-summarized "repackaged" content is entering academic catalogues undetected, while Mohammed Al-Suqri and Nuha Al-Subhi (Oman) demonstrated the need for national bibliographic policies to evolve in order to be prepared for processing non-human authorship and AI-assisted content.
- **The Legal and Cultural Gap:** Extensive research from Latin America by Juan Miguel Palma Peña, alongside findings from Asmaa Bouaamri and Fredrick Otike in Africa, revealed a profound disconnect between current legislation and AI reality.

The session revealed that the rise of these "newcomers" suggests that the future of collection development and management will

be defined by how we navigate the tension between AI-driven production and our responsibility to maintain a verified record of human knowledge.

Drawing on her IT and AI expertise, Cory Lampert conducted a panel discussion on "AI & the Metadata Professional Landscape," exploring how our roles are shifting in real-time (check interesting highlights and findings from this panel and from her metadata session in [her article](#) in this issue). Building on this landscape, Andrew Cox (AI SIG Convenor) led a session on Institutional Responses to AI, providing a strategic focus through three distinct layers.

Andrew first set the stage by anchoring the discussion in the "IFLA Entry Point to Libraries and AI" (May 2025). He moved beyond technical hype to establish the ethical scaffolding of our work, introducing reflective questions that challenge us to ensure AI remains a tool for knowledge access, one that protects human agency and cultural sovereignty. Haliza Jailani shared how the NLB Singapore designed a roadmap to 'catalyze' staff by fostering a culture of AI literacy and agile experimentation through targeted proof-of-concept projects. Her presentation demonstrated that the strength of a National Bibliographic Agency lies in marrying technological precision with human authority. Renate Behrens presented the RSC RDA's AI Strategy in progress, outlining a direction that respects the value of cataloguers' work while ensuring that new paths toward AI preserve the integrity of professional traditions.

A high-level session on copyright and legal matters served as the overarching framework for the entire Satellite meeting. Featuring authoritative perspectives from Stephen Wyber (IFLA), Christopher Weston (U.S. Copyright Office), and the UK government and academic sectors (Jane Secker and Chris Morrison), the

panel established the critical "boundary conditions" for our AI-driven working and thinking. This expert overview addressed the essential pillars of AI regulation, authorship, and the evolving ethics of training data, underscoring that the future of our collecting and bibliographic work is inseparable from a shifting legal reality.



Satellite Meeting Participants, Astana IT University

The Satellite Meeting featured high-level participation from IFLA leaders, including Stephen Wyber, IFLA Director of External Affairs, and Athena Salaba, Chair of the IFLA Professional Council, delivering the closing remarks.

Beyond the sessions, we warmly acknowledge the personal touches our host brought to the event: the creative book installation at the library entrance forming the word 'IFLA' and the dinner ending with a karaoke night, a joyful memory for all. For me, this was an exceptionally rewarding collaboration. I am deeply grateful to Cory and Andrew for their expertise, contributions, and friendship, and to Maud Henry, then Bibliography Section Secretary and my companion in this initiative, for her invaluable work on sponsorship.

Ultimately, this meeting proved that our profession is not just reacting to a new technology; we are operating in a field we contributed to developing for years. While the surge in Generative AI brings new challenges,

these tools are built on the foundations of OCR, machine learning, and automated metadata generation that metadata professionals have extensively refined. We leave Astana as the designers who must ensure this technology remains rooted in truth and trust. This Satellite was not a conclusion, but a starting point to continue defining the role of bibliographic agencies and professionals in an AI-driven future.

INSIGHTFUL CONNECTIONS AND BOUNTIFUL HOSPITALITY: A REPORT ON THE JOINT SATELLITE MEETING IN ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN



By **Cory Lampert**, Head of Digital Collections and Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas University Libraries, USA

In August 2025, the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) held their annual World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in the city of Astana, Kazakhstan. This event was welcomed by the IFLA Information Technology (IT) Section as there had not been an opportunity to meet in person during the previous calendar year after the cancellation of the Dubai WLIC. While the Section engaged in many collaborative sessions during the main WLIC on topics relating to digital accessibility, digital cultural heritage, and open science, one of the most important and rewarding events was the [AI, Bibliographic Control and Legal Matters: Navigating New Horizons satellite meeting](#) conducted in cooperation with the Bibliography Section and the Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group. This highly collaborative project focused on the important topic of AI's influence on metadata creation, library collections, copyright, and legal deposit. The Bibliography

Section leadership (Rehab Ouf and Maud Henry) brought key expertise in the areas of legal deposit and national library policy and the Artificial Intelligence Special Interest Group Convenor, Andrew Cox, helped to frame the topic within the larger context worldwide.

As Chair of the IT Section, I was particularly interested in developing a program that had a practical focus on case studies, tools, and lessons learned that would help to empower librarians in their daily work. So it was with enthusiasm that we sought the chance to work with the Astana IT University as a local host. Working with Maral Nuralina as the Kazakhstan lead enabled our team to access the space and technology needed to make the event a reality and helped to support a regional focus on AI and library practice from the Central Asia lens. The university provided expert keynote speakers, library tours, networking events and local promotion and engagement with the IFLA attendees. Meeting peers working in similar contexts is one of the most meaningful experiences IFLA provides and I was personally very enriched by the relationships built during the work leading up to the event.

The satellite meeting was held August 14-15 and featured one and a half days of programming including workshops, keynotes, panel discussions, and presentations. Two areas of particular focus for the IT Section were focused on the development of AI skills and capacity for library professionals “AI and the Metadata Professional Landscape” and the session, “Pushing Boundaries to Next Generation Cataloguing: Experiments at the Edge of AI and Metadata”.

The first session was a panel discussion featuring a selection of geographically diverse metadata professionals discussing the skills needed in the current work environment. While there was an

interest in technical skills, there is still a strong need for traditional metadata competencies merged with a desire and enthusiasm to learn and embrace change. One of the most important insights I took from this session is the importance of communication and curiosity in the work, especially with a move from individual metadata projects to managing data at scale. These two characteristics seem to be most needed in cultivating the metadata professional of the future.

The second session closed out the conference and featured a selection of case studies on metadata workflows using AI. These took multiple approaches, including national library cataloguing experiments in the United States at the Library of Congress, automated classification workflows at the National University of Korea, Pusan, the use of large language models for accessibility in digital libraries, and the cataloguing of specialized collections using Open AI. This fantastic slate of speakers from across library sectors and across continents spoke directly to the topic of implementation of tools and AI workflows to not only increase efficiency, but to examine closely how and why humans should remain in the loop of library workflows. The main takeaway from this section that I will carry with me is that a spirit of innovation combined with strong grounding in library values will help us find a successful path forward regardless of the field of librarianship we operate in or the next technological change to disrupt our world.

I also benefited greatly from the high level view of copyright policy provided by Stephen Wyber (IFLA), Christopher Weston (USA), and Jane Secker and Chris Morrison (UK). The talks revealed the importance of the library voice in the public debate about copyright and the need for continued attention to this topic. Along with sessions led by Andrew Cox (IFLA AI SIG,

Convenor), the satellite was very strong in sessions that offered dialogue about policy, responsible use frameworks, ethical questions and emotional response to AI. As metadata and IT professionals question the role of AI in information services and workflows, the satellite provided a critical venue to weave ethics and risk into these topics.

Following the satellite, we enjoyed a lovely traditional meal with our hosts and had some time to debrief and express gratitude for the work completed. This event could not have taken place without the hard work of the team and the generous help of our local host and sponsors. There are always challenges in holding a large event such as WLIC in a new region, but I came away from Astana with new friends, fantastic memories of Kazakh culture, insights into my work, a deep appreciation for the work of the Bibliography Section, and excitement and inspiration for future partnerships.

Learn more about the satellite at the conference link: <https://www.ifla.org/artificial-intelligence-bibliographic-control-and-legal-matters-navigating-new-horizons/>

or contact Rehab Ouf (Rehab.Ouf@bibalex.org).

BIB'S OPEN SESSION AT WLIC 2025

By **Maud Henry**, Royal Library of Belgium; IFLA Bibliography Section

The [IFLA Bibliography Section](#) organized two engaging open sessions during WLIC 2025 in Astana, Kazakhstan, highlighting the role of national bibliographies, the evolving landscape of bibliographic control, metadata, and digital practices in libraries and GLAM institutions. Both sessions attracted strong attendance and fostered rich discussions among international participants.

From the Section's perspective, these sessions offered an opportunity not only to present current projects but also to reflect on how bibliographic practices can continue to promote access to knowledge, interoperability, and inclusion worldwide.

Reliable Data, Stronger Libraries: Universal Bibliographic Control for the Future

This open session was a joint session by the IFLA Bibliography, Subject Analysis and Access, and Cataloguing Sections. The session was co-chaired by Mathilde Koskas (National Library of France) and Maud Henry (Royal Library of Belgium) and moderated by Anna Slawek (University of Toronto).

The session opened with a presentation introducing the [2025 IFLA Professional Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control \(UBC\)](#). Steve Witt (University of Illinois, recorded presentation) then explored the historical evolution of UBC, situating it within broader movements advocating for universal access to knowledge. Satu Niininen (National Library of Finland) discussed the strategic reuse of publisher metadata to enhance the scope and currency of the Finnish national bibliography. Ashwin Kumar Kushwaha and Rakhi Kumari (University of Jammu) proposed a technology-driven framework for federated bibliographic control in India, linking the National Library's metadata initiatives with the RRRLF public library network. Nadya Mentari (National Library of Indonesia) presented a study on disability-related terminology in subject headings, highlighting the challenges of inclusive and interoperable metadata. Mohammed Nasser Al-Suqri and Nuha Al Subhi (Sultan Qaboos University, recorded presentation) addressed the integration of UBC principles in LIS curricula across Gulf Cooperation Council countries, focusing on the preparation of future

professionals for AI-enhanced metadata ecosystems.



