

News from RDA

Renate Behrens
Chair RDA Steering Committee
September 2024

Organisational Structure

- The RDA standard is controlled by two committees. These are the RDA Board for strategic decisions and the RDA Steering Committee at the working level.
- Regional representation is an integral part of both bodies.

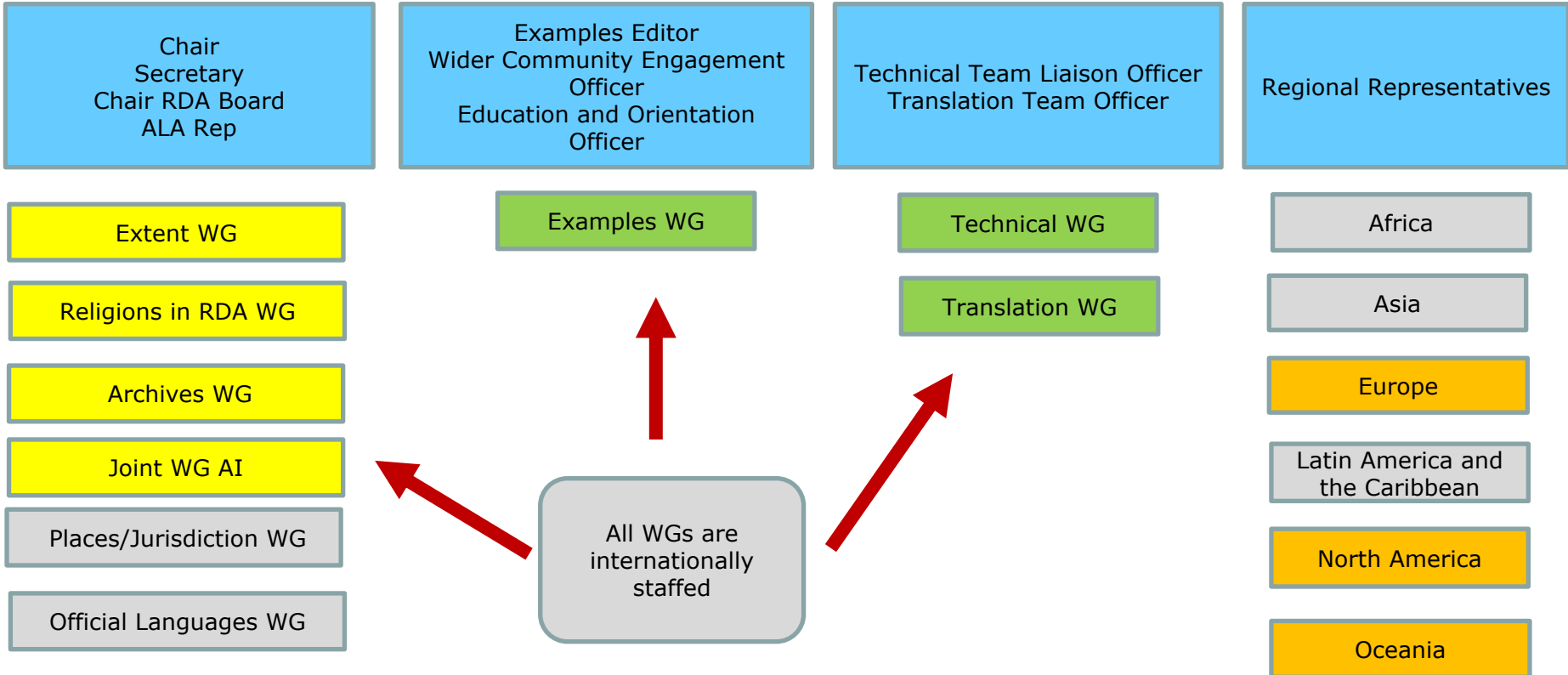
Regions

- All regions are now represented on the RDA Board.
- In contrast, there are still no members from Asia, Africa and Latin America on the RSC.



RDA Steering Committee

<http://rda-rsc.org/rsc-members>



RDA Steering Committee

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Chair

Renate Behrens (GER)

Secretary

Anne Welsh (GB)

Chair RDA Board

Colleen Barbus (US)

ALA Representative

James Hennelly (US)

Examples Editor

Jessica Grzegorski (US)

Wider Community Engagement Officer

Charlene Chou (US)

Education and Orientation Officer

Elisa Sze (CAN)

Technical Team Liaison Officer

Damian Iseminger (US)

Translation Team Officer

Szabolcs Dancs (HUN)

Regional Representatives

Charlotte Christensen
(ORDAC/New Zealand)

Ahava Cohen (EURIG/
Israel)

Robert Maxwell
(NARDAC/US)

Internationalisation

- The RSC is aware that the standard in its current form is not completely international and needs to be revised at some points.
- Many steps have been taken to remove the Anglo-American focus from RDA in the last years and the topic is a priority in the committee's ongoing work. Worldwide communities expressly support this approach and are heavily involved here.
- All RSC working groups have an important task here and are therefore as international as possible.

