Metadata &
Discovery
Group

UKCoR, EURIG, the RSC, CILIP and you
a personal perspective

Anastasia Kerameos

Acquisitions & Metadata Librarian, British Film Institute and Chair of UKCoR

ABSTRACT

This article is an introduction to the role UKCoR, EURIG, the RSC, CILIP and the wider metadata community play in the development of the Resource Description and Access (RDA) cataloguing standard.

CONTACT Anastasia Kerameos ✉ anastasia.kerameos@bfi.org.uk ⌂ British Film Institute

Introduction

What do UKCoR, EURIG, the RSC and CILIP have in common, apart from being acronyms? RDA of course!

Who are they? In a nutshell, the UK Committee on RDA (UKCoR), which started life as the CILIP-BL Committee on RDA, represents the interests of the UK's library and information professional community. The European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) represents the interests of its European members. The RDA Steering Committee (RSC), previously the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC), maintains the Resource Description and Access (RDA) international cataloguing standard. CILIP (the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) is, amongst its other roles, co-publisher and copyright holder of RDA.

How does it all work? When I first took on the roles of CILIP representative to EURIG and UKCoR Chair in 2024 I had to draw a diagram to make sense of it. I'm that kind of person. It takes a robust structure, many people and a lot of effort to develop and maintain an international cataloguing standard. The main elements are the RDA Board, the RSC and the co-publishers of the RDA Toolkit. Let's shelve the first and last for the moment and focus on the RSC.

The RSC

As stated in the latest *Policies and Procedures for RSC Operations* document, "the RSC is responsible for the development and content of the RDA standard. Revisions,

consolidations, additions, and other changes may be made to RDA only with RSC approval." (RDA Steering Committee, 2025, p. 1) This structure ensures that all voices are heard, robust discussions are had, and decisions are well-considered before any changes are made to the standard itself. A vital element in this process, as can be seen from the below, is feedback from the community.

"The RSC will:

• Annually update a three-year rolling plan, which includes a development program, based on expertise and user consultation
• Use defined working practices to develop the standard
• Liaise with the RDA user communities via the regional representatives
• Oversee working groups
• Advise the RDA Board and RDA Fund Trustees on programs and activities appropriate for the receipt of financial support from the RDA Fund
• Collaborate strategically with other international groups." (RDA Steering Committee, 2025, p. 2)

The RSC relies on the work of its officers: Chair, Secretary, Education & Orientation officer, Examples Editor, Technical Team Liaison officer, Translation Team Liaison officer, Wider Community Engagement Officer. A key opportunity for UK practitioners to meet several of the team will be at UKCoR's RDA Day event which will take place on 13 March 2026 in Bristol. It is a great pleasure to announce that Renate Behrens, the current Chair of the RSC, will be the keynote speaker for the day and is indeed also attending the full MDG conference (Metadata & Discovery Group, 2025).

As RDA is an international standard, the RSC places great importance on representation from all communities and is working to establish regional groups for each of the geographic regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Oceania. El Grupo RDA América Latina y el Caribe (Grupo RDA ALyC), the most recent addition, was officially established in January 2025 (Quiroz Ubierna, 2025); Africa and Asia are the last groups which have yet to be established.

An area which will be of interest to UK practitioners is the RSC's work with other international groups. It has established agreements with IFLA[1], ISSN[2], LC Network Development and MARC Standards Office[3], and the Share Family[4]. In addition to the work of its Working Groups (Examples, Technical, Translations, Artificial Intelligence, Religions, Archives, and Extent), the RDA/MARC 21 Alignment Task Force and the MARC/RDA Working Group[5] will be of particular interest to those who want to better

[1] https://www.ifla.org/
[2] https://www.issn.org/
[3] https://www.loc.gov/marc/ndmso.html
[4] https://www.share-family.org/
[5] https://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/MARC-RDA_Working_Group.html

understand what it means to catalogue in RDA when the encoding system you use is MARC21. The alignment between RDA elements and MARC21 encodings are incorporated in the element pages within the RDA Toolkit, but also freely available as a list via the RDA Registry site[6].

If I have managed to pique your interest in the work of the RSC then there are agreements, policy documents, strategic plans, proposals and responses, related resources, news announcements and more, all of which are openly available online[7] to anyone with an interest in the history of cataloguing standards. More importantly, the RDA Toolkit website[8], which is where all information related to the RDA standard now lives, is the place to go for up-to-date news on RDA whether it be notices of meetings, news of appointments, announcements on proposals and discussion papers, presentations or Toolkit release notes. And of course, the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel[9] content is a must!