Reliable Data, Stronger Libraries

The session was well attended despite being scheduled early in the morning. Participants praised the strong curation and recognized it as an excellent launch of the new UBC Statement, endorsed and published in July 2025. Presenters valued the opportunity to engage in informative discussions with colleagues and other participants. Beyond the diversity of presentations and case studies, one key takeaway was the shared recognition that UBC remains a living framework.

Art and Bibliography in Digital Dialogue

This afternoon session, a collaboration between the Bibliography and Art Libraries Sections, was chaired by Rehab Ouf (Bibliotheca Alexandrina) and Rana Abdulrahman (Qatar National Library). It explored how digital technologies are transforming the description, access, presentation, and discovery of art collections within libraries and GLAM institutions.

Richard Gartner (Warburg Institute, University of London) presented a case study on metadata strategies emphasizing interoperability and long-term digital preservation. Fatemeh Pazooki (National Library and Archives of I.R. Iran) and Mohsen Haji Zeinolabedini (Shahid Beheshti University) examined AI-assisted cataloguing and indexing of Islamic-Iranian artworks,

highlighting the complementarity between human and AI-generated metadata. Daniel Rankadi Mosako (University of South Africa) analysed collaborative frameworks for art libraries within the Society 5.0 context, addressing challenges such as system incompatibilities and diverse metadata standards. One scheduled presentation on Indonesia's pop music heritage was unfortunately not delivered.



Art and Bibliography in Digital Dialogue

Even though it coincided with other metadata events, the session was well attended and highly valued by participants, who recognized both the successful collaboration between the Bibliography and Art Libraries Sections and the programme's relevance to current challenges in metadata and digital practices.

Conclusion

Both open sessions demonstrated the ongoing relevance of bibliographic practices in supporting knowledge access, interoperability, and digital transformation. They reflected the Bibliography Section's core mission: promoting high-quality national bibliographies, advancing UBC, fostering international collaboration, and addressing the impact of emerging technologies on bibliographic services. Participants appreciated the high-quality presentations and opportunities for dialogue and collaboration.

The cooperation across Sections was central to the success of the programmes and enriched the discussions with diverse perspectives. I warmly thank all colleagues involved for their commitment and expertise, which made it possible to deliver two engaging sessions at WLIC 2025 in Astana.

JACKPOT OR JEOPARDY? EXPLORING AI AND SUBJECT INDEXING (WLIC, AUGUST 18, 2025)

By **Julijana Nadj-Guttandin**, German National Library; Chair, IFLA Subject Analysis and Access Section

Once more, Artificial Intelligence has been a major topic at WLIC. In many open sessions by many different sections and units, the topic was discussed, projects were presented and challenges acknowledged. It was impossible to participate in WLIC 2025 without hearing and learning something about AI.

This year, the Subject Analysis and Access Section decided to submit a conference contribution of a somewhat different kind. We chose to combine two IFLA priorities: Artificial Intelligence and new, modern, interactive conference formats. In advance, we had networked with another section, Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) and the New Professionals Special Interest Group to submit a joint session. We were delighted to have our proposal — a fishbowl titled “Jackpot or Jeopardy? Exploring AI and Subject Indexing” — accepted.

A fishbowl is a special discussion format whose key feature is an inner circle of 5–6 chairs in the centre, surrounded by several outer circles of chairs. All participants are welcome to enter the inner circle (the fishbowl), express their views on

the topic, and then return to one of the outer circles. It is a highly interactive format that encourages every individual to contribute. In advance, we had coordinated the logistical and technical requirements with the conference organizers. However, we did not anticipate that the organizers would assign us to one of the largest rooms — the Grand Ballroom of the Astana Hilton! At literally the last minute, we still had to resolve technical details, arrange microphones, and add extra rows of chairs. It was quite a challenge to moderate a well-attended fishbowl in such a vast ballroom, beneath magnificent crystal chandeliers and mirrored walls!



The Grand Ballroom of the Astana Hilton

It became clear that AI is a topic that deeply engages libraries worldwide, and many participants felt a strong desire to share their personal perspectives and exchange ideas. For us, it was exciting to hear diverse viewpoints on AI and cataloguing. A common thread in many contributions was the understanding that AI must always be seen in conjunction with human expertise, and that systems can only perform as well as the existing body of intellectual knowledge they are built upon. Several speakers also pointed out that the use of AI could further reinforce the dependency of the Global South on the Global North — a thought-provoking perspective on the topic. Are we creating more

bias with the material with which we “feed” AI tools? The discussion also revolved around the question of how librarians should be trained in AI and how library training needs to change in order to meet the requirements of the future. We ended our session with some questions on Mentimeter, to get some real-time feedback of our participants’ thoughts on AI. Overall, it was a very interactive and productive session. Our efforts were well worth it: on the WLICs News page, our session was featured as a [highlight of the first conference day](#).

EDUG ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 8-9, 2025

By **Tina Mengel**, EDUG Chair; DDC Translation and Services, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB)

This year's meeting of the European DDC Users Group (EDUG) took place on May 8 and 9 in Leiden, the Netherlands. It was hosted by OCLC, who invited the group to their NL headquarters. Both the symposium and the business meeting were broadcast via screen to external attendees, enabling them to follow the program and interact with the on-site audience.

The theme of this year's symposium was “(Web)Dewey growing from within.” It focused on the new developments and opportunities that today's digital possibilities open up for WebDewey, DDC translations, and the provision of DDC data. Tina Mengel, EDUG Chair since 2024, opened the symposium by looking back at the evolution of WebDewey over the past 15 years, with its various translated versions, the DDC language versions; in addition to the original English version, these include German, French, Italian, Norwegian, and Swedish; Arabic and Spanish versions are in progress.



EDUG Chair (Tina Mengel) and Vice-Chair (Manal Balbaa)

This was followed by presentations on the following topics:

AI and DDC translation (Manal Balbaa, BA; Tina Mengel, DNB): To what extent will AI be able to support DDC translation? There are, of course, a number of considerations here, as automated translation of the DDC with all its technical and linguistic peculiarities is anything but trivial. The translation teams, who work closely together internationally, need to find solutions that will make their work more efficient (DDC Translation is also not an area that is blessed with sufficient personnel), but without neglecting the DDC's interoperability requirements at the linguistic level.

WebDewey and its lingering dependencies on the print edition (Jo Maxwell, BDS; Alex Kyrios, OCLC): Two presentations addressing the consequences that the origins of the DDC as a printed publication still have for WebDewey — the tool that is the standard application for DDC classification today. Numerous possibilities were presented for further improving WebDewey in order to make “digital” classification with the DDC more effective and user-friendly.



EDUG people on the stairs at the OCLC office, Leiden (NL).
Photo: EDUG.

Dewey as Linked Data

In September 2024, OCLC launched the DDC as [linked data](#); a milestone achieved not least through the EDUG's persistent advocacy over the years. There were several presentations on this exciting topic, followed by a discussion round:

- Presentation of the new services and possible uses (Alex Kyrios, Jeff Mixer, OCLC)
- Insights and requirements from the European practice: Tracy Arndt (DNB) and Harriet Aagaard (KB) described the role and significance of linked data in Germany and Sweden. They emphasized that the new service needs to be further developed so that the DDC can reach its

full potential in machine-readable form, including for libraries that already provide their bibliographic data in linked (open) data formats.

In the discussion afterwards, OCLC clearly stated that the Dewey Linked Data services would be further expanded and that they would continue to rely on the close exchange with EDUG members, as they all share the common goal of offering innovative and customized search options for the millions of titles tagged with DDC numbers, especially now that these also have a URI.

Debate on a major revision in the 200's

The symposium concluded with a discussion about potential significant alterations to the DDC field of religion (DDC 200). For some time now, there have been considerations to abandon the traditional Christian-oriented arrangement in favour of a structure that represents all religions equally and thus better reflects the religious pluralism of our time.

A good intention, however, the implementation should be well thought out and based on international consensus, as any substantial change to the notation hierarchy would invalidate the DDC numbers of numerous titles, thereby disrupting any extensive collection of catalogued materials. Father Prodromos, Library of the Holy Monastery of Paraklitos, Greece, and Alex Kyrios (OCLC) presented on this challenging topic.

EDUG Business Meeting

EDUG is delighted to welcome the Colombian library service provider Referencistas as a new member! Carolina Delgado (Referencistas) introduced the company, which serves libraries in Latin America, and which has also been in

charge of the Spanish translation of the DDC since 2024. Carolina has also already joined the regular meetings of Dewey translators.

Next year's meeting will again be an online-only event – but with good reason: EDUG will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2027, and this event, which will of course be held in person, needs to be planned well in advance!

The presentations from EDUG 2025 are available on the [EDUG website](#).

