



IFLA Metadata Newsletter

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Bibliography Section

Cataloguing Section

Subject Analysis and Access Section

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About the IFLA Metadata Newsletter

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

Contributions are welcome at any time.

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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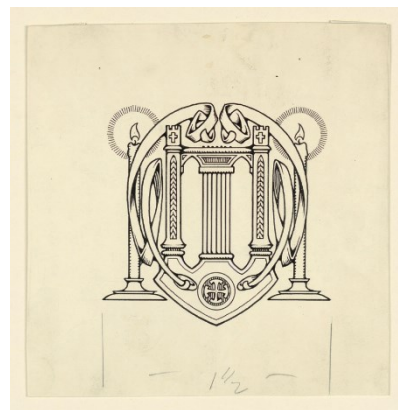
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Tailpiece, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; Homer Wayland Colby;CC0; https://www.si.edu/object/tailpiece%3Achnm_1953-48-87

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Metadata Colleagues,

Welcome to the December 2024 issue of the IFLA Metadata Newsletter!

As 2024 draws to a close, we look forward to celebrating a promising new year for metadata: what a brilliant year we can expect 2025 to be indeed for our sections! Our flagship event next year will be the Metadata Symposium, organised under the aegis of the Committee on Standards and hosted by the National Library of Greece from March 17-20, in Athens. Renewing with the long-standing tradition of the Metadata Reports Open Session which has consistently proved such a popular success in previous WLICs, this event will take things one step further by combining two days of business meetings by Sections, Working Groups, Review Groups, and the Committee of Standards, followed by a whole day of conferences and reports and a final day of library visits. It will be a truly tremendous event, so if you haven't already, be sure to [register here](#) so as not to miss anything.

As the chair of the Cataloguing Section, I simply cannot wait to be reunited with colleagues I haven't seen for nearly two years now for lack of a WLIC in 2024. I expect three days of intense discussions, lots and lots of interesting news from all over the world, and fond memories to come home with. Over the years I have become quite familiar with the hosting tradition of the National Library of Greece and have therefore no doubt that everyone will be impressed by the outstanding quality of the welcome we'll receive. In this regard, I would like to express my warmest thanks and gratitude to our colleague Sofia Zapounidou from the Cataloguing Section for making this happen.

I will be so excited to see Subject Analysis and Access Section colleagues for the first time in person since 2023! Meeting quarterly on Zoom

is nice, but this will be a wonderful time of having meaningful in-person discussions talking about all things metadata. I never "metadata" I didn't like! SAA's Knowledge Organization System Change and Data Structure (KOS-D) Working Group is very much looking forward to spending focused time together on their project. This will be a wonderful reunion of beloved colleagues and a chance to meet newer colleagues and form lasting friendships. Many, many heartfelt thanks go to the planning committee, especially SAA's Amanda Ros, and to our Greek hosts for what promises to be extraordinary hospitality.

The Bibliography Section is excited to reunite with our metadata and COS colleagues for both professional and social interaction! I'm also glad to be among this event planning team. We've put together a programme of interest to everyone. At the personal and Section's levels, I much anticipate the UBC Working Group meeting. Focusing on the Symposium component with my collaborator Ana Stevanovic, we aimed to create a Symposium that resonates with the metadata community as it imagines its future. Our esteemed Division H Chair, Athena Salaba, will deliver a keynote address, followed by sessions on accessibility, competencies, and technology. The final program will be selected from 31 excellent proposals. Special thanks to my colleagues at BIBS for their invaluable support for the first brainstorming about the Symposium ideas that helped shape the direction. We're grateful to the National Library of Greece, especially Sofia Zapounidou, for creating such a beautiful setting for our event!

No sooner will we have recovered from so many emotions that it will be time to prepare again for our next upcoming event, which is the WLIC in

Astana: as preparations have started and will go on throughout the first six months of 2025, it is our ambition that our sections will enjoy this opportunity to work closer together than ever.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue, and we look forward to seeing you in Athens *and* Astana! We send our very warmest wishes for the holiday season and 2025!



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



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



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

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRAZIL

The ethical dimension of Cataloging

by Zaira Zafalon and Cleide Oliveira da Silva at University of San Carlos, Brazil

At the beginning of November, the results of the master's research developed by Cleide Oliveira da Silva, supervised by Prof. Dr. Zaira Regina Zafalon, were presented. The study addressed the ethical dimension of Cataloging and was conducted in conjunction with the Postgraduate Program in Information Science (PPGCI) of the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar), São Carlos (São Paulo), Brazil.