Translation Working Group – Standing WG

- One of the standing Working Groups is for RDA translators worldwide.
- This group provides support for ongoing work and serves as a forum for dialogue between translators.
- A meeting of this working group takes place as part of the annual EURIG meeting.
- The current chair is Szabolcs Dancs from the Hungarian National Library.

Technical Working Group – Standing WG

This working group has existed for many years. It holds a key position as it is responsible for the entire technical implementation in the Toolkit and in the Registry.

The current chair is Damian Iseminger from the Library of Congress, US.

Examples Working Group – Standing WG

- The WG was set up in January 2024 and assists the RDA Examples Editor in developing RDA examples.
- It supports RDA communities in creating RDA examples for local practices.
- Furthermore, it supports the interchange and reuse of examples in different RDA translations and across different communities of RDA users.
- Chair is Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor, Northwestern University, Chicago, US.

Task-and-finish RSC Working Groups

These Working Groups are usually set up for a period of two years. The term can be extended if necessary.

- Extent (term extended until end 2024)
- Religions in RDA (term extended until end 2024)
- Place/Jurisdiction (work completed by the end of 2023)
- Official Languages (work completed by the end of 2023)
- Joint WG Artificial Intelligence of the RDA Board and the RSC since Spring 2024
- New Archives WG expected in Autumn 2024

Wider Community Engagement Officer

- The RDA Steering Committee wants to be as international as possible. Unfortunately, not all regions of the world are yet represented in the RSC.
- However, there is also a contact person for these communities. This is the position of the Wider Community Engagement Officer.
- Charlene Chou from the New York University, US currently fulfils this role and is happy to support all communities that do not yet have their own Regional Representative.

Education and Orientation Officer

- The RSC has had an Education and Orientation Officer position for several years. This position was newly created after the 3R project and converted into a permanent RSC position in 2023.
- The EOO supports all communities with handouts and webinars and is the contact person for all questions that arise in this area for the user communities.
- The current position holder is Elisa Sze from the University of Toronto, Canada.

Revision Process

- During the 3R project, the Toolkit text was frozen and only minor changes were made to the Beta Toolkit.
- Since 2020, Discussion Papers, Proposals and Fast Tracks can once again be submitted via the regional representatives, which are brought to the RSC meetings on a quarterly basis.
- The process for submitting Proposals or Discussion Papers to revise RDA is described here <https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/submitting-proposals>.

Revision Process

Actual under discussion

- Discussion paper from the Extent Working Group
- Proposal from ORDAC about Dual-naming of Corporate Body and Place
- Fast Tracks

Approved in 2024

- Proposal to revise the element hierarchy for appellations of work groups
- Fast Track to Add Region PAL the RDA Regional Encoding Vocabulary of Music
- Fast Track Proposal on “content from type or plates”
- Fast Track Proposal for Revising Data Provenance Guidance

Releases RDA Toolkit

- All changes to the RDA Toolkit are incorporated into the regular releases and are visible to all users.
- Quarterly releases are currently taking place, from 2025 there will only be three.
- Policy statements (e.g. British Library and LC/PCC) and other translations (e.g. Finnish) will be added regularly.

The RDA Registry

- The RDA Registry contains vocabularies that represent the RDA entities, elements, and controlled terminologies as RDA element sets and RDA value vocabularies in Resource Description Framework (RDF).
- The RDA Registry is updated regularly.

Community Resources

- Content that conforms to RDA but is specific to particular user communities and are therefore not official RDA texts approved by the RSC.
- The access model is divided into ‘partner organisations’ and ‘contributing organisations’.
- The CR also include the legacy instructions from the Original Toolkit.

Community Resources

- The Community Resources space has been rebuilt so that it can host contributions from a broad range of RDA Toolkit subscribers.
- Contributions to the CR space can be made through using the RDA content management system or the HTML editor available on the Toolkit.
- Contributors to the CR space must first be approved by the RDA Steering Committee.
- An online form for contributors is provided since the March 2024 RDA Toolkit Release.

International Cooperation

- Like all other standards, RDA must ensure that it is compatible and follows basic models such as the IFLA Library Reference Model.
- The RSC has official protocols for this (see next slide).
- It also works together with other cataloguing bodies worldwide.
- The RSC also regularly exchanges information with committees and interest groups on application standards such as BIBFRAME.

Official Protocols

- The RSC and the IFLA Committee on Standards signed an official protocol in August 2024 that regulates their cooperation.
- The RSC has further protocols, e.g. with the ISSN International Centre and the MARC Advisory Committee.
- All protocols must be updated regularly and can only be agreed with an existing organisational unit.

Focal points for the near future

- Internationalisation
- Cooperation with other standardising bodies for compatibility
- Collaboration with communities in the creation of their own RDA application profiles
- Broadening the focus on cultural heritage

Switchover to the Official RDA Toolkit



The countdown clock for the Original Toolkit begins in May 2026 and runs for one year.

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