STANDARDS NEWS

2025 UPDATES OF THE UNIMARC MANUAL

By **Florence Tfibel**, Chair of the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC)

A new updated version of the Manuals for IFLA's UNIMARC encoding and exchange format is now available in the IFLA Repository. This year's most notable update is the creation of a new type of authority record in UNIMARC/A for the IFLA LRM entity Timespan. This involves a new code in the Record Label, specific access points and relevant attributes and relationships. Other changes include the creation of a new relator code for Accessibility certifier (004), a new field in UNIMARC/B (471) to enable linking a described resource to the published research data on which it is based, and various improvements on the description of other IFLA LRM entities.

UNIMARC is a living standard, which constantly evolves along with other IFLA metadata standards, but also to answer the needs of UNIMARC users, who can contribute to its development according to their requirements by submitting proposals for changes and additions.

These proposals are examined each year by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee during its Annual meeting in May and, if accepted, are published at the end of the year.

Work is currently underway in the Permanent UNIMARC Committee to improve the current proposal submission process and to make it more user-friendly in 2026. Improvements will involve the creation of an initial contact form for users who want to submit a proposal, providing them with the option of discussing their needs with a member of the PUC, and offering assistance in formalizing the proposal that will be discussed in the annual meeting.

ISBD FOR LRM, PHASE 2: STRENGTHENING IFLA'S CONTENT STANDARD FOR AN ENTITY-BASED ONLINE ENVIRONMENT

By **Saeedeh Akbari Daryan**, Assistant Professor, National Library and Archives of Iran; Chair, ISBD Review Group

IFLA standards are used by libraries worldwide, and for decades, the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) has provided a stable content standard for bibliographic description. However, the broader metadata environment has changed. Description is no longer created primarily for a single local catalogue record. It must travel across systems and communities, remain meaningful when transformed, and support machine processing in linked-data settings. In this context, aligning ISBD with the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM) is not simply a theoretical exercise: it is a practical step to reduce implementation divergence, improve interoperability, and preserve semantic consistency as data is exchanged and reused.

**Phase 1 — ISBD for Manifestation (ISBDM):
What It Is and Where It Stands**

ISBD for Manifestation (ISBDM) is a partial implementation of the IFLA LRM, focusing specifically on the LRM Manifestation entity. It provides stipulations and guidance for describing a single manifestation and for relating it both to other manifestations and to other LRM entities. ISBDM is designed for stand-alone use in an entity-based cataloguing environment, and it may also be used alongside other partial or complete LRM implementations to support fuller descriptions of bibliographic resources. ISBDM metadata is intended to be interoperable with metadata produced by other implementations of LRM entities, and its stipulations explicitly support two major technical contexts for entity-based cataloguing: linked open data applications and relational database applications. In terms of descriptive coverage, ISBDM is broadly comparable to the consolidated ISBD — which has a primary focus on Manifestation and secondary coverage of Work, Expression, and Item — so most information previously recorded in a consolidated ISBD description can also be recorded in ISBDM, though in a different structure.

The ISBDM project began in 2019. The final draft was submitted to IFLA's Committee on Standards (CoS) for approval in February 2025. CoS formally approved it in August 2025, and the IFLA Professional Council endorsed ISBDM in September 2025.

In Dublin 2022, the ISBD Review Group approved the ISBDM Task Force proposal to publish ISBDM as an online tool rather than a static PDF. A first public online version was made available in March 2025 at <https://www.iflstandards.info/ISBDM/>

**Phase 2 at a Glance: Scope, Structure, and
Where We Are Now**

Phase 2 is now under way and extends ISBD for LRM beyond Manifestation by developing entity-based element sets for the other LRM entities. Work is organized by groups of entities that share modelling characteristics such as inheritance patterns, constraints, and relative utility for description. This supports coherent decision-making across closely related areas and helps avoid inconsistent solutions to the same underlying modelling problem. The groups include: Work + Expression (close conceptual dependency, representative expression attributes, and clearer entity boundaries); Item (links to Manifestation, custodial history, modification and preservation, and archival/collection-description needs); Agent + Collective Agent + Person (inheritance and consistent hierarchy design); Place + Time-span (auxiliary entities that enrich description and linking); and Nomen (modelling constraints and its role in authority control and identifier/name management).

Task forces were set up within the ISBD Review Group in August 2025, and the Phase 2 kick-off meeting was held on 13 October 2025. Stage 1 is complete, and Stage 2 is nearing completion. Stage 1 focused on a first consistency pass over the August 2025 draft spreadsheets — labels, definitions, and scope notes — without deletions and with limited, targeted wording adjustments. The goal was not to “freeze” the text, but to ensure internal consistency and reduce unnecessary interpretive variation. Stage 1 and Stage 2 apply to the Phase 2 entity drafts — i.e., all LRM entities covered in Phase 2 (everything except Manifestation, which was addressed above).

**How Changes Are Managed: A Lightweight but
Traceable Workflow**

To keep the work transparent and auditable, proposed amendments from task force members are recorded as comments rather than direct edits in working files. These proposals are reviewed and consolidated by the Cross-focus coordination group (a small group monitoring threads across entity areas). Approved changes are then applied to the authoritative master source, and updated working sets are re-extracted. Using Basecamp for this workflow preserves traceability — what changed, why it changed, and when it changed — while keeping collaboration efficient.

Continuity with Phase 1: Inheritance, Interoperability, and Single-Entity Usability

A key continuity point is that Phase 2 drafts build on Phase 1 implementation decisions established in ISBDM. These decisions include: inheritance from LRM, practical interoperability with RDA, and support for standalone single-entity description within a multi-entity model. This approach allows communities to adopt entity-based description incrementally, while maintaining consistent semantics across the whole framework.

A Practical Backbone: Stable Entity Codes for Reference and Linking

Each entity-based element set is identified by an agreed short code used for consistent reference, linking, and implementation support: ISBDW (Work), ISBDE (Expression), ISBDI (Item), ISBDN (Nomen), ISBDA (Agent), ISBDC (Collective Agent), ISBDP (Person), ISBDL (Place), ISBDT (Time-span).

These codes are not merely labels; they help keep references unambiguous across documentation, implementations, and cross-entity linking.

Stage 2 Focus: Refinement, Coverage, and Notes—Only Where Needed

Stage 2 centres on three complementary areas:

- Reviewing flagged elements—especially where draft wording diverges from LRM or RDA and needs a justified editorial decision;
- Proposing additional attribute elements based on coverage and appropriate granularity, including where controlled value vocabularies may be required;
- Consolidating the approach to note elements and proposing refinements only where there is a clear, evidence-based need.

Scientific Perspective: Why Granularity and Wording Are Methodological Questions

From a modelling perspective, one of the hardest tasks in Phase 2 is selecting the right granularity for attributes and relationships. Too coarse, and meaningful distinctions between instances become hard to express and retrieve. Too fine, and data becomes complex, costly to create and maintain, and less consistent across communities. This is why decisions on granularity and controlled value vocabularies are treated as methodological questions, tested against realistic scenarios of description, exchange, validation, and user-facing discovery — not as purely editorial preferences.

In linked-data environments, wording precision becomes even more critical. A definition that is “good enough” for human reading may lead to divergent machine interpretations once expressed as statements and processed by applications. For this reason, the consistency pass on labels, definitions, and scope notes is also a scientific quality-control step: it narrows the space for conflicting interpretations and supports predictable implementation behaviour, translations, and third-party support materials.

Controlled vocabularies are similarly double-edged. They can strengthen interoperability and validation where stable categories are essential, but they can also reduce flexibility and raise implementation barriers if used too broadly. The Phase 2 approach is therefore selective: determine where control genuinely improves exchange and retrieval, and test that decision against implementation scenarios.

A Key Example: Why Nomen Is Modelled as an Entity

Nomen illustrates why Phase 2 decisions go beyond wording. In LRM, Nomen is modelled as an entity so it can carry its own attributes and participate in relationships. If it were treated only as an attribute value, it could not have independent properties or relationships that are useful for authority control, identifier management, and works that describe the labels of things. This distinction has direct implementation consequences: it shapes what can be expressed, linked, validated, and reused — hence the focused attention on constraints, granularity, and scenario testing in Nomen-related elements.

Roadmap: What Comes Next

Looking ahead, the plan for 2026 is to develop constraints, rules, and full examples; provide a progress update at WLIC 2026; hold a Phase 2 webinar; and then move into worldwide review. In 2027, the expectation is to incorporate amendments from worldwide review and aim for final submission for approval around August 2027.

Closing

Overall, ISBD for LRM Phase 2 is advancing toward a robust, implementation-ready IFLA content standard that aligns with LRM while remaining practically compatible with RDA. The combination of controlled change governance,

entity-based structure, and scenario-informed modelling is intended to minimize ambiguity, reduce implementation error, and support sustainable interoperability for libraries worldwide.

NEWS FROM METATEC, THE METADATA TECHNICAL STANDARDS REVIEW GROUP

By **Pat Riva**, Chair of METATEC

This is my first update as the incoming chair of METATEC, the Metadata Technical Standards Review Group. I'm delighted to join this dynamic group that has ambitious projects in progress. I'm very grateful to the previous chair, Joseph Hafner, who led LIDATEC (the Linked Data Technical Subcommittee) through the launch of the Namespaces on the [IFLStandards.info](https://iflastandards.info) site in July 2020, and then the expansion of its mandate and renaming to METATEC in May 2024. Joseph has agreed to remain with us as expert advisor, which will surely help in the transition and in maintaining momentum.