In the current context of information search and retrieval, characterized by technological advances and the demand for rapid responses in different media and communication platforms, Cataloging plays a central role. Focused on the needs of users, Cataloging is a process that is not exempt from ethical implications, which can impact the way information is accessed and interpreted. Given this, Silva analyzed how the International Cataloging Principles (ICP) reflect these ethical values. Through a qualitative, applied approach, with exploratory objectives and the use of bibliographic and documentary research, the ethical values related to Cataloging expressed in the literature analyzed were identified. The ethical values were then examined and contrasted with the ICPs.

The comparative analysis of the literature on ethical values with the ICPs demonstrates some relationships, such as user interest in the values of access to information and respect for diversity and justice, and sufficiency and necessity in values such as accuracy, respect for diversity, transparency and impartiality, and justice. However, it was also possible to perceive that some values identified in the literature were not

addressed by the PICs, such as ethical responsibility, ethical sustainability, data protection and user privacy, ethical training, and intellectual property.

This result encourages the need for future research to evaluate the possibility of updating the PICs in order to include ethical values absent in the current guidelines.

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This result encourages the need for future research to evaluate the possibility of updating the PICs to include ethical values absent in the current guidelines.

NEWS FROM ARGENTINE

Argentine bibliography of librarianship

By Sandra Gisela Martín at Universidad Nacional de Córdoba - Argentina

The project 'Trazando caminos: cartografía de la edición argentina en bibliotecología (Siglos XX y XXI)' is being developed within the framework of the 2023-2026 research projects financed and supported by the Secretariat of Science and Technology of the National University of Córdoba, Argentina. The team is led by Dra. Sandra Gisela Martín, co-directed by Dra. Silvina Angelozzi, and integrated by Lic. Marcela Verde,

Eng. Judith Disderi, Lic. Nadia Meyer, Lic. Gabriela Mansilla and Bib. Dana Arnodo.

The first stage of the project was to compile an exhaustive collection of books and journal titles related to librarianship published in Argentina during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Currently, in a second stage, we are moving towards a quantitative and qualitative analysis that will allow us to draw up a cartography of Argentine publishing production in the discipline. This analysis will seek to reflect its main characteristics, its evolution in different historical and cultural contexts, the predominant trends, as well as to identify the main publishers, institutions and authors.

As a final result, from a specialised approach, the project seeks to lay the foundations for the creation of a bibliographic repertoire dedicated to Argentinean librarianship and to develop a web portal for online consultation. This portal will also allow the collaborative incorporation of data contributed by other colleagues and institutions. Although the study focuses on publications published in Argentina, it also aims to identify possible foreign influences on national librarianship production, considering that several Ibero-American publishers had subsidiaries in the country.

The research is of the documentary type with an exploratory-interpretative approach. The methodological approach is based on the analytical method, using a documentary research design with a combined quantitative and qualitative strategy.

The project aims to contribute to the knowledge of Argentine publishing in librarianship, as well as to promote its visibility and dissemination through the publication of scientific articles derived from the findings and the creation of a web portal that brings together the information collected.

In summary, the development of a bibliography, or cartography, of Argentine publishing in librarianship is key to preserving and disseminating the knowledge produced in the country. It is also essential to understand its historical evolution and current context, as well as providing valuable support for research, academic training and the generation of networks and collaborations in the field of librarianship.

NEWS FROM ITALY

By Giuliano Genetasio, PhD, Director of Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle Biblioteche Italiane (ICCU)



Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle Biblioteche Italiane (ICCU) of the Ministry of Culture is in charge of coordinating the National Library Service (SBN). SBN is the national network of Italian libraries and the set of related back-end and front-end infrastructures (like the SBN OPAC). ICCU also manages important databases such as Edit16 (the national census of Italian 16th-century editions) and MOL (Manus online; the national census of manuscripts of Italian libraries), as well as Alphabetic (the portal of Italian libraries that offers an integrated search on the databases of SBN, MOL and EDIT16), Internet culturale (a portal that

collects the digital heritage of many Italian libraries and institutions and currently contains more than 17 million digital objects) and Teca Digitale Italiana (a digital repository that performs a free service of management and preservation of digital collections in web resolution), among others. Here are some of the most important activities undertaken in recent years by ICCU.

