



13 December 2018

To the RDA Steering Committee

During this year's European BIBFRAME Workshop\*) in Fiesole, it became repeatedly clear that there is a large overlap between RDA users and BIBFRAME users. Since its conception, RDA has allowed for a Linked Data implementation, the realization of which is now more than ever a distinct possibility. In this context, the relationship between RDA and BIBFRAME will have to be evaluated in order to allow using both standards' full potentials.

So far, most RDA implementations were and are based on the MARC 21 format, which most likely will be replaced by BIBFRAME. We are rapidly approaching the time when RDA will need to be captured by BIBFRAME either concurrently with the MARC formats or as a replacement for them. Neither MARC 21 nor BIBFRAME, however, are able to accommodate RDA's full granularity – the former because it was established in a pre-RDA-world, and the latter because its scope goes beyond specialized library applications.

BIBFRAME's conceptual model is not fully aligned with FRBR, or with the IFLA LRM, which does, however, form the basis for the post-3R-toolkit. Likewise, the focus in RDA on parsing (granularity) and recording options and in BIBFRAME on relationships and linking has forced BIBFRAME implementations to carefully evaluate the purpose and necessity of some granularity and aspects of the data model. RDA describes the data to include in a description but does not necessarily recommend that each element be separately identified. And there are many options in the accommodation of RDA elements within BIBFRAME, such as extensions, or choosing only those elements that can already be easily represented. Naturally, the question on many participants' minds during the BIBFRAME Workshop was: How will we be able to implement RDA in a native BIBFRAME environment?

The emerging BIBFRAME community would like to propose a working group with the RSC to develop a set of guidelines for the recommended representation of RDA within BIBFRAME. Although these guidelines cannot be prescriptive, they would represent a standardized approach that would both ensure the simplest exchange of data between libraries and a stable representation on which vendors could build services.

We look forward to hearing RSC's reaction to this approach and in resolving this issue to the betterment of both parts of our community.

Best regards,



Leif Andresen

On behalf of

The Organizer Group of the European BIBFRAME Workshop:

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\*) 80 participants from 17 European countries and from US, Canada and Qatar took part in the *European BIBFRAME Tutorial 2018* and *European BIBFRAME Workshop 2018*. See more information at: <http://www.casalini.it/EBW2018/>

PS: A draft for this letter has been distributed to the European BIBFRAME mailing list for comments.