Resource Description and Access (RDA)

Session1: What is RDA, Who is responsible, When was it implemented

Mr M'kulama Abel C.M
Email: abelmkulama@gmail.com

The University of Zambia

Department of library and information science (LIS)

RDA, 2017
UNZA,
Education, LIS
Lusaka

Departmnet of library and infromation science

What is RDA?

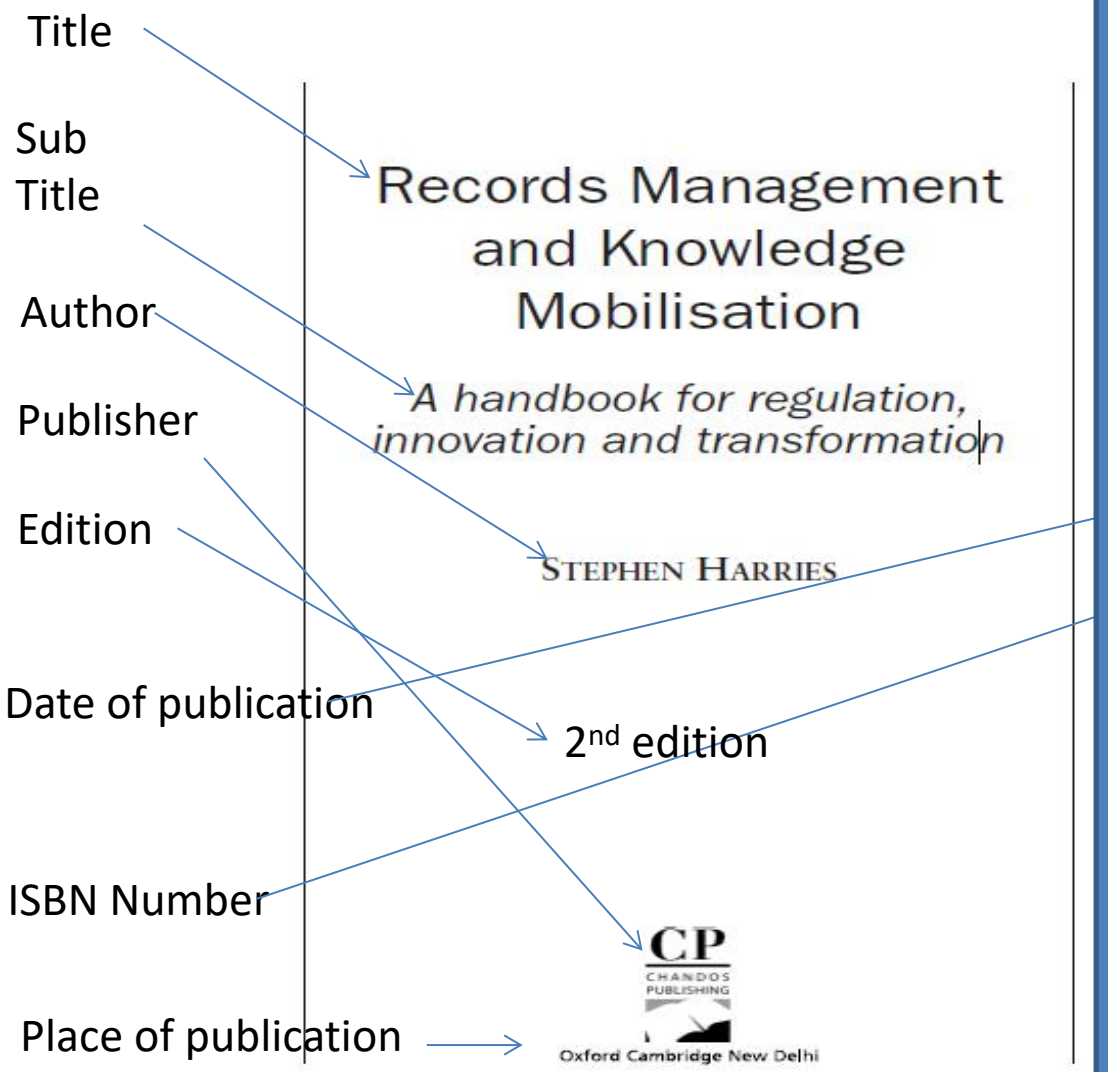
"RDA is a **content standard**, not a display standard & not a metadata schema.