METATEC currently has seven members. In August, two other new members, Dalia Guerriero, National Library of Portugal, and James Hodonu-Wusu, Lagos State University of Education, Nigeria, joined continuing members Robin Dresel, Scott Goldstein, Nancy Lorimer, and Jeff Mixter. Our expert advisors are Joseph Hafner and Daniel Paradis. Liaisons for each of the major standards represented in the IFLA namespaces work closely with METATEC on their respective projects and attend meetings: Mikael Wetterstrom for ISBD, Sofia Zapounidou for IFLA LRM and LRMoo, Florence Tfibel for UNIMARC, and Anna Oates Schlaak from the Cataloguing Section for MulDiCat and Names of Persons. METATEC could not function without the support of our technical partners from

Metadata Management Associates (MMA), Diane Hillmann and Jon Phipps.

Formally, METATEC is a Review Group and reports to the Advisory Committee on Standards. But METATEC is a little different from the other Review Groups in that it is not responsible for developing and maintaining specific standards; rather METATEC has the responsibility to coordinate and support the publishing of IFLA metadata standards on the web, including the linked data aspects.

The vision for IFLA's new metadata standards development platform is to support integrated publication of the text of a standard and its linked data aspects in a single web tool. Instead of first publishing the text of a standard as a PDF file, then later manually adapting and transferring some of the data into the namespaces, in the new infrastructure these are created together, in a single process. The consultation of cataloguing tools on the web platform will include full search capability and easy navigation. Views and access methods needed for technical access will draw from the same data, avoiding any lack of version synchronization. Each standard will have complete versioning with separate access profiles for maintainers. Support for translations is part of the design.

The ISBD Review Group's development of the ISBD for Manifestation, the first phase of an entity-based ISBD, was the impetus for embarking on the new platform. The ISBD Review Group considered that ISBDM could only be fully adopted as a web tool, it is not designed to be a linear text published in PDF. The functional needs were refined in dialogue with METATEC and platform development began in parallel with the final review and completion of ISBDM in the first half of 2025. This has also been an opportunity to modernize IFLA's metadata

standards architecture, prioritizing long-term sustainability.

Now that ISBDM was approved in September 2025 the publication process has moved ahead. This first required the transfer of the final approved text from the pilot site that was used for the world-wide review. The ISBD Review Group quickly proceeded with a detailed proofreading, identifying all issues in the automated transfer. Ongoing is making these corrections and completing the infrastructure of the platform. The aim is to launch the platform with ISBDM fully available in the first half of 2026. Other metadata standards will then transition to the platform, each on their own schedule.

NEWS FROM THE RDA STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC)

By **Anne Welsh**, RSC Secretary

Dr Robert L. Maxwell Appointed as RSC Chair Elect

Following the usual selection process and endorsement by the RDA Board, in August we were happy to share that Dr Robert L. Maxwell will be the RSC Chair Elect.

Currently completing his term as RSC Representative for North America, Robert will assume his new position on 1 January 2026. As Chair Elect he will spend 2026 learning the role from current Chair Renate Behrens, who will support him through 2027 as Past Chair. Robert's term as Chair will end in 2030 and then he, in turn, will serve 2031 as Past Chair.

The search committee (consisting of the Director of ALA Digital Reference James Hennelly, RSC Chair Renate Behrens and RSC Secretary Anne

Welsh) is particularly pleased that when [the Countdown Clock to transition to Official RDA starts in May 2026](#) we will have two distinguished and experienced cataloguing educators as Chair and Chair Elect. We expect a smooth transition from Renate Behrens to Robert Maxwell in January 2027.

As the first RSC Chair appointed from a Region that was not part of the historic Anglo-American cataloguing community, Renate Behrens was appointed with a mandate to increase awareness of RDA internationally and to advance the RDA Board's and RSC's strategic aim of internationalisation.

She has done so using skills developed during her long experience in IFLA committees and as a former staff member of the DNB. She has been steadily working through each of the [liaison arrangements the RSC has with other bodies](#), updating existing protocols and forging new ones, and, most importantly, ensuring that they represent real and active working relationships. She has also led the RSC to create disciplinary-based Advisory Working Groups - [the Religions in RDA Working Group](#) is an Advisory Working Group now, [the Archives Working Group](#) has started its programme of activities and the Music Working Group is currently establishing itself.

Renate said, "During his year as Chair Elect, Robert will be by my side as we continue to update our protocols and ensure that the present Working Groups have everything they need from the RSC. We are extremely fortunate to have recruited someone who has such a strong background in thinking, writing about and presenting Cataloguing Theory. This will be a great asset to the RDA community worldwide as it transitions to Official RDA. What a great opportunity for RDA cataloguers outside North America to hear about RDA from the author of

Maxwell's handbooks and other publications. I am delighted that Robert is keen to continue the international focus of our work and look forward to working more closely with him until the end of 2027 when I end my role as Past Chair."

Ready for Feedback: Proposals from the Extent Working Group

We do hope that as many members of the cataloguing community will provide feedback on the suite of proposals circulated by the Extent Working Group for discussion in the Public Session of the January 2026 Meeting on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 19:00 - 21:00 UTC. (There is a handy time converter [here](#) and the full list of Save the Dates for 2026 is [here](#)).

The proposals have been designed as a suite, so you are advised to set aside time to read them all through first before delving into the details of each one.

The Working Group took a full year to revise all the feedback received for its Discussion Paper ([RSC/ExtentWG/2024/1](#)), and Thomas thanked everyone who commented on that. He suggested that you may wish to refresh your memory of the Discussion Paper and its discussion ([RSC/Minutes/483-499](#) Item 488) before reading the proposals.

If they have not already done so, your Regional Representatives will share them and the dates by which they need to receive your comments in order to compile them into official responses for the January Meeting. As a reminder, here are their contact details:

- If you are based in Europe, your Regional Representative is [Dr Ahava Cohen](#). If you are part of EURIG, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not a EURIG

member yet, please contact Ahava at Ahava.Cohen@rdatoolkit.org

- If you are based in Latin America or the Caribbean, your Regional Representative is [Dr Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano](#). If you are part of ALyC, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not an ALyC member yet, please contact Felipe directly: felipe@rdatoolkit.org
- If you are based in North America, your Regional Representative is currently [Dr Robert L. Maxwell](#). If you are part of NARDAC, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not a NARDAC member yet, please contact Robert directly in the first instance: rmaxwell@rdatoolkit.org. Please note: Robert's term ends on 31 December 2025, and he will pass feedback on to his successor, whom NARDAC is in the process of selecting at the moment.
- If you are based in Oceania, your Regional Representative is [Jack Ennis Butler](#). If you are part of ORDAC, please give feedback in the usual way. If you are not an ORDAC member yet, please contact Jack at: jack@rdatoolkit.org
- If you are not based in any of these Regions (i.e. you are based in Asia or Africa), please contact the Wider Community Engagement Officer (WCEO) Elect, [Dr Getaneh Alemu](#). He will be WCEO from 1 January 2026 and so will be happy to hear responses from members of the RDA community from these regions: getaneh@rdatoolkit.org

Here are the Extent Working Group's proposals:

- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/1](#) - [Proposal for Manifestation: extent of manifestation and Manifestation: manifestation extent statement](#)

- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/2](#) - [Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unitary structure](#)
- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/3](#) - [Proposal for Manifestation: extent of unit and its subtype elements](#)
- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/4](#) - [Proposal for Manifestation: extent of aggregated content](#)
- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/5](#) - [Proposal for Manifestation: extent of embodied content and its subtype elements](#)
- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/6](#) - [Proposal for Manifestation: duration of embodied content](#)
- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/7](#) - [Proposal for container and storage subelements of Manifestation: extent of manifestation](#)
- [RSC/ExtentWG/2025/8](#) - [Proposal for Manifestation: sequence of units of extent](#)

Out for Review: Discussion Paper on Soft-Deprecated Terms

In the November 2025 Public Session, Technical Team Liaison Officer Chris Holden introduced the Technical Working Group's Discussion Paper on Soft-deprecated Parallel Elements which is now out for Community Review.

As well as paying tribute to members of the Working Group - Gordon Dunsire, Deborah Fritz, Damian Iseminger, Szabina Ilácsa, Ricardo Santos Muñoz, Stefan Schuh - Chris thanked members of the wider RDA community who have been so willing to engage in discussions about soft-deprecated terms already. He hopes that the Discussion Paper presents options for parallel elements that will assist in moving towards next steps, and is really looking forward to discussing [RSC/TechnicalWG/2025/1](#) in our January RSC Meeting. Its Public Session is scheduled for Wednesday 21 January 2026 at

19:00 - 21:00 UTC. (There is a handy time converter [here](#) and the full list of Save the Dates for 2026 is [here](#)).

Creation and Acceptance of the RDA Latin America and the Caribbean Group (RDA-ALyC)

At our July Meeting, the RSC was pleased to welcome for the first time the [RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Filiberto Felipe Arellano](#).

In his update during the Public Session, Felipe shared that although there had been a lot of activity on RDA throughout the Region, the Grupo RDA America Latina y el Caribe (RDA-ALyC) had only recently been formed within the RDA governance structure. The Chair of RDA-ALyC, Ángela Quiroz Ubierna, has posted [an official announcement providing more information](#).

In particular, members of the cataloguing community in the Region should note Ángela's final paragraph: "We invite the entire RDA community in Latin America and the Caribbean — researchers, information professionals, and decision-makers — to join this regional group. Your participation is key to building a strong, diverse, and inclusive regional community that actively contributes to addressing the global challenges surrounding the implementation of RDA in our institutions."