EURIG

Each regional RSC group has members. For EURIG, eligibility for becoming a member and entitlement afforded by membership are defined in Articles 3 and 5 respectively of the EURIG Cooperation Agreement, dated 3rd May 2019.

Membership:

- Any European national bibliographic agency
- Other European institutions and organisations with an interest in the use and implementation of cataloguing codes in Europe
- Other agencies, institutions or organisations with a demonstrable interest and commitment to RDA that would not otherwise be represented by an RDA region. (EURIG Cooperation Agreement, 2019, pp. 1-2)

Entitlement:

- Attendance at General and Special meetings of EURIG members
- Participation in all discussions
- Putting forward motions
- Serving on Working Groups (EURIG Cooperation Agreement, 2019)

EURIG currently has fifty-four members, of which four are from the UK: the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, BDS (Bibliographic Data Services Ltd.) and of course CILIP. The CILIP representative to EURIG is nominated by UKCoR and serves on both the UKCoR and the Metadata & Discovery Group (MDG, a CILIP Special Interest

---

[6] https://www.rdaregistry.info/Aligns/alignRDA2M21B.html for MARC Bibliographic and https://www.rdaregistry.info/Aligns/alignRDA2M21A.html for MARC Authority.
[7] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc
[8] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/
[9] https://www.youtube.com/@RDAToolkitVideo

Group) committees. They also serve as a member of the EURIG Editorial Committee. Yes, just like an onion there are many layers and I'm only touching the surface here! Do you see now why a diagram was needed? I should add that it's not always the case that the CILIP representative to EURIG is elected as Chair to UKCoR. It just happened that way at the last vote.

EURIG members meet annually, with communication taking place throughout the year via email and online collaboration tools. While I have been in post EURIG has not submitted to the RSC any proposals for changes to the standard; responses have however been submitted to several proposals put forward by other groups. Topics under discussion in 2025 included: aggregates and diachronic works, the Corporate Body entity, and numerals associated with given names. The current call for comments has come from the Extent Working Group, set up as a Task and Finish group, who have submitted eight documents of recommendations on developing the extent elements in RDA[10].

UKCoR

Whilst EURIG seeks input from its members, those members are in some cases representing the views and interests of their own institutions and in other cases expected to represent the interest of smaller groups and individuals within their communities. UKCoR represents the interests of all UK metadata professionals who use, or plan to use, the RDA standard.

UKCoR's constitution was updated and revised earlier this year.

"The committee shall be the national committee in the UK responsible for contributing to the development and maintenance of Resource Description and Access (RDA). The functions of the committee shall be:

1. to contribute to the RDA development programme, and to the maintenance and governance of RDA;

2. to represent the interests of the UK library and information professional community regarding all aspects of RDA;

3. to ensure that representatives of the RDA Europe Region are briefed on the position of the UK Community regarding all aspects of the governance, development and maintenance of RDA;

4. to support implementation and development of RDA in the UK." (UK Committee on RDA, 2025, p. 1)

UKCoR works in collaboration with other groups and organisations to deliver those objectives, employing a variety of methods and engaging in activities which ensure the

---

[10] https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/extent-working-group

committee's limited resources are put to best use. As the countdown begins to 11 May 2027, the date when Original RDA will no longer be available as an interactive resource, much of the committee's focus will be on supporting the UK community in making the transition from Original to Official RDA. Having said that, we know that we need to continue to provide for every level of interest and to cover both theory and practice, ranging from complete beginner to specific questions on implementation. The UK metadata community's input is key to this work.

UKCoR would like to thank:

- the editors of Catalogue & Index for allowing us to take over the December issue;
- everyone who took the time to complete the RDA in the UK implementation survey, the results of which are published in this same issue;
- MDG Scotland (MDGS) for hosting an RDA Agony Aunt chat during their November lunchtime MDGS Bites session - some great questions were submitted for that session which we will be returning to over the next few months;
- WHELF and MDG for hosting and running an UnCataloguing workshop in the summer;
- MDG for continuing to embrace RDA Day as the closing party to their conference;
- CILIP for hosting our web page and engaging with us to improve access to RDA-related resources for their members and the wider community.