-RDA is a set of **guidelines** that indicate how to **describe** a resource, focusing on the pieces of information (or its attributes) that a user is most likely to need to know.

- RDA encourages the description of **relationships** between related resources & **between resources** & **persons** or **bodies** that contributed to creation of that resource." (Oliver, 2007)

Example of Bibliographic Information

Attributes/Elements of an informa



RDA guides cataloguers on how to deal with bibliographic content in order to create bibliographic records.

How/where to find bibliographic information & how to enter it in the catalogue:

- Author
- Title
- Publisher
- Edition
- Date
- ISBN

What RDA is not

RDA is not a display standard or metadata schema

What is a display standard and/or metadata schema?

- **Schema** = outline, internal representation, a structure
- **Display standard/ metadata schema?**
  - –structure, outline, representation for arranging & displaying bibliographic information
  - –Bibligraphic information is the information that is entered in the catalogue to assist with user needs (FISO)

Examples of metadata Standards

- **International standard bibliographic description (ISBD)**
  - **–Covers a range of standards:**
    - ISBD (Monograph), ISBD (Catographic Material), ISBD (Electronic Resources), ISBD (Serials)
- **MARC (Machine Readable Cataloguing)**
  - **– has gone through some changes to accommodate RDA**
  - **–RDA not specifically tide to ISBD like AACR2**
- Dublin Core

Specification of the examples for the Consolidated edition

Arrangement and labeling of the examples

The examples are arranged alphabetically by language of cataloguing. This is followed by an index.

All areas of description are assigned to each example in table format as follows:

Area 0: Content form and media type area

Area 1: Title and statement of responsibility area

Area 2: Edition area

Area 3: Material or type of resource specific area

Area 4: Publication, production, distribution, etc., area

Area 5: Material description area

Area 6: Series and multipart monographic resource area

Area 7: Note area

Area 8: Resource identifier and terms of availability area

ISBD gives us the eight areas required to describe an information resource and how they should be arranged

What RDA is not

ISBD Punctuation

Title Proper (GMD) = Parallel title : other title info / First statement of responsibility ; others. -- Edition information. -- Material. -- Place of Publication : Publisher Name, Date. -- Material designation and extent ; Dimensions of item. -- (Title of Series / Statement of responsibility). -- Notes. -- Standard numbers: terms of availability (qualifications).

What RDA is

RDA is a content standard

RDA thus focuses on how to deal with bibliographic data (**content**) in describing information resources

A Set Rules for Cataloguing: “rules/guidelines that indicates how to **describe** a resource, focusing on the pieces of information (or attributes) that a **user** is most likely to need to know.

- **What attributes do you use to look for books or information? Discuss**

RDA, the content standard

- Replaces AACR2 and removes Anglo-American bias
- Informed by **FRBR and FRAD**
- Designed for use in the **digital environment**
- Consistent, flexible and extensible
- Compatible with international principles, models and standards (IFLA principle, ISBD, MARC, Dublin Core, etc.) (Crosswalk)
- Focus on organizing information for the benefit of the user (FISO)
- Useable outside the library community (Archival institutions, Heritage sites and Museums)

RDA's general Objectives & Principles

- **Convenience of user** (FRBR & FRAD)
- **Cost efficiency:** Meet user tasks at minimal cost
- **Flexibility:** data should be responsive to use in a variety of environments
- **Continuity:** Amenable to integrate into existing databases (AACR databases)
- **Defensible,** not arbitrary it contradicts logic, take a defensible, practical solution (Cataloguers judgement)