Implementation of Official RDA in Greece and Australia

The RSC is extremely grateful to Dr Michalis Gerolimos (National Library of Greece) and Aimee Hay (National State Libraries Australasia) for delivering presentations on their implementation of Official RDA. They are available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel: [Official RDA at the National Library of Greece](#) and [NSLA Official RDA Project - YouTube](#).

You can find links to these and other presentations on our [Implementing Official RDA webpage](#) and brief articles will be included in the special issue of Open Access journal Catalogue & Index in May 2026 to coincide with [the start of the Countdown Clock to the withdrawal of Original RDA as a full-functional online resource](#).

Have You Seen the Latest Links on the Learning Resources Page?

RSC Education and Training Officer Elisa Sze maintains a curated list of materials on our [Learning Resources page](#), which many members of the RDA cataloguing community have told us they find useful.

As well as drawing attention to the National Library of New Zealand's latest [training release](#), Elisa would like to publicly thank Ben Gu for translating her [RDA Teaching & Training Tips](#) into Chinese (simplified script): [RDA教学大纲](#) (Translations into traditional script - [RDA 教學與訓練技巧](#) - and Spanish - [RDA Consejos de Enseñanza y Capacitación](#) (Traducción al Español: Ángela Quiroz Ubierna) are also available).

Elisa is always happy to hear from educators and trainers (and, indeed, from anyone who would like to volunteer to translate RDA Teaching & Training Tips into their own language): elisa@rdatoolkit.org

RSC Annual Report for 2025

RSC/Annual Report/2025 is under preparation and will be presented to the RSC for approval at the January Meeting. In the meantime, due to popular demand we have published the individual reports of RSC members at [RSC/Observers/538-555](#).

Appointments

The Copyright Holder for the American Library Association, Colleen Barbus, completes her term as Chair of the RDA Board on 31 December 2025. Colleen has been a convivial and productive *ex officio* member of the RSC, including working with Director of ALA Digital Reference James Hennelly and RSC Secretary Anne Welsh to set up a space on ALAIR and in the ALA's physical archives for materials produced by the RSC. We will be sorry to see her go, although we are glad that she will be staying on the Board as one of the three Copyright Holders.

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to working closely with Christine Oliver from 1 January 2026 when the Board Chair position rotates to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations.

As well as appointing Dr Robert L. Maxwell as Chair Elect (see first news item above for full details), the RSC was very happy to find an excellent Wider Community Engagement Officer Elect following a successful and wide-ranging search. Dr Getaneh Alemu has already begun his handover from outgoing Wider Community Engagement Officer Charlene Chou, who ends her term on 31 December 2025.

A well-known librarian and academic in the UK, where he is a metadata librarian at Southampton Solent University, Getaneh has been active in his native Ethiopia, where he was a lecturer and Head University Librarian at Mekelle University, as well as Europe, having lived and studied in Ghent (MA, Knowledge and Information Management) and Oslo (MA, Digital Library Learning). He continues to collaborate with colleagues worldwide and has delivered presentations in countries including the USA, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Italy, Canada, Belgium, Estonia, France, the Netherlands, Greece, Cyprus, Finland, Mexico, Tanzania and, of course, Ethiopia.

Getaneh served on IFLA's Linked Data Technical Review Group (LIDATEC, now METATEC) and is on the editorial boards of Journal of Librarianship and Information Science, International Journal of Metadata, Semantics and Ontologies, and Digital Library Perspectives.

Following his appointment, RSC Chair Renate Behrens was very happy to be able to meet him in person in Astana, when they were both in Kazakhstan for IFLA's World Library and Information Congress (WLIC). She said, "Africa does not yet have direct representation at RSC level, and so Getaneh's career-long professional relationships in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries present a real opportunity, and this, along with his truly international training, experience and attitude makes him the ideal person to follow Charlene Chou as WCEO."

Getaneh says, "I am looking forward to working with Charlene and learning how she has carried out the role. As I am due to visit Addis Ababa in January on my latest research collaboration, I am particularly keen to see how Charlene works in similar circumstances to raise awareness of RDA's potential as a metadata standard."

You can [find out more about Getaneh on his About Page](#).

On behalf of the whole RSC, our Chair Renate Behrens extended a warm welcome to the July Meeting to Dr Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano as the RSC Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Although this Region has been represented on the RDA Board for some time, this is the first time that we have had representation on the RSC. It follows the formal establishment of the [Latin America and the Caribbean RDA Group \(RDA ALyC\)](#), with Ángela Quiroz (Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile and RDA Board

Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean) as Chair, Ana-María Quiroz (Biblioteca Nacional de Chile) as Secretary and Felipe Martinez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) as RSC Representative.

Felipe has previously served as RDA Board Representative for the Region and has been involved in Latin America's cataloguing education and practice since the 1970s, including organising the Cataloguing and Metadata Meeting, hosting the RDA Colloquium in Latin America six times and being involved in the creation not only of RDA ALyC, but also the RDA Mexico Group and ABINIA (the Association of National Libraries from Latin-America). He is a well-known member of IFLA, including having been active in its Cataloguing Section over a number of years. He also coordinates the Spanish translation of RDA.

Renate Behrens and the rest of the RSC look forward to benefiting from his experience as a distinguished academic, cataloguing theorist and practitioner. [You can find out more about Felipe on his About page.](#)

We are very sad to report that for health reasons Charlotte Christensen has had to step down from her role as RSC Representative to Oceania. Charlotte has been a very active member of the RSC, seeing Oceania's first proposal, RSC/Oceania/2024/1 on Dual-language Naming of Corporate Body and Place from inception through constituency consultation, RSC discussion, and, ultimately, implementation of [RSC/Oceania/2024/1/rev/Decisions](#) in the latest Toolkit release on 9 October 2025. RSC Chair Renate Behrens said, "Charlotte has made a great contribution to the RSC. We were delighted when she was reappointed by ORDAC for a second term and I was looking forward to working with her through to the end of my own term as Chair."

Renate also expressed her thanks to ORDAC for moving swiftly to inform us that former Backup Representative Jack Ennis Butler would be stepping in immediately as RSC Representative to Oceania in time for our November Meeting. Ahead of this, Jack worked with Charlotte and the rest of ORDAC to compile their annual report, which is available at [RSC/Observers/538-555](#) Item 549.15. Jack has a background in both archives and libraries, and is currently Metadata and Discovery Librarian at CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) in Australia. You can find out more about him on [his RSC webpage](#). He is particularly thankful to Bridget Jennings who will support him going forward as Backup RSC Representative to Oceania.

Bridget is a Senior Cataloguing Specialist at Wellington City Libraries in Aotearoa New Zealand. She has worked in the public library space for nearly twenty years, fourteen of those as a cataloguer. She is a member of LIANZA Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa and joined ORDAC in November 2022 as LIANZA Cataloguing Special Interest Group representative, and one of her current areas of interest is Indigenous knowledge organisation. She is a familiar face to members of the RDA cataloguing community, since, like Jack, she has been a longstanding attendee of the RSC Public Sessions – even although many of them take place at anti-social hours in their time zones. You can [find out more about Bridget in this recent news item.](#)

Get Involved

Most RSC Working Groups are open for new members. You can find out more about them via their website pages, linked from <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/workinggroups>. In the first instance, contact the Working Group Chair of the relevant group.

RSC Meetings July and November 2025

The RSC met online on 14-17 July and 17-20 November 2025. [RSC/Minutes/521-537](#) are available and [RSC/Minutes/538-555](#) are currently with RSC members for approval ahead of publication.

RDA Toolkit

There was an RDA Toolkit released in [October 2025](#). It included changes to the wording of authorized and preferred access points across all entities. There are corrections and fixes based on feedback submitted to RDA Toolkit and changes to the Guidance chapter on Aggregates. Policy statements have been added by the British Library, Library and Archives Canada, and the New Zealand National Library. This release also introduces the policy statements from the Rare Books and Materials Section (RBMS). [Read the full release notes](#).

Uptake of the new companion subscription is going well. Aimed at those who would like to create online manuals, its pricing is dependent on a number of factors, including population and economic environment of the user community (please see the announcement [here](#)).

Looking for More on RDA?

[The RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#) includes recordings of presentations at RSC, NARDAC and ORDAC Events. Please watch the [RSC News page](#) for our latest news and announcements.

SUBJECT METADATA IN LIBRARY DISCOVERY SYSTEMS: A SURVEY REPORT

By **Aida Slavic, Koraljka Golub, David Haynes, Claudio Gnoli, Athena Salaba**, International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO)

Subject Metadata Guidelines Project

Information professionals have long been aware that information discovery systems, including library online catalogues, provide very limited support to subject searching.

These weaknesses have been widely reported by the professional metadata community, in particular cataloguers and subject metadata specialists. Most discovery systems offer a simplified interface coupled with automatically modified searches with no support for structured subject searching, semantic expansion or search refinement. This happens in spite of the rich and carefully curated subject metadata underlying these systems. Given the available technology, such poor subject metadata exploitation is difficult to justify. With advanced semantic technologies, specifically linked data, it is no longer difficult nor expensive to support very sophisticated multilevel searching and semantic expansion. The prerequisite for this kind of solution is clear understanding and necessary knowledge of the required subject searching functionalities.