Cataloging guidelines and guidance in SBN

In recent years, the Wiki platform that has been hosting cataloging regulations for cataloging in SBN since 2016 has been enriched by the regulations for cataloging special materials and guidelines and good practices related to common standards. Specifically: in 2022, the SBN Cataloging Guides for Audiovisual Materials and Cartographic Materials were published; additional guidance and insights were also published for: cataloging treatment of texts for music in SBN; SBN treatment of resources published online; SBN treatment of two-sided resources; sagas and narrative cycles. Guidelines on subject indexing and classification in SBN were published in 2023. In November 2024, the SBN Guide to Graphic Materials was published. Still in 2024, the Working Group on Cataloging of Electronic Materials was established, which is expected to fire the reference standards next year. As for music, the guide originally drafted in 2012 was revised in 2019, while the standards on unpublished music resources were drafted in 2018 and those on work title in 2023. For the 2025, ICCU plans to publish: 1) regulations for authority registration of collective authors in SBN; 2) regulations for cataloging electronic material in SBN; and 3) Guide to Manus online.

Authority control activities

Since 2023, all authority entries related to personal and collective names have been published in SBN's OPAC. Until June 2023, only those entries with a higher level of

completeness, amounting to just under 10% of the total, were exported to OPAC. Three working groups are currently active for the management and maintenance of the authority file referring to: Names; Typographers and Publishers (for ancient resources); Printing Places (for ancient resources). In order to coordinate these three groups in 2024, a Technical Coordination Committee was established for SBN authority file management and maintenance activities. A UNIMARC mapping of bibliographic and authority data of EDIT16 and SBN was carried out in 2023-2024. In 2023, a project was initiated to enrich authority data related to uninformed person names with Wikidata data: the first phase of the project covered just over 16000 records; the next phase (2025) is expected to cover another 30000 records; this milestone was made possible by the massive cleanup of the SBN authority file currently underway.

Translation of standards

In 2020, ICCU translated and made available online: IFLA Library Reference Model. In addition, in 2024 ICCU established the Technical Working Group for the translation of the RDA Cataloging Rules (2024; the first translation of the full text of the RDAs was in 2015). Still in 2024, ICCU established the Technical Working Group for the translation of the ISBD International Standard Bibliographic Description 2021 Updates. Update to the 2011 Consolidated Edition.

MOL Special Projects

A special feature of MOL are the "special projects," born on the basis of agreements between ICCU and research institutions, aimed at cataloging and digitizing particular categories of manuscripts, which will then be searchable both on MOL itself and on specific pages dedicated to the project, and which often involve the development of software improvements that enrich MOL. Over the past

year and a half, ICCU has initiated several important MOL special projects: for example, the LiMINA (Lost in Manuscripts. Ideas, Notes, Acknowledgments) project, which aims to investigate and describe the glosses, attention marks, marginalia, possession notes, etc., that are affixed to the blank spaces of manuscripts of the Old Vulgate of Dante's Comedy. It is also worth mentioning MeMo - Memory of Montecassino project, which focuses on the manuscript holdings preserved at Montecassino, and which has led to the creation of a new descriptive node that will make it possible, among other things, to account on MOL for diplomatic documents. Illuminated Dante Project, a project that has been underway for several years, is then setting up a codicological and iconographic database of all the ancient manuscripts of Dante's Commedia accompanied by images, and which is now on its way to becoming the Naples Dante Project, which will cover the entire tradition of Dante's poem. Finally, the fruit of a positive collaboration with the Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI) is the MOL Liturgical Missals Project, which was created with the intention of censusing the pre-Tridentine liturgical codices preserved by ecclesiastical institutions and which has made it possible to finalize two new internal description nodes relating to the complex liturgical manuscript types of the missal and calendar. To illustrate the work in progress, the conference "The Community at Prayer" was held on September 26 and 27, 2024 at the National Central Library in Rome.

Interventions in the Digital

Over the years, small and large Italian institutions have conducted numerous digitization projects independently, through self-managed Digital Thecae, generating a phenomenon of dispersion of digital resources throughout the country (so-called "Digitale sommerso"). In the last years ICCU has launched

a campaign to recover the Digitale Sommerso and is finally registering a significant reversal of the trend with a growth in requests for deposit on ICCU repositories; this growth in requests for deposit is linked to the birth of ICCU's Alfabetica portal but also to a revival of investments in the digitization sector initiated at the national level, also thanks to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRPP). Among digitization campaigns, the project "Digital resources for the dissemination of Italian language and culture in the world"-Digitization of manuscripts, printed texts, musical, graphic and cartographic material held in seven Italian public libraries, totaling 370000 documents, should be noted. The project was aimed at significantly increasing the presence of Italian library heritage resources in a European context, thanks to the uploading of resources to the Teca Digitale Italiana and the publication of digitizations not only on national portals (Internet Culturale, Opac SBN, Alfabetica) but also on Europeana. Thanks to NRPP funds, an important digitization project has also been financed, which will aim to digitize the microfilms of the manuscripts of the National Center for the Study of Manuscripts of the National Central Library in Rome. Thanks to this project, about 120000 digitizations of microfilms related to manuscripts from 180 Italian and 16 foreign libraries will be published on ICCU portals through the Manus Online (MOL) management system. NRPP funds have also been used to finance a second project, the "Carta" project, coordinated by the National Central Library of Florence, which involves the digitization of post-unification daily newspapers published in Italy between 1861 and 1955. Two thousand Italian newspapers will be digitized.

