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Report from DACH and from the Europe Region Representative to the RDA Steering Committee

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RDA

The RDA Restructuring and Redesign Project (3R Project) will come to an end in the near future. On April, 30 the new RDA Toolkit will be released in the English version. For all user communities the adaption processes will start which include mostly the translation and the adjustment of existing policy statements and working documents.

It is estimated that these adaption projects in the communities will last until the end of this year. At the end of 2019 the RDA Steering Committee (RSC) and the RDA Board will come together to decide when the 3R Project will be completed officially. This specific date is important for any RDA user, because from that day on the "old" RDA Toolkit will be provided for one more year only.

The European RDA Interest Group (EURIG) has decided to work together in this context as close as possible. As most of the European countries have to translate the standard wholly or partially, terminology is an important topic. So a translators' meeting will take place in conjunction with the EURIG annual meeting on 2/3, May in Budapest as a start of this cooperation.

In the last year we planned a 3R-DACH project in the German-speaking countries for all the adaption work which will be needed. The project will be executed by the Office for Library Standards in the German National Library in coordination with our partners and under the umbrella of the Committee for Library Standards.

We started with the translation of the RDA Registry. This means not only translation but a lot of consultation and coordination within the community, because it is essential to ensure conformity in terms which will be used in every day work. Our translation team consists of two colleagues from the DNB and one from the Swiss National Library.

The DNB is as well part of the Policy Statement Working Group. Together with the British Library we give support to the RSC Technical Working Group chair and to ALA in planning the implementation process for the policy statements from the old Toolkit to the new Toolkit website. In this context it has become clear that a general revision of our policy statements will not be possible in this first step. We have to bring them into the new structure and have to make sure that everything will be inserted in the right place. Nevertheless, we started with first inquiries in our working groups within the DACH-community about their experience in using the actual policy statements for a fundamental revision later on.

At the end of June, the expert group for cataloguing will meet in the DNB for two days to plan further steps in the 3R-DACH project. The most important topics will be ensuring conformity of the terminology, the implementation of the existing policy statements, and the revision of related work documents if needed, as well as a new training concept.

The German-speaking community estimates a full implementation of the new RDA, as well as the implementation of the new Toolkit in daily practice not before the beginning of the year 2021.

RSWK

As RDA do not provide regulations for subject cataloguing, the German-speaking community uses in this context the existing rules "Regeln für die Schlagwortkatalogisierung". Two years ago an interim update of this standard was made and the Committee for Library Standards assigned a working group to work out a new standard for subject cataloguing in the near future as an application profile to RDA. This new standard should primarily cover intellectual cataloguing but the working group should also take into account automatic cataloguing. The group started with this task and as a first result worked out a definition for quality criteria for subject cataloguing.

Rare and special materials

Our work with specialized communities and for special materials progressed. Actually we have working groups for manuscripts, old books, graphic materials, literary archives, art books and the newest one that is currently under development will be for audiovisual materials. All of them come together once a year, represented by their chairs, as a platform for all these groups. Here they have the opportunity to share their tasks and to align their work. For example, we came together some weeks ago in March and had a one-day workshop on the definition of work titles in the different contexts.

RNAB

The oldest of the working groups for special communities deals with cataloguing in literary archives. They updated their existing standard according to RDA and actualized it. In a few weeks this first application profile for RDA and the resources in literary archives will be published. It is a first approach in this direction worked out under the lead of the Austrian Literary Archive in Vienna, the Swiss Literary Archive in Berne and the State Library in Berlin, and monitored by the Office for Library Standards at the DNB and an expert team from museums, archives and libraries. The new standard RNAB (Rules for cataloguing with authority data in archives and libraries) is based on the current RDA and it was clear that it has to be revised in the near future. Nevertheless, the working group voted for its publishing before the end of the 3R project because there is a strong need for the revised standard in this community.

Authority Data

One important topic in the last years concerning authority data has been the opening of the database for more institutions holding cultural heritage.

In December 2018 a conference (GNDCon) took place to bring together interested colleagues from the DACH region from museums, archives and libraries. This well-attended event brought important impulses for our further work in the Office for Library Standards in the DNB and all expert groups. All results were introduced in the relevant actual projects (GND for Cultural Institutions (GND4C), GND meets Wikibase and ORCID-DE).

Application Profiles

The new RDA will provide more of a framework for cataloguing than regulations. So application profiles for work in practice will be needed. The European RDA Interest Group discussed this issue in the last meeting in 2018 in Copenhagen. There was a broad consensus that the members of EURIG do not want to have several manifestations of RDA in the future like RDA-DACH, RDA-Danish, RDA-Italian etc. They agreed that there should be a minimal consensus for an application profile for all resources and, based on this, application profiles for special communities or materials. In September 2018, EURIG recommended the RSC to work out such a general, international application profile. The goal should be an international application profile approved and endorsed by the RSC and available directly via the RDA Toolkit. The RSC welcomed this approach and invited EURIG to work out a draft for a general application profile and an application profile for music.

The DACH community has been working with such a general application profile since the first implementation of RDA in 2016. Based on this, the EURIG Editorial Committee worked out a first draft in winter 2018/19 and sent it to the RSC for comments at the end of March. A draft for an application profile for music will follow later on.

The RSC discussed the draft in a web-conference in mid April and will continue to work on this basis. A working group for Application Profiles will be established in the near future. The RSC hopes to get a first draft for an international basic Application Profile in fall this year and to be able to share it with the communities for comments.

General Data-Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Since last year, we are in the process of adapting all our workflows according to the GDPR. This not only applies particularly to names of persons in the authority file GND but to our official minutes from the committees as well.

Furthermore, we participate in the working group for this topic in the VIAF GDPR and data privacy working group.