In 2022, the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) initiated a project to investigate the level of use of subject metadata in library discovery systems in order to formulate Subject Metadata Guidelines that would enable better use of subject vocabularies in discovery systems. The Guidelines are to provide instructions to support procurement and implementation that would make full use of the existing subject metadata comprising knowledge organization systems (KOS) such as subject heading systems, classification, and other controlled vocabularies. For this purpose, [ISKO's Scientific and Technological Advisory Council \(ISKO STAC\)](#) has set up a [Working Group on Subject Metadata Access](#). The first steps towards the Guidelines are investigations of challenges and opportunities, user needs and identification of gaps and opportunities in discovery systems. Information is planned to be

collected from all stakeholders through surveys, structured interviews, workshops and discussion panels. The project kick-started with extensive background research through literature review, covering decades of reports and articles on subject searching problems in library OPACs. This helped identify a rationale for quality subject access and desirable interface functionalities. The published report confirmed the importance of providing quality subject access in digital services, the need for further research on interface design, guideline adoption, KOS evolution, and the impact of language models on subject metadata use (Golub et al., 2024).

Subject Metadata Survey

In spring 2025, a world-wide survey was conducted online to collect up-to-date information about the utilization and searching of subject data in library catalogues. The principal idea behind the survey was the concern that many discovery systems in libraries do not provide easy and seamless access to subject vocabularies. This was the finding from past literature reviews which needed to be confirmed and investigated further. The questionnaire focused on interfaces and access points, metadata availability, use of KOS, and user support provided. Most importantly, the survey aimed at identifying the subject searching features offered to users and the barriers to subject metadata use within the currently used discovery systems. The survey itself is planned to have an additional step to complement and clarify the initially collected information through qualitative data collection from participants, volunteers, subject librarians, and experts in subject metadata.

| Country | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| United Kingdom | 27 |
| Spain | 12 |
| China | 7 |
| United States | 6 |
| Argentina | 5 |
| Czech Republic | 5 |
| Italy | 4 |
| Lithuania | 4 |
| Brazil | 3 |
| Canada | 3 |
| Germany | 3 |
| India | 3 |
| Sweden | 3 |
| Switzerland | 3 |
| Australia | 2 |
| Chile | 2 |
| Croatia | 2 |
| Ireland | 2 |
| Mexico | 2 |
| Portugal | 2 |

Figure 1: Responses per country

Results - Initial Data Analysis

By June 2025, responses were received from 116 academic and research libraries from 34 countries. As shown in Figure 1, the main responses are from Europe, North America and Asia. No responses were received from Africa. An important finding is that 56.5% of surveyed libraries provide subject metadata to all collections, and the remaining 43.5% indicated partial omission in parts of the collection. Collections that often miss subject metadata are e-resources, AV and special collections.

Underlying retrieval systems show a strong prevalence of major library system vendors. A variety of library management systems

incorporating discovery systems included suppliers such as Ex-Libris, Sirsi-Dynix, Aleph, EBSCO, Koha, and OCLC (Figure 2).

| Software | Frequency |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Primo | 29 |
| Alma | 13 |
| Other | 12 |
| EBSCO Discovery System | 10 |
| Aleph | 9 |
| Koha | 8 |
| OCLC WorldCat Discovery | 4 |
| OCLC WMS | 3 |
| Dot Beyond | 2 |
| Summon | 2 |
| Symphony by SirsiDynix | 2 |
| VuFind | 2 |

Figure 2: Data on major suppliers

With respect to knowledge organization systems (KOSs) used, the responses show the repeated presence of general classifications used internationally, in particular Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) and Library Classification (LCC) (Figure 3).

| Classification system | Frequency |
|---|-----------|
| DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) | 39 |
| UDC (Universal Decimal Classification) | 27 |
| LCC (Library of Congress Classification) | 14 |
| NLM (National Library of Medicine Classification) | 3 |
| Chinese Library Classification System | 3 |
| RVK (Regensburger Union Classification) | 3 |

Figure 3: Most used general classification systems

For alphabetical subject indexing languages (subject heading systems, thesauri) the actual language of the system determines the scope of its international implementation and use. Here, the frequency of use has to be viewed in relation to the country's language. For instance, out of 116 responses, 43 were received from English speaking countries and 21 from Spanish speaking countries. Hence subject heading systems in the English language dominate in the overall statistics, and controlled vocabularies used nationally and in smaller countries do not appear at the top of the list. With this context in mind, in Figure 4, we can observe a higher frequency in the use of Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) among general knowledge systems, and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) within subject-specialized vocabularies.

Logically, in identifying barriers and formulating guidelines, all classifications irrespective of whether general or special, national or international are likely to have the same requirements. Clearly, implementations of classifications in searching have different requirements compared to those relevant for alphabetical indexing languages and these distinctions will be explained in the future Guidelines in sufficient detail.

| Subject indexing languages: international | Frequency |
|---|-----------|
| LCSH | 48 |
| MESH, including national translations | 20 |
| FAST | 9 |
| Homosaurus | 6 |
| LCGFT by LoC for genre and form, no subject | 6 |
| AAT (Arts & Architecture Thesaurus) | 3 |
| LCMPT (Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music) | 2 |

Figure 4. Subject indexing languages frequency

At the time of this report, we continue data analysis with respect to relationships between different types of KOS, library/discovery systems in which these are used, as well as the relationship between these and reported problems. This will provide a framework for the planned structured interviews with subject librarians and subject metadata experts. Information collected in this way will complete the survey data. At that point we will be able to identify whether reported problems are related to information system & interface, quality of metadata, type of KOS or implementation issues. The last important step before the work on the Subject Metadata Guidelines will be consultations with software vendors and developers and, if deemed necessary, panel discussions.

References:

Golub, K. et al. 2024. Library catalogues's search interface: making the most of subject metadata. Knowledge Organization, 51, no. 3: 169-186. <https://www.imrpress.com/journal/KO/51/3/10.5771/0943-7444-2024-3-169>

[Published article lists authors in the wrong order, [correction published in issue 51 n. 4, p. 286](#)]

NEW BOOKS

Gregory K. Tharp: *Navigating the Web: Curated Website Reviews for LIS Professionals and the Public*

Gregory K. Tharp (Independent Researcher, USA) wrote a compelling book on mental health website reviews for Library and Information Science Professionals and the general public, [Navigating the Web: Curated Website Reviews for LIS Professionals and the Public](#), published by Eliva Press and available on Amazon, and co-authored an article with Professor Yan Quan Liu and Dr. Arlene Bielefield and others on the provision of library services in Chinese Academic Libraries, titled *The Provision of Patron Services in Chinese Academic Libraries Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic* in Library Hi Tech.

V. A. Seshagiri Rao: *Formula Classification*

Formula classification is based on *Step-by-Step Classification: A Formula-Based Classification (SSC)*, authored by the same author and published by ESS Publications, New Delhi. But there are several differences between the two. The Formula classification (FC) primarily aims to produce fine, clear, and functional classification numbers for a document. Some experts in the field of Library and Information Science stated that it will be more helpful in Knowledge

Organisation (KO) and Metadata. The following are essential features of Formula classification.

Formula classification is a unique classification scheme that can be used to derive the classification number of a document containing a formula. The formula is $CN = I d a t e$, in which CN is the classification number of the document, and I, d, a, t, e are the elements of the formula which represent Indicator, discipline, area, time, and extra, respectively. Elements of the formula, followed by their notations relating to the respective divisions of the document, are called element class notations of the document. They are I c n, d c n, a c n, t c n, and e c n. The element class notations, arranged in an order that is usually vertical, are the classification number of the document.

It is important to note that, in FC, every class notation begins with its element. If we have to say in another way, the classification number of a document contains both elements and their related division notations. I c n is Indicator class notation, which is considered Document class notation because it provides necessary information about the physical form and inner form of the document. Its notations are verbal, i.e., words or their abbreviations to be chosen by the classifier, applicable to the library's users. Therefore, these notations are called Classifiers' choice notations (CCN), either verbal or numerical. Hence, its notation is not listed in the FC schedule. I-notation can serve only as a guide for users, indicating the document's particulars. It should not be used to arrange documents on racks

The other class notations (d c n), (a c n), (t c n), and (e c n) are subject class notations because they provide notations to the divisions of the subject content of the classifying document, as well as the notations relating to the particulars of the document listed in (e c n) viz clay tablets,

metal electrical and electronics, etc. Hence, FC may be considered as Dual classification. All the subject class notations are numerical, i.e., numbers. They are listed in a systematic order for all the above class notations separately in the FC schedule under the heading Main class notations. The classifier must assign those notations appropriately when classifying the document, as per the instructions given in the schedule. The classifier has no choice but to maintain the main class notations unchanged.

