

## Resource Description and Access [RDA]

In April 2005, the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR and the Committee of Principals for AACR affirmed the goals in the Strategic Plan for AACR. They affirmed that a new edition of the code is the best way to achieve those goals, but agreed that a new approach was required.

The current environment is very different from that in which AACR2 was developed: digital resources pose new challenges, and the records produced by the rules are used in a digital environment.

Although the content of the new edition will be built on AACR2, and records resulting from use of the new edition will be compatible with those created in the past, what is being developed is in effect a new standard for resource description and access, designed for the digital world.

The new approach will have the following features:

- ✓ the structure will be aligned more directly with the FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) and FRAR (Functional Requirements for Authority Records) models;
- ✓ instructions for recording data will be presented independently of guidelines for data presentation;
- ✓ the layout and formatting of instructions will be more “user-friendly”.

The rules will be divided into two parts: the first will cover resource description and access; the second will cover access point control — the formulation of name and title access points and other data used for authority control.

Guidelines for the presentation of both descriptive data (e.g. ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic Description)) and authority data (e.g. GARR (Guidelines for Authority Records and References)) will be covered in appendices.

To signify the change in direction, the JSC has decided on a new working title: “Resource Description and Access” (RDA).

A prospectus outlining the new approach has been prepared to facilitate consultation with stakeholders and to provide context for constituency review of the individual parts of RDA as they become available. The prospectus will be accompanied by tables of contents for the General Introduction and both parts.

Publication of the new code is expected in 2008.

Further information on RDA will be posted on the following sites:

- ✓ Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR  
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/>
- ✓ RDA Prospectus  
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rdaprospectus.html>
- ✓ RDA discussion list  
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rdadiscuss.html>
- ✓ ALA/ALCTS/CCS/Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access  
<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/>
- ✓ *RDA Online* prototype  
<http://www.alaonline.org>