Your year-round opportunity to engage with UKCoR and others in the UK on anything RDA is via our discussion list, LIS-RDA@jiscmail.ac.uk[11]. This is where the committee and the wider community post items such as announcements of forthcoming RDA-related activities; RSC Proposal and Discussion Papers to which feedback is sought; updates on the activities of projects, Working groups and Task & Finish groups. It is your space to ask any RDA-related question no matter how basic you think it may be and share your RDA-related experiences for the benefit of others. The committee will on occasion post questions and case studies, but the real power lies with the individuals who come together to form a community that openly debates, shares and actively engages.

CILIP

At this point let me bring the RDA Board and the RDA Toolkit back off the shelf. The RDA Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the development of RDA and for its delivery via the Toolkit and print products. CILIP, as co-publisher and co-copyright holder, has a seat on that board. The current CILIP representative to the RDA Board is Jenny Wright. The RDA Copyright Holders' Agreement, valid to 31 August 2028, details the responsibilities of each party and the territories from which they

---

[11] https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=LIS-RDA

receive royalties ([Resource Description and Access (RDA) Copyright Holders Agreement 2023, 2023](#)).

In its previous incarnation (the CILIP-BL Committee on RDA) UKCoR was described on the CILIP website as an Associate group. As CILIP redesigns its website and member offer, UKCoR have been invited to upgrade the content offered via the committee's page[12], contribute more widely to CILIP's training offer and recommend the inclusion of RDA related resources. As the UK's champion for the information sector, CILIP has an important role to play across all elements which affect metadata work - from standards to suppliers, education, recruitment and advocacy - and very specifically RDA.

You

In conclusion, why should you care? This may be the smallest section of this article by far, but it's an important one.

If, like me, you are a metadata professional (hopeful, new or old hand – I occupy all three worlds!) then you are a crucial part of this ecosystem and have a role to play even if your institution has no intention of implementing RDA in the near future. As professionals, our skills and knowledge must develop according to the latest requirements of our profession, regardless of our current employer's expectations of us. We are also the only ones who can drive change. RDA may seem extremely daunting at first but, as with most things, when you actively engage with it you will come to a lightbulb moment after which it simply becomes your new norm. And that's a promise.

References

EURIG Cooperation Agreement (2019). Available at: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/rsc/EURIG%20Cooperation%20Agreement%202019.pdf [Accessed 9 December 2025]

Extent Working Group (2025). Available at: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc/extent-working-group [Accessed 9 December 2025]

Metadata & Discovery Group (2025) *MDG Conference 2026*. Available at: https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201298&id=1113783 [Accessed 9 December 2025]

Quiroz Ubierna, Á. (2025) *Official Announcement: Creation and acceptance of the RDA Latin America and the Caribbean Group (RDA-ALyC)*. Available at: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/news/latinamerica/official-announcement-creation-and-acceptance-rda-latin-america-and-caribbean [Accessed 9 December 2025]

RDA Steering Committee (2025). Available at: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rsc [Accessed 9 December 2025]

---

[12] https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/UKCoR

RDA Steering Committee (2025) *Policies and Procedures for RSC Operations*. Available at: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RSC_Operations_1_2025.pdf [Accessed 9 December 2025]

RDA/MARC 21 Alignment Task Force (2025) 'Alignment from RDA elements to MARC 21 Authority encodings' in *RDA Registry*. Available at: https://www.rdaregistry.info/Aligns/alignRDA2M21A.html [Accessed 9 December 2025]

RDA/MARC 21 Alignment Task Force (2025) 'Alignment from RDA elements to MARC 21 Bibliographic encodings' in *RDA Registry*. Available at: https://www.rdaregistry.info/Aligns/alignRDA2M21B.html [Accessed 9 December 2025]

Resource Description and Access (RDA) Copyright Holders Agreement 2023 (2023). Available at: https://www.rdatoolkit.org/sites/default/files/uploads/RDA%20Copyright%20Holders%20Agreement%202023-28%20signed.pdf [Accessed 9 December 2025]

UK Committee on RDA (no date). Available at: https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/UKCoR [Accessed 9 December 2025]

UK Committee on RDA (2025) *UK Committee on RDA Constitution*. Available at: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cilip.org.uk/resource/resmgr/cilip/community/committee/ukcor_constitution_2025_rev.pdf [Accessed 9 December 2025]