The scheme will help derive a clear and functional 'Classification Number'. For that purpose, it is recommended that the classification numbers for all documents need not include all element class notations in the formula. It depends on the library, the users, and the types of documents, such as novels.

i) Some subjects like History, Geology, Geography, etc., are to be allotted a c n, t c n, along with d c n and MOD number to get a clear classification number for arrangement.

ii) (e c n) which provides extra information about the Physical form and Inner form of the document, Action words like decision-making, criticism, Associations, meetings, etc., can be avoided in some documents, when those notations are not essential to users.

iii) Meaningful Order of Divisions (MOD) are (0), (1), (2), (9). The same MOD numbers are used to prepare MOD numbers for the main class notations of (d c n), (a c n), (t c n), separately for different purposes.

iv) In most cases, (e c n) is used as a secondary class notation in the classification number to provide extra information to other subject class notations (d c n), (a-c n), and (t c n).

v) In the Main area class notations (a c n), a 01, a 02, a 03 are allotted to denote the areas relating to the Universe, Solar system and Imaginary/folklore/folktales found in literature, respectively.

vi)) Similarly, in the Main Time class notations (t c n) t 01, t 02, t 03 are allotted to denote the period of time relating to the Universe, Solar system and Imaginary / folklore / folktales found in literature, respectively.

vii) The following lists of Derived class notations and their names are provided at a place in vol1 of FC for the sake of easy reference:

- a) Names of main subjects / Disciplines covered in FC
- b) Names of countries by continent
- c) Names of seas / Bays/bights / Gulfs by the region of oceans
- d) Names of worldwide Languages in one list that can be allotted easily [It is made simple]
- e) Names of religions.

viii) It may be considered that 'Language is not a barrier for classification as one of the principles in the FC scheme. To clarify, for example, Ayurvedic medicine is treated as a specific subject, with most books and terminology in Sanskrit, and is classified under NDA numbers as a model. Thus, any language documents, like French, German, or Spanish, can easily be classified.

ix) In the Annexure part of FC, some Principles relating to FC like Principle of: i) Uniqueness, ii) Dual classification, iii) First-come, First-served, iv) Uniform Classification within a library, etc., under the heading of 'Principles of FC scheme'. They are provided in the scheme to act as a guide for the classifier when classifying documents. In the Annexure part, Symbols and

Abbreviations, etc, used in FC are listed separately for easy reference.

x) Finally, the Formula classification scheme will be helpful for all types of libraries, including small or research-oriented libraries, museums, and others. In addition, as many experts expressed, it may be beneficial to have KO and metadata.



V A Seshagiri Rao (B.Sc; MA, MLISc, PhD) has a doctorate in Library and Information Science. The author's doctoral thesis is available on the INFLIBNET website. He has authored another book on Library Science Classification – Step by Step Classification. He has participated in and submitted a paper to an International Seminar held at the DRTC in Bangalore on Step-by-Step classification. He has presented multiple papers and participated in several seminars. One of his articles on the Compilation of the Union Catalogue was published in the IASLIC Bulletin, Calcutta.

NEW MEMBERS**BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION****Ewa Fabian**

Ewa Fabian is a new IFLA member (Bibliography Section, 2025-2029). Ewa started her career in law right after obtaining a degree at the University of Warsaw. She became an attorney-at-law qualified to practice in Poland and worked with international law firms and institutions with a global reach. Ewa joined the National Library of Poland as a legal librarian in 2021 and obtained her PhD in Legal Studies at Koźmiński University (Poland) in 2024 with a thesis concerning protection of the right to accessibility of public sector websites (it became a monograph published by C. H. Beck in 2024). For the last couple of years, Ewa has been engaged in matters concerning bibliography, classification and cataloguing practices. Accessibility, standardization and implementation of European Union laws in EU Member States remain at the focus of Ewa's current research. Ewa Fabian is now a member of the Accessibility Metadata and Accessible

Formats Working Group (at the Bibliography Section) and the Accessibility Metadata Network. When not concerned with books, laws and international standards, Ewa is usually walking about with her truffle-hunting dog.

Renate Behrens

Renate Behrens has been internationally active in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) for many years. The focus of this work in various sections is also standardisation, international cooperation and the further development of cataloguing for different user communities.

After many years of membership in the Cataloguing Section, the Advisory Committee on Standards and the ISBD Review Group, she is currently a member of the Bibliography Section and the BCM Review Group. As liaison to the RDA Steering Committee, she continues to be active in the Advisory Committee on Standards.

As Chair of the RDA Steering Committee (RSC), Renate Behrens has been committed to the further development and dissemination of RDA at an international level since 2023. She previously performed these tasks as European Representative of the European RDA Interest Group (EURIG). Multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as networking with colleagues worldwide are of particular concern to her.

She passes on her knowledge to students at the University of Applied Sciences in the Department of Archives and Libraries in Munich.

Renate Behrens is a librarian and worked for many years at the German National Library in Frankfurt. Her work focussed on representation in and management of national and international committees.

Ana Stevanović



My engagement with IFLA started in 2013, when I joined the Subject Analysis and Access Standing Committee (formerly Classification and Indexing SC) where I volunteered until 2021. From 2017 to 2021, I served as co-chair of the Genre/Form Working Group.

Between 2021 and 2025, I was an active member of the IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards, where I took on the responsibilities of editing the IFLA Standards Newsletter and serving as Communication Chair. In 2025, I began my first term with the Bibliography Section, acting as Section Secretary and co-editor of the IFLA Metadata Newsletter.

Since 2011, I have worked at the National Library of Serbia, specialising in cataloguing and classification. In 2019 I became UDC editor and editor of the Serbian UDC Online. I was coordinator of the national project to translate UDC schedules into Serbian. In 2020, I became vice-chair of the UDC Consortium in The Hague. I have also contributed to several Europeana projects, such as "The Rise of Literacy" and "Common Culture," by creating digital collections and blogs.

Holding a PhD in Serbian literature, I try to use my knowledge and experience to create a bridge between the two fields. In addition to publishing and translating within the library field, I remain active in literary theory, contributing research and expertise to both disciplines.

Michalis Gerolimos

Michalis Gerolimos is the Head of the Cataloguing Department at the National Library of Greece (NLG). He joined the institution in 2016 and has since led several strategic projects and services, including the transition from UNIMARC/AACR2 to MARC21/RDA, the national Book Exchange Service, and the national programme for Supporting Public Libraries in Greece. He holds a bachelor's degree in Library and Archives Science, a master's degree in Computer Science, and a PhD in Library and Information Science.

His academic background reflects a combination of expertise across library science, information systems, and digital technologies. This year marks his first time joining IFLA and becoming part of the Bibliography Section, although he has collaborated with IFLA in the past through other activities.



His research interests range from the administrative and organizational dimensions of libraries to metadata standards, cataloguing rules, and linked-data applications in the cultural heritage sector. He has authored several publications in international peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in areas such as bibliographic control, interoperability, and emerging technologies in libraries. At the National Library of Greece, he works to promote innovation, standardization, and the integration of machine-readable practices across library services, aiming to strengthen the country's bibliographic infrastructure and its alignment with global developments.

CATALOGUING SECTION

Anna Oates



Anna Oates Schlaack joined the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (U of I) in 2025 as the Cataloguing and Metadata Librarian, where she leads the library's work in English monographic and special formats cataloguing. Prior to her current position, she worked in special libraries, supporting many library and information functions, from traditional bibliographic cataloguing and metadata creation to data modelling and web development. In her early career and foray into libraries, she was a Junior Fellow at the Library of Congress, supporting the description, access, and preservation of the American Ballet Theatre Archive. While a graduate student in the library program at the U of I, she worked on Illinois's contributions to the National Digital Newspaper Program and participated in the Oxford-Illinois Digital Libraries Placement Programme, where she researched the viability of PDF/A as a preferred preservation format. In special libraries, she worked on the FRED economic data aggregator,

FRASER digital library, RePEc economic research aggregator, and other projects, where she became deeply familiar with web development, data modelling, and cloud infrastructures. Anna joined IFLA's Cataloguing Section in August 2025. She is passionate about information discovery and the tools and standards that support users in finding resources of interest to their academic or personal research endeavours. From searching newspapers for genealogical research to visualizing author networks, she is committed to enabling universal access for users in their discovery journey.

Krisandra Ivings



Krisandra Ivings is the Manager of Monograph Description at Library and Archives Canada (Ottawa, Canada), where she serves as co-chair of LAC's Bibliographic Description and Standards Policy Committee and is a representative on the LAC Policy Renewal Coordination Group. She is also a part-time instructor with the University of Ottawa's School of Information Studies.

Filiberto Felipe Martínez Arellano



Filiberto Felipe Martínez Arellano is a professor in the Research Institute of Library and Information Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). His research and teaching areas are information organization, cataloging, metadata, open access, and institutional repositories. He teaches courses in the graduate program and in the undergraduate program in Library and Information Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He has published books and articles in international publishers and journals and has chaired the RDA Latin America and the Caribbean Group, and is also the founder and chair of the Mexico RDA Group. He has been the Latin American and the Caribbean representative in the RDA Governing Board (2020-2023). Since June 2025, He has been a representative for Latin America and the Caribe in the RDA Steering Committee. He has coordinated the Spanish translation of the RDA Toolkit Official and has participated in various IFLA positions, Chair of the Latin America and the Caribbean Section, Member of the Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section, Member of the Bibliographic Conceptual Models

(BCM) Review Group. He is a member of the editorial committees of the Cataloguing & Classification Quarterly Journal and the IFLA Library Journal and in 2022, he was awarded the IFLA Medal for his contribution to the development of cataloging and open access in Latin America.

Ana Knežević Cerovski



Ana has worked at the National and University Library in Zagreb as an authority metadata librarian since 2012 also as editor of the national authority file and the Library's coordinator for participation in VIAF since 2013. Her professional focus is on authority control and increasing data granularity to support controlled vocabularies for agents. Her other professional engagements include involvement in the development of the Croatian Code for Description and Access to Resources in Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM Code), based on the conceptual models IFLA LRM, RiC and CIDOC CRM, as well as being a member of the project team for the new Croatian cloud-based

academic library system, Bukinet. She is also a member of the Croatian Library Association and its Cataloguing Commission and now a member of the IFLA Cataloguing Section 2025-2027.