Participation in international organizations

Continued collaboration with CERL to which ICCU has contributed in recent years through participation in two international conferences:

Non Latinum est, non catalogatur: Making non-Latin scripts retrievable in SBN and EDIT16, CERL Annual General Meeting: European Printing in Non-Latin Scripts, Rome, October 23, 2024; When EDIT16 met SBN: behind the scenes of the latest developments of the online bibliography of sixteenth-century Italian books, International Study Conference entitled Retrospective bibliographies and European print cultures to 1830: challenges and perspectives in the digital age, Wrocław, June 29-30, 2023. Since 2024, ICCU has also resumed activities within EBLIDA, EURIG and of course IFLA (participation in the General Assembly of 2024; presentation of the paper "The Use of UNIMARC Authority for the Integration of ICCU Bibliographic Databases" at the meeting "The Use of UNIMARC Authority for the Integration of ICCU Bibliographic Databases" at the Charting the Course: Future-Forward Cataloguing with MARC organized by IFLA).

SECTION NEWS

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

Linked Data and National Bibliographies After 15 Year of Application: A Webinar Reflection

By Rehab Ouf, Bibliography Section Chair

National bibliographic and authority data are invaluable cultural assets, preserving nations' cultural heritage, organizing knowledge, connecting fields, and supporting research. To harness the full potential of these assets, enabling their wide sharing and reuse, many national libraries have embarked on a transformative journey by embracing linked data technologies over the past decade. This shift has enabled these libraries to:

- Extend the reach of national bibliographic and authority data beyond the silos of library catalogues and authority files.
- Unlock the potential of their collections, making them more discoverable and interoperable with other data sources.
- Enable multiples uses and applications by diverse communities.
- Engage in cross-cultural collaboration with other cultural heritage institutions.

To explore the latest advancements and best practices in this field, the [Bibliography Section](#) concluded its year with a webinar titled "[Linked Open Bibliographies: Exposing, Linking, Reusing](#)" on 27 November 2024. This event marked the third in our "[Topics in National Bibliographies](#)" virtual event series, launched in April 2024, and the inaugural webinar of the series' Track 2, "[New Horizons](#)".

The webinar gathered experts from various fields, including metadata and linked data specialists, data managers, information system managers, and national bibliography managers,

to discuss the latest trends, projects, and challenges in transforming National Bibliographies into linked data. The webinar focused on exploring the state-of-the-art in this field, after nearly fifteen years of application: the drives behind national libraries' linked data projects, the building blocks of data services, the tools, the evolution of technologies, the choices of bibliographic standards, the data strategies and data modeling, the experiences' evaluation and development, and the future directions.

The webinar attracted 467 live attendees and featured 6 expert presentations from 6 national libraries that took the lead in linked data initiatives, offering a wealth of knowledge on linked data and national bibliographies and sparking insightful discussions.

The webinar highlighted several key areas where national libraries actively implement linked data technologies to enhance the value and accessibility of their collections and data sets. From the British Library (BL), the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), the National Library of Japan (NDL), the National German Library (DNB), the National Library of Sweden (NLS) and the National Library of Finland (NLF), the presentations showcased a variety of projects and drives, revolving around four main areas:

- Transforming traditional national bibliographies into linked data.
- Collaborating on shared, linked open national bibliographies.
- Providing Linked Data-based services and APIs.
- Connecting national bibliographic and authority data with other relevant datasets.

In the details, each presentation featured a unique project, focused on specific aims and uses, or highlighted specific aspects or

components of the project, such as linked open data, FAIR data principles, data models, ontologies, APIs, user interfaces, linked open data ecosystem and workflow, and pros and cons of current different bibliographic standards. Collectively, the presentations highlighted the value of collaboration and extension to wider domains and communities, the complexity of technical aspects, user experience considerations, and broader strategic implications of linked data initiatives in libraries, concluding on the lasting relevance, the viability, and the bright future of linked data in libraries as a critical step in modernizing information access, discovery, and integration.

We express our heartfelt thanks to our distinguished expert speakers for sharing their knowledge and experiences. Their presentations have illuminated the path forward for new linked data initiatives in libraries.

Programme and details of the presenters and link to the recording are available [here](#).

