RDA in the Fifth Information Age: entity, identity, authority

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Fifth information age

Person reads Book

- creates
- edits
- translates
- performs

reproduces publishes describes etc.

Ranganathan’s model

Text
Still image
Performed music
Two-dimensional moving image
Computer program etc.

--- embodied in ---
Online resource
Audiocassette
Videodisc etc.

Age of the internet, smart devices, and the (Semantic) Web
LRM/RDA model

Agent

Collective Agent

Person

Corporate Body

Family

entity subtypes

related ... of agent

Work

Expression

Manifestation

Item

Recorded memory

(Local) culture

“primary” relationships

Real persons

Recorded memory
Identifying individuals

Individual “things” are members of an entity class

The boundary of an individual may be:
- Physical (manifestation, person, place, timespan, etc.)
- Cultural (work, expression, family, etc.)

Individuals may be assigned a label:
- For quick reference
- To distinguish them from each other
Labels for individuals

Labels are strings (of characters, symbols, etc.)
Categorized by the kind of agent who assigns the label

Names and titles, assigned by:
- Creators (works, expressions, manifestations)
- Local agencies (agents, places, timespans)
- Uncontrolled, unstructured

Access points, assigned by:
- Metadata agencies
  - Controlled, structured

Identifiers, assigned by:
- Metadata agencies
  - Controlled identifiers

International resource identifiers (IRIs) are not strings
Direct representation of individuals (things)
Strings as things

Labels are known as “nomen strings”
A nomen is a thing that represents the string and allows the string to be described and related to other nomen strings

Authority control
Who assigned the nomen string?
How is the string constructed (string encoding scheme)? What is its script or language?
What other labels are assigned to the same entity?
Strings or things

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Strings or things

person access point "Burns, Robert, 1759-1796"

person access point nomen

nomen string "Burns, Robert, 1759-1796"

assigned by agent NACO

equivalent to “Бернс, Роберт, 1759-1796”

scheme of nomen VIAF
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Data provenance

manifestation → carrier type → "audiocassette"

(metadata) work

creator agent of work → (cataloguer) agent

related manifestation of work → (RDA Toolkit) manifestation

source consulted → "Publisher catalogue"
Many metadata sources

Any agent can describe any entity
  Cataloguers (trained)
  Publishers (self-interested)
  The crowd (social mediated)

Manage multiple sources using data provenance

Integrate multiple sources using semantic inferencing
  “Dumb-up” fine-grained statements to lowest common level - automatic process using RDA class and element hierarchies

Retain original metadata; convert in bulk or on the fly
Summary

RDA provides tools for the $5^{\text{th}}$ Information Age:

- Full set of entity and element hierarchies for a wide range of data granularity
- Appellation elements for cultural contexts
  Nomens for authority control
- Self-referential model for data provenance
- Assured level of interoperability for multiple sources with local choices of data granularity, values, and implementation scenarios
Thank you!

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