Celia Marcos Serrano



Celia's professional career has always been related to the world of books, libraries, and metadata. She holds a Degree in Library Science and a twenty-year career in libraries, first in an academic library and from 2017, at the National Library of Spain, where she is currently the head of the Literature Cataloguing Section. She has experience in cataloguing training and is a collaborating professor at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canarias teaching Authority Control and also running cataloguing courses for future librarians, new staff, professional associations or library networks. She has a deep knowledge of several cataloguing standards and would love to work with colleagues around the world, learning other cataloguing traditions and collaborating on IFLA standards and guidelines. She is interested in everything related to

cataloguing, metadata, standardization and Linked Data, RDA including the standardization of uniform titles, especially anonymous works, legislation, and religious works. She is also interested in the different cataloguing policies for comics and manga, and would like to know how other colleagues deal with the challenges of AI and cataloguing.

Lilian Mmapula Letshabo

Lilian Letshabo is a Librarian in the Cataloguing Section of the Technical Services Unit at the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN). She possesses over 17 years of experience in library services, information management and digital curation. Her professional focus is dedicated to the development and maintenance of metadata standards, the assurance of digital preservation



and the implementation of information governance frameworks; all of which are essential domains for the future of resource description. Lilian is an active member of the IFLA Cataloguing Section, where she is

responsible for the section's newsletter. She also serves within the IFLA Sub-Saharan African Regional Division as a member of the Information Coordination Sub-committee. In this role, she is responsible for the region's social media presence and newsletter editorial. She is enthusiastic about collaborating with and contributing to the work of LIS colleagues worldwide for the continuous improvement of the Library Science profession.

SUBJECT ANALYSIS AND ACCESS SECTION

Anne-Claire Brabant



My name is Anne-Claire Brabant. I am an expert at the RAMEAU National Centre, an organizational unit within the Metadata Department of the National Library of France. It is responsible for the management and development of the RAMEAU language, a French and francophone subject indexing language used by European countries. Within the framework of the bibliographic transition program, I contribute to the migration of subject authorities into the new RDA data model.

I have a background in lexicography and publishing. Between 2012 and 2015, I took part in the ReLIRE project, a national initiative coordinated by the National Library of France aimed at collectively managing the digital rights of 20th-century French books that are no longer commercially available.

I volunteered at the 2014 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Lyon and became a member of IFLA Subject Analysis and Access Section in August 2025. My current professional interests focus on subject authorities, data modeling, and the enhancement of bibliographic metadata.

Elena Corradini

After a brief experience in an academic library in Trento, where I was introduced to bibliographical description of printed materials in 1996, I have served as a public librarian and cataloguer at the municipal library of Ala (Trento) from March 1997 to November 2023. After this long journey, during which I have learned the importance of investigating library users' needs in order to work better as a cataloguer, I joined the Acquisitions and Cataloguing Office of the UniTrento Libraries, University of Trento. My major tasks are connected with monographs acquisition and cataloguing for the Departments of Humanities, but I have also been involved in the project of migration of serials from an external database into our catalogue, which is run cooperatively in the province of Trento. The CBT (Catalogo Bibliografico Trentino) has recently been added to the Sistema bibliotecario nazionale (SBN), and I have been chosen as the liaison member to represent my University in the working group that will guide librarians and cataloguers to work in this new information environment.

In my new position I can really make use of all my previous knowledge and skills, developed through a degree in Modern Languages and Literatures (German and English), and the International Master's degree in Library and Information Science awarded by Northumbria University in 2004 in conjunction with the University of Parma, Italy.

My longstanding interest for librarianship and professional issues is continually fueled by my membership in various professional associations (AIB, ALA, IFLA, ASIS&T, AIUCD, to name a few) and my support to Italian Wikimedia projects and Open Education Italia (OEI). I occasionally write reviews and articles for professional journals. I have collaborated with Editrice Bibliografica to translate works by D. Lankes and J. Palfrey into Italian. Between 2011 and 2014, I served as regional president of the AIB Trentino-Alto Adige section, focusing on the professional development of colleagues with an international perspective. Since 2022 I have been a member of the AIB study and working group on Coworking, and have been a member of the AIB CILW study group (2011-2014 and 2014-2017).

In IFLA, I have been serving as a Standing Committee member of various Sections before joining SAA, where I hope to learn from the best colleagues from all over the world.

Margaret Mering

Margaret (Meg) Mering is a Metadata Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA). She is currently responsible for cataloguing rare and special collections resources and subject and name authority control. She has extensive knowledge of serials cataloguing. She teaches those wanting to be school librarians the basics of descriptive and subject cataloguing.

She has been active in IFLA since 2013. She has served as the Information Coordinator of the North America Regional Division. During her two terms on the Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section, she served as chair and secretary.

Her current main research interests are faceted subject terms. In 2023, she guest edited a special issue focusing on faceted subjects of *cataloguing and Classification Quarterly*. She is currently writing an article on how public services librarians relate to Library of Congress Subjects, FAST, and other faceted vocabularies. She is also replacing or supplementing pejorative or outdated names and subject terms in her institution's catalog.

During her term on the Subject Analysis and Access Section, she hopes to gain a more international perspective on subject analysis. She would like to be involved in promoting uniform application of subjects and participating in the development of best practices for applying subjects to bibliographic records.

Ana Vukadin

I am an editor of the Universal Decimal Classification at the UDC Consortium, The Hague, Netherlands. From 2006 to 2022, I worked at the National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia, initially as a subject cataloguer, and later as the coordinator for bibliographic standards and metadata. In this position, I was actively involved in the development of descriptive schemes and guidelines, gaining



extensive knowledge not only of bibliographic models and standards, but also of metadata schemes used by other heritage communities.

I am interested in knowledge representation, conceptual modelling, ontologies, entity management, and data interoperability across

the GLAM community. I have published extensively on these topics, including the book *Metadata for Transmedia Resources* (Chandos, 2019). I have served as a member of several IFLA professional bodies and working groups, including CATS Standing Committee (CATS SC) and BCM Review Group. In addition to my involvement with SAA, I am currently contributing to the ISBD Review Group's project *ISBD for LRM* as a member of the cross-focus working group.

Jenny Wright

I am the Chief Metadata Officer for BDS, a cataloguing agency based in the UK. I was a member of the IFLA Cataloguing Section from 2017-2025, and am delighted to continue to learn and contribute through working with the IFLA Subject Analysis and Access Section. I have been a member of various IFLA groups: the



Genre/Form WG, MulDiCat editorial, and the BCM RG (Chair from 2023-2025), as well as the Metadata Accessibility Network. Outside of IFLA I am a member of the European RDA Interest Group, and represent CILIP on the RDA Board.

My work interests are focused on how we can efficiently create quality metadata, and at BDS we have created our own entity based system for doing so. I am interested in developments which are user focussed and increase discovery. I see potential in machine learning, and am working on support for subject classification.

UPCOMING EVENTS

19th International ISKO Conference: Transforming Knowledge Organization: Critical Approaches to Epistemological, Technological, and Cultural Change, São Paulo (Brazil) 17-19 August 2026



The upcoming International ISKO Conference focuses on transformation, including adaptation to new tools & contexts and the critical process of re-examining the foundations, functions, and futures of knowledge organization (KO).

We invite scholars and practitioners to explore strategies, approaches, and practices that are reshaping the field of KO - not withstanding its important intersection with information science, computer science, philosophy, linguistics, education, cognitive science, and digital humanities.

Detailed submission guidelines, deadlines, and registration information are available on the

official [ISKO 2026 website](#). Submissions may include full papers, short papers, posters, doctoral colloquium contributions, and workshop proposals

Submission deadline: **1 March 2026**

The conference is organized by the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) in collaboration with the Brazilian Chapter of ISKO.

IN MEMORIAM: AGNESE GALEFFI (1974-2025): A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

By **Elena Corradini**, UniTrento Libraries, Trento, Italy

At the end of September 2025, I was struck with the sad news about Agnese Galeffi, a professional whom I met for the first time during the IFLA Congress in Gothenburg in 2010. I had gone outside the main hall of the IFLA venue to call home, and chose a place where no Italian was apparently nearby. After my phone call, which unfortunately happened to be loud, she stared at me with her brown eyes surrounded by strikingly blonde hair, and asked me with a remarkably Roman accent: “Sei italiana?” (“Are you Italian?”) – and after a few seconds, “My name is Agnese.” We began to chat and soon discovered that we both liked to have embraced our profession.

From that moment, it has always been a pleasure to meet her at conferences, congresses, and improvised cocktails or dinners.

In 2019, at the IFLA Congress in Athens, I met her and couldn’t avoid speaking about illness, because I had to decide if I should go to hospital



Agnese Galeffi

Source: https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnese_Galeffi

for a surgery or not. Despite her already hard personal experience, she was able to encourage me to be strong.

Thank you, Agnese, for every moment you have shared with me, with us. You were a wonderful friend to some, and a reliable, generous colleague to many of us. Your elegance, openness and professionalism will remain forever, as well as your teaching and inspiring papers.

About Agnese:

<https://flore.unifi.it/handle/2158/1439912>

<https://www.bibliotecheoggi.it/it/articolo/17247/agnese-galeffi>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01639374.2025.2583057?src>