STANDARDS NEWS

PROJECT “FUTURE OF UNIMARC”

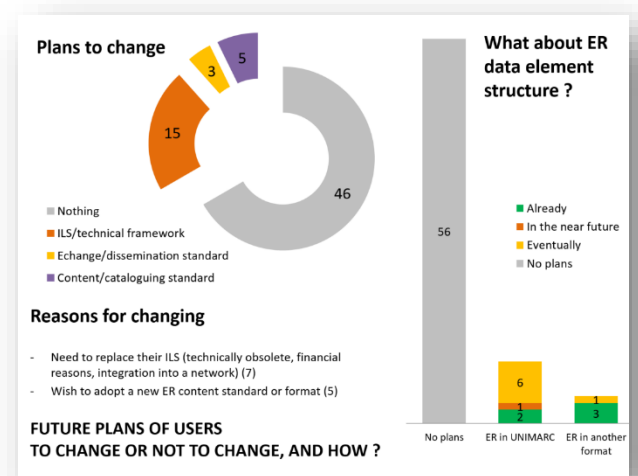
By Branka Badovinac

IFLA’s UNIMARC encoding and exchange format has undergone a major transformation with the adoption of a new entity-relationship (ER) conceptual model the IFLA Library Reference Model (IFLA LRM), which brings innovative cataloguing approaches for the digital environment. This shift from traditional metadata practices suggests promising benefits for both libraries and end-users. The key transformations and improvements to UNIMARC are:

- Two cataloguing tracks: UNIMARC has evolved to provide two cataloguing options: 1) UNIMARC-ER (entity-relationship cataloguing), and 2) the “traditional” UNIMARC cataloguing. This flexibility allows agencies (institutions, networks, etc.) to choose the most suitable track for their specific needs.
- Entities and relationships: UNIMARC now accommodates almost all aspects of the IFLA LRM model, expanding UNIMARC’s scope, cataloguing choices and future potential.
- UNIMARC-ER features: UNIMARC-ER supports a highly structured approach to library data. It enables enriched description and comprehensiveness. Entity records are created using the UNIMARC Authorities Format or the Bibliographic Format, depending on the entity type. The format retains familiar fields and elements from the “traditional” UNIMARC, supplemented by specific fields and scope of usage.

The “Future of UNIMARC” project by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC, IFLA Review Group UNIMARC) aims to facilitate the exchange, sharing, and generation of knowledge

about the future of UNIMARC. The project focuses on exploring UNIMARC’s range of uses, increasing familiarity with its entity-relationship (ER) cataloguing track, and gathering information about the library community’s needs. This is achieved by exploring current and future trends within the information technology sector, gaining more knowledge about the current state of UNIMARC, and determining expectations for its future, while considering all



aspects of the format.

In 2024, the project branched out into two main activities:

- A survey titled “Landscape of Data Structure and Exchange Standards Survey,” focusing on the use of the UNIMARC format.
- A 6th UNIMARC Users Meeting, focusing on future directions and practices within the end-user community.

The [data analyse](#) of the survey was prepared by Florence Tfibel (Bibliothèque nationale de France), and she also presented the results at the [6th UNIMARC Users Meeting](#).

(FROM PRESENTATION “LANDSCAPE OF DATA STRUCTURE AND EXCHANGE STANDARDS SURVEY” BY FLORENCE TFIBEL)

The meeting was held on 12 November 2024 at [Institute of Information Science](#) (IZUM)

(Maribor, Slovenia) and online. The meeting's theme was *"Charting the Course: Future-Forward Cataloguing with UNIMARC"*. The meeting featured 14 speakers and was attended by over 130 participants from 27 countries. It was divided into two parts, each concluding with a discussion. The summaries, presentation slides and video recordings are published on the event website:

<https://www.ifla.org/permanent-unimarc-committee-puc/6th-unimarc-users-meeting/>.



IFLA Review Group
UNIMARC



6th UNIMARC Users Meeting

PUC expresses its gratitude to all speakers and participants, with special thanks to the IZUM, not only for the excellent organization of the meeting, but also for hosting and supporting this IFLA Review Group over the past several years.

REVISING THE IFLA PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT ON UNIVERSAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

By Pat Riva, Advisory Committee on Standards

The concept of Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) can be traced back to 1950. The recommendations on national bibliographic services issued by the UNESCO conference on the improvement of bibliographical services. The term UBC itself was not coined until 1966, when it was used by Carlos V. Penna, a Unesco official, at the IFLA General Council in the Hague. The first account of requirements for an effective UBC ecosystem were laid out by Dr

Franz Georg Kaltwasser in 1971, and published in the *Unesco Bulletin for Libraries*, vol. 25, n°5, September/October 1971, pp. 252-259. This was an outcome of the International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts (IMCE) held in Copenhagen in 1969. The IMCE set IFLA's policy direction with a resolution calling for the creation of a system for the international exchange of what we now view as bibliographic metadata.

