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GPO's preparation for RDA: transforming alphabet soup to duck soup.

ALA, June 2012



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GPO's Preparation in CY 2011

The national libraries were expected to announce adoption of the RDA cataloging standard in June 2011 at ALA Annual, New Orleans.

In anticipation of the national libraries' announcement that they were commencing the use of RDA, GPO catalogers began studying RDA in February 2011. Prior to this time there had been informal reading and study, but no formal training program had been started prior to winter 2011.

GPO's study plan was developed using plans outlined by other RDA test libraries and LC. The study plan also utilized webinars (those related to FRBR) and quizzes developed by the Library of Congress for the test.



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GPO's Preparation in CY 2011

- Catalogers studied independently for fifty hours in spring 2011 including the interactive materials they read.
- ALCTS webinars on cataloging using RDA for serials, monographs, maps, electronic resources and special materials were attended by the catalogers.
- Redesign of the interface of the Catalog of Government Publications was initiated to include the new MARC fields 336, 337, 338, the addition of relator codes and to discuss the appearance of the CGP after the removal of the GMD through multiple meetings of catalog support staff and the cataloging team.



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GPO's Preparation in CY2011

- Our catalogers created sample RDA records for Congressional documents, serials, monographs, microfiche and maps were created and shared with the public via the FDLP Web pages and in conference presentations given by LSCM staff.
- Updates about RDA implementation were provided via the FDLP Web pages.



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GPO Preparation in CY 2011

- GPO continued to use the provider-neutral model. PCC adopted continued use of the P-N model until the national RDA implementation, which allowed GPO to continue following separate record policy with only one record per electronic resource for the time being.
- At that time, GPO's implementation of the RDA cataloging standard was tentatively planned for Fall 2011.



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GPO Delays Implementation Plans

Following the national libraries' announcement at ALA Annual in June 2011 that they would delay implementation of the RDA standard, GPO determined to delay implementation as well.



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GPO Delays Implementation Plans

Delaying implementation of the RDA standard had three distinct advantages:

- Allowed staff to learn the new, reworded version of RDA that the Coordinating Committee planned to issue in several iterations over the coming months.
- Increased training opportunities for staff by allowing them to utilize the new RDA training material that LC planned to issue.
- Provided GPO the advantage of adopting updated BIBCO and CONSER policies that aligned with RDA.



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GPO Delays Implementation Plans

GPO staff continued study of RDA standards, attended some webinars, and practiced with exercises.

GPO continued operations while registering for RDA NACO training and following changes in PCC programs as they were announced.



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GPO Plans for RDA Training Updates in 2012

- GPO's ILS tech support section is working on installing upgrades to our ILS (the CGP/Aleph) to support the new MARC fields that have recently been added by the MARC office (i.e., including 344-347 fields).
- GPO has been scheduled for RDA NACO training in October-November 2012.
- GPO will implement a self-study program of RDA (refresher training) and the RDA NACO webinars in September 2012.



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GPO Plans for RDA Training Updates in 2012

- Study sessions may be scheduled for staff.
- Staff will begin inputting at least some full level RDA records in December 2012– many staff may be on leave at that time for the holidays, thus delaying full scale usage of RDA until January.



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GPO Readies Policy for Implementation in Winter 2013

- GPO is in the process of reviewing RDA policy and LC Policy Statements (LCPs) to determine when to create exceptional GPO policies to serve GPO's customers and the depository library community. In many cases, GPO will follow the existing LC Policy Statements that complement RDA.
- GPO's already written several exception policies, some provided internally and some posted externally on the FDLP Web site.



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GPO Readies Policy for Implementation in Winter 2013

- We have posted a local policy decision on capitalization in regard to RDA 1.7.2, and the LCPS posted for RDA A.1. GPO follows capitalization rules laid out in the U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual (2008) and the Chicago Manual of Style, which are the local style manuals followed in our office and our agency.



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GPO Readies Local Policy for Implementation in Winter 2013

Some other examples of GPO local practice:

We will follow LCPS for 2.4.1.4 and 2.4.1.5 and include the entire statement of responsibility without omission.

Many Federal government documents do not properly identify new editions, particularly electronic government documents, so we have long supplied edition statements when necessary , just as is described in the LCPS 2.5.1.4, and we will continue that practice when we start to use RDA.



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GPO Readies Local Policy for Implementation in Winter 2013

Some other examples of GPO local practice:

GPO will follow LCPS 2.10.6 and 2.11 and record any date we can possibly supply, particularly for electronic resources. We will use dates from nearly any place in the electronic resource that we can find to supply a probable date of publication, including source data (although we generally do not use copyright dates). Federal government documents do not always include the information that commercial publications are more likely to supply.



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GPO's treatment of URIs in records

GPO's policy for recording uniform resource locators does not completely fit the existing RDA statement, which is that URIs for nonlinking resources must be removed. LCPS for 4.6.1.4 states that LC will replace a URI if a new location can be easily located, or add a note indicating the date that non-linking resource was no longer available. However, GPO uses PURLs (persistent uniform resource locators), so we will never remove a PURL from a record if that PURL does not link.



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GPO's treatment of URIs in records

Instead, we will redirect the PURL to a working resource, or to an archived copy, or to a “resource permanently unavailable” page (with dated notes). We generally do not remove PURLs from our records once a PURL has been added.

We do not add multiple links for the same resource to a record, even though in rare occasions an agency other than the original publishing agency provides a copy of the same document on its Web site.



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GPO Plans for Implementation in Winter 2013

- It's possible that GPO will only catalog monograph records for some resources before January 2013, when full scale implementation will take place.



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Questions and Answers

Thanks to Robin Haun Mohamed, Laurie Hall, David Hitchings and R.A. Wilson for their assistance.

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