

Implementation of the standard “Resource Description and Access (RDA)” in Latvian libraries and translation of RDA values and terms

The report summarizes the experience of the National Library of Latvia (NLL) – the methodological center of Latvian libraries in data creation and development of data standards – in implementing a new data model, emphasizing the importance of related terminology in the Latvian language. Since the transition to RDA started in 2013 with the introduction of international library community to the standard, the reason for the decision to translate only the RDA Reference (data elements, their definitions, related scope notes, and value vocabulary terms and definitions.) is provided.

Afterwards the authors analyze the radical differences of the RDA model in comparison with the previously used AACR2 standard and related modeling practices, as well as the related linguistic and terminological aspects. Problems during translation are outlined, as well as principles and solutions for correct reproduction of RDA terms and their explanations in Latvian. The objective has been described: to respect the peculiarities of the Latvian language and the cross-compliance of the terms expressed in English, without making it mandatory to achieve a lexical equality. An overview is provided on how the term translation process succeeded in introducing appropriate terminology so that the designated term can be used throughout the translation and related documents within the relevant meaning. The role of recommendations and experience of specialists from other countries in the implementation of RDA is emphasized.

Finally, the influence of RDA terms on the common data model of Latvia memory institutions for the unified discovery of cultural heritage digital resources is also outlined.

Maira Kreislere

National Library of Latvia, Head of the Data and Knowledge Management Department

Inta Virbule

National Library of Latvia, Data and Knowledge Management Department, Standardization expert