UBC was the theme of 39th IFLA General Council held in Grenoble, France in 1973. IFLA established an International Office for UBC in July 1974, which eventually merged with the UNIMARC Office to form Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM). UBCIM remained an IFLA Core Activity until 2003 when Core Activities were concluded or transitioned during an IFLA governance revision. The UBC focus was taken up by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) and included in the mandate of the newly formed IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards (ICABS). Through this 30 year period methods for achieving UBC transitioned from card sets to MARC records and shared databases, but always depended on international standardization of metadata.

After the conclusion of the IFLA-CDNL Alliance on Digital Strategy (ICADS) in 2011, which was the successor of ICABS, the responsibility for preparing an IFLA Professional Statement on UBC was entrusted to the Bibliography Section. The Statement (<https://repository.ifla.org/handle/20.500.14598/448>) was approved in December 2012 and has been translated into all IFLA languages.

Discussions at the 2023 Satellite meeting *Universal Bibliographic Control at the Crossroads*, co-sponsored by the Bibliography, Cataloguing, and Subject Analysis and Access Sections, concluded that the 2012 *IFLA Statement on Universal Bibliographic Control*

was due for review. A working group to examine the Statement and propose a workplan was struck in fall 2023. The Bibliography Section took the lead and was joined by the Cataloguing, Subject Analysis and Access, and National Libraries Sections, as well as the Advisory Committee on Standards.

The UBC WG examined the 2012 Statement and concluded that a revision was warranted. Although UBC remains fundamental as the frame of reference for the production and distribution of bibliographic data, the formulation of the statement has become dated and needs actualisation. References to other IFLA metadata standards are no longer current and may lead readers to assume the principles in the Statement are also superseded, when that is not the case.

The WG also determined that an IFLA Professional Statement is still the appropriate format. According to the “Process for developing IFLA Statements”, an IFLA statement is a 1-2 page document concisely setting out a position. Statements “can help to raise awareness about an issue, and provide an easy reference point, both in terms of shaping the thinking/action of the profession, and in explaining what libraries want and need to external partners.” Intended to “focus on strategic issues with broad global relevance”, the Professional Statement format was retained as the most effective vehicle for a concise explanation of UBC and its role in the global metadata ecosystem.

In July 2024, the UBC WG sent its brief report to the Professional Council justifying the need for revision of the statement and proposing a workplan for a further group to actually revise the document. This was approved and the renewed UBC WG was launched in September 2024. Maintaining continuity with the preparatory group, the co-chairs are Maud Henry, Bibliography Section, and Mathilde

Koskas, Cataloguing Section, with additional members (Rehab Ouf, Satu Niininen, Isabel Ayres Maringelli, Sandra Gisela Martín, Alex Kyrios, Anna Slawek, and Pat Riva) representing the Bibliography, Cataloguing, and Subject Analysis and Access Sections, and the Advisory Committee on Standards. Although not delegating a member to the working group, the National Libraries Section will be invited to comment on the new text.

The projected timeline would lead to a new Statement to be sent to the Governing Board for approval in time for WLIC 2025 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Before finalizing the statement there will be multiple opportunities for input from a broad constituency. This will include consultation with the sponsoring units’ standing committees, and then a full world-wide review open to all.

Watch for the world-wide review of the new Statement, projected for April-May 2025. All input is much appreciated.

CFLA-FCAB CATALOGUING AND METADATA STANDARDS COMMITTEE

By Ryan Vernon, acting co-chair

In 2019, following the inaugural meeting of [Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee](#) (CESC), CFLA-FCAB’s [Cataloging and Metadata Standards Committee](#) (CMSC) joined ALA’s Cataloging and Metadata Management section, and CILIP’s Cataloging and Indexing group to support the development of the nascent *Cataloguing Code of Ethics* as Development Sponsors. The CMSC followed with interest as the CESC formed Working Groups that undertook the task of developing a *Cataloguing Code of Ethics*.

The [final version of the Cataloguing Code of Ethics](#) was completed and made available online

in January 2021. It received endorsements from ALA Core in 2021 and CILIP in 2022. Meanwhile, the CFLA-FCAB's CMSC deemed it necessary to conduct a national consultation to evaluate the Code's applicability in Canadian settings, leading to the creation of the Cataloging Code of Ethics Review Working Group (CCERWG), which actively invited feedback from the Canadian library community through conference discussions and a national survey. At the same time, the *Cataloging Code of Ethics* was [translated into French](#).