RDA's General Objectives & Principles

- **Representation:** data about a resources must reflect representation of a resource itself. E.g. A chosen name for a person must be one common in the resource. (E.g. Paul Ngozi not Paul Nyirongo)
- **Common usage:** Transcribed data from the resource should reflect common usage
  - E.g. Princess Nakatindi Winna not Nakatindi Wina
  - Football not Soccer for Zambian users
  - Soccer not Football for American users

RDA's General Objectives & Principles

- **Accuracy:** Provide supplement information to clarify unintelligible or misleading representation
- **Differentiation:** Data describing a resource should differentiate it from other resources
  - DOB –DOD, NRC
- **Sufficiency and necessity:** Data describing a resource should be sufficient to meet the needs of users.

RDA's General Objectives & Principles

- **Relationships:** descriptions should indicate relationships between resources described and others (How do entity items relate with entities person, corporate body and family)
- **Attribution:** Records of relationships should adequately reflect attribution of responsibility
- **Uniformity:** Data describing a resource must be uniform, hence instructions in appendices

Who is responsible for RDA ?

- RDA was developed by the Joint steering Committee (JSC), also responsible for the developing AACR2
  - RDA is rooted in standards including: ISBD, AACR2, Ranganathan's laws, Cutter Principles, Lubetzky)
- 1961 Paris statement at the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles = AACR published 1967
- 1969 Copenhagen meeting = ISBD (Covering standards including ISBD for single and multi volume monographs, ISBD for E- resources, etc)
- 2005: "the changes made to AACR2 had sufficient implications" to warrant a new one, "instead of calling it AACR3, published as RDA"
- JSC consulted various LIS associations to feed into RDA code

When was RDA implemented?

- Published as an online version in 2010
- Under pressure from the cataloguing community, JSC published a **print version**
  - JSC, American Library Association (ALA) (lead publishers) stressed that RDA was conceived as an online code, to be able to fully benefit, use it in online environments
- **Adoption and use consistently rising**
- National workshops and Curriculum development & integration working as important routes to adoption of RDA
  - **UNZA LIB Adoption and implementing in 2018**

Why do we need to Know/Switch to RDA?

1. The modern information environment
   - *Volume, variety and velocity of information production*
     - *Volume – colossal amounts*
     - *Variety - Different formats (Print, Pdf, audio, Epub, etc)*
     - *Velocity – Fast, haste, alacrity*

2. Librarians, needed a much simpler yet standard way to describe the new forms of intellectual output

Why do we need to Switch to RDA?

3. Changes in Information Resources
   - *Information resources have transformed beyond the printed book*
   - proliferation of copies of resources in different physical format
   - *The Google project, Smart Technologies, etc.*

Why do we need to Switch to RDA?

4. The Catalog now
   - *AACR rules were developed for old linear systems (e.g. emphasis on 3x 5 cards)*
   - *Not able to handles resources and user needs in the 21st centaury & beyond*
   - *Catalogues now are more robust and Sophisticated, requiring a robust and sophisticated cataloguing system*

Why do we need to Switch to RDA?

5. Changes in Users, User Activities and Library Collections

- *library users have a different set of information skills from those of just a few decades ago*
- *Other databases seem to offer better than library catalogues*
- *Information resources and sources have become things that are much less embodied*

Why we need to Switch to RDA in Summary

- "Key factors contributing to the change have been the introduction and on going development of automated systems for the creation and processing of bibliographic data, and the growth of large-scale databases, both national and international in scope, that contain records contributed and used by thousands of libraries participating in shared cataloguing programs. The growth of shared cataloguing has been spurred not only by the opportunities that new technologies bring with them but also by an increasing need to reduce cataloguing costs by minimizing duplicate cataloguing effort."

Thank for listening

- Questions please