After reviewing the CCERWG's [report](#), the CMSC unanimously recommended CFLA's endorsement of the *Cataloging Code of Ethics* to the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors. [CFLA-FCAB](#) officially endorsed the code on September 5, 2024.

NEWS FROM THE RDA STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC)

By Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary

11 May 2026: The Countdown Begins

At its meeting in December, the RDA Board set the specific dates for the countdown clock as follows:

1. Monday 11 May 2026: the countdown begins
2. Tuesday 11 May 2027: Original RDA will no longer be available as an interactive resource

[As described on the RDA Toolkit News section when the countdown clock was first announced in May 2023](#), "Removal of the Original RDA Toolkit means that the site will no longer be accessible via the Web. However, the pdf files of the RDA instructions and guidance will remain

accessible through the Instruction Archive in the official RDA Toolkit."

Communities are beginning to transition from Original to Official RDA. At the RSC Outreach Day in November, RSC Chair Renate Behrens shared the experience of DACH Region (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) and RSC Oceania Representative Charlotte Christensen shared the work of the National Library of New Zealand. Both presentations are available to watch [here](#).

January's Public Session of the RSC will open with a demonstration by Michaela Edelmann and Mathias Manecke from the DNB (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek) of [the RDA Dach Manual](#). The DACH Region is one of the first to respond to the 3R Project, implementing [Projekt 3R-DACH-Bib](#) in Autumn 2023.

If you would like to join us (online) as an observer on 22 January, please email RSC Secretary Anne Welsh, RSCsecretary@rdatoolkit.org, asking her to add you to the list of observers. Closer to the time she will be happy to send you joining instructions (including Zoom link) to the meeting on Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 7pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)).

BIBFRAME and RDA

Progress is being made towards an official protocol with the BIBFRAME community. The Share Family / Share-VDE Advisory Council has approved a proposal made by various institutional members for a BIBFRAME community liaison with the RSC. RSC Chair Renate Behrens is in the final stages of negotiations with Casalini Libri: please watch this space and the [RSC News section](#) for announcements.

At its Outreach Day on 13 November 2024, the RSC was honoured to host presentations by Sally McCallum, Paul Frank and Kevin Ford on the

current development of BIBFRAME by the Library of Congress. Their presentations are available to watch [online \(at 01:50:33 in the recording\)](#).

RDA Slides for Educators

Following her popular [Report on Approaches to Teaching RDA in the LIS Classroom \(RSC/Papers/2022/1\)](#) and [RDA Teaching & Training Tips](#) handout,

Education and Orientation Officer, Elisa Sze has developed Template RDA Teaching slides, which can be [downloaded](#) under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license](#). There is also an [outline of the slides](#) to help guide educators through the slide deck.

You can find these and other resources on the [Learning Resources web page](#). As she put it in her recent RSC news post, Elisa always welcomes opportunities to hear from educators and trainers regarding RDA, as well as translators who may be interested in translating these learning resources. You can reach her at elisa@rdatoolkit.org.

RSC Action Plan 2025-2027

The RSC Chair will present the latest Action Plan for approval by the RSC at its meeting in January 2025. Until it is published, our activities will continue as set out in [RSC/Chair/2024/1 \(RSC Action Plan 2024-2026\)](#). You can watch the [RSC News page](#) for the new plan at the end of January.

Public Sessions of the RSC Meetings 2025

We would, of course, be delighted for you to join us online at our Public Sessions. The dates of these were announced on 21 November, and are as follows:

Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 7pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)).

Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 6pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)).

Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 6pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)).

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 7pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)).

Each meeting will last up to 2 hours (depending on the number of proposals / discussion papers).

If you would like to register for January's Public Session, which includes a demonstration by Michaela Edelmann and Mathias Manecke from the DNB (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek) of [the RDA Dach Manual](#) as described above ('[11 May 2026: The Countdown Begins](#)'), please email RSC Secretary Anne Welsh, RSCsecretary@rdatoolkit.org, asking her to add you to the list of observers. Closer to the time she will be happy to send you joining instructions (including Zoom link) to the meeting on Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 7pm UTC (There is a handy time converter [here](#)).

RSC Meeting November 2024

Image: The RSC outside the ALA Washington Office in November 2024.

Back row: Ángela Quiroz (RDA Board, invited special observer), Ahava Cohen (Europe Representative), Szabolcs Dancs (Translations Team Liaison Officer and Back-up Europe Representative), Charlene Chou (Wider Community Engagement Officer), Anne Welsh (RSC Secretary).

Middle row: Elisa Sze (Education and Orientation Officer), Colleen Barbus (Chair of the RDA Board), James Hennelly (Director of ALA Digital Reference), Robert Maxwell (North America Representative).

Front row: Charlene Christensen (Oceania Representative), Renate Behrens (RSC Chair), Damian Iseminger (Technical Team Liaison Officer), Christopher Holden (Incoming Technical Team Liaison Officer).

The RSC met in Washington between 11-15 November 2024, including a Public Session on Tuesday 12 November, which was attended by over 100 observers online and in-person. We are very grateful to both the American Library Association Washington Office and the Library of

Congress for hosting the meeting, and especially to RDA Board member Judith Cannan and her team at the Library of Congress for all the work they did before and during the meeting to organize things so well.

RSC Chair Renate Behrens would also like to thank Thomas Brenndorfer, Chair of the RSC Extent Working Group for presenting the discussion paper on Extent, which represents three years of work by the experts who contribute to the Working Group.

RSC Board member Ángela Quiroz attended the meeting as a special observer from Chile and it is hoped that this will have assisted her and the organising group in South America in their work towards appointing an RSC Representative. During the meeting, Ángela was able to observe first-hand how the meeting works and to hear from Ahava Cohen (Europe), Robert Maxwell (North America), and Charlotte Christensen (Oceania) of the similarities and differences between EURIG, NARDAC and ORDAC, the regional committees they represent.

Minutes of the meeting will be available soon, ahead of the January RSC Meeting. Please watch the [RSC News page](#) for the announcement when they are published.

Outreach Day

As well as its Public Session, the RSC was happy to hold an Outreach Day in November. [The recording of the presentations is now available](#), with thanks to the Library of Congress:

00:00:00 'The RDA-DACH manual and the DACH Documentation Platform' -- Renate Behrens, RSC Chair

01:00:43 'Implementing Official RDA' -- Charlotte Christensen, Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa National Library of New Zealand ; RSC Oceania Representative

01:50:33 'BIBFRAME with RDA' -- Sally McCallum, Paul Frank and Kevin Ford, Library of Congress.

Renate Behrens, RSC Chair, would like to thank Judith Cannan and the Library of Congress for hosting the RSC Meeting and the Outreach Day.



Image: The organisers of the Outreach Day, in the West Dining Room of the Library of Congress: Colleen Barbus (Chair of the RDA Board), James Hennelly (Director of ALA Digital Reference), Judith Cannan (Library of Congress and RDA Board), Damian Iseminger (Library of Congress and RSC Technical Team Liaison Officer), Renate Behrens (RSC Chair) and Clara Liao (Library of Congress).

White Paper on Artificial Intelligence

The Joint RDA Board / RSC Working Group on Artificial Intelligence has prepared a White Paper on Artificial Intelligence, which is due for publication just before Christmas. Please watch the [RSC News page](#) for the announcement of its publication.

Looking for More On RDA?

[The RDA Toolkit YouTube channel](#) includes recordings of presentations at both RDA and NARDAC events. The latest webinar series 'RDA Around the World' consists of presentations by RDA Board members.

Our Annual Report and the Minutes of the November Meeting, as well as the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence will be published in the last weeks of December 2024 / first weeks of January 2025. Please watch the [RSC News page](#) for announcements. In the meantime, we wish you a healthy and happy start to the new year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STANDARDS AND METADATA MID-YEAR MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM – 17- 20 MARCH 2025

Key stakeholders in library standards and metadata will gather in Athens from 17 – 20 March 2025 for the [“Standards and Metadata Mid-year Meeting and Symposium”](#). Spearheaded by the [IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards](#) (COS), this event will bring together a diverse group, including COS itself, the Review Groups ([BCM](#), [ISBD](#), [METATEC](#), [UNIMARC](#)), the [IFLA Accessibility Metadata Network](#), along with the [Bibliography](#), [Cataloguing](#) and [Subject Analysis and Access Sections](#).



The programme will feature a dynamic mix of activities. Business and working group meetings will be held on 17 and 18 March, providing a platform for focused discussions and collaborative decision-making. A significant highlight will be the Symposium on 19 March, centered around the theme *"Metadata Standards Matter: Building a Sustainable Future for Information."* Finally, on 20 March, participants will have the opportunity to engage in enriching library visits.

Event location: [National Library of Greece](#), Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Athens, Greece.



For registration and more info, visit: <https://iflacos.eu/index.php/registration/>

WLIC 2025 WEBSITE NOW LIVE!

The WLIC 2025, Astana Kazakhstan website went live in December 2024!

Check it out here <https://2025.ifla.org/> and visit regularly for updates.

