



## COMMUNICATE THE CREATION AND CONFORMATION OF THE RDA WORK COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA

To the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)

To the Standing Committee of the National Libraries Section, IFLA

To the Standing Committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean Section,  
IFLA

To the Standing Committee of the Cataloguing Section, IFLA

To the librarian community of Latin America,

The new RDA (Resource, Description and Access) content standard was created from the willingness to have a standard of international use, adapted to the great variety of current and future media and formats. The availability of the Spanish translation of the RDA content standard, since 2015, emerges as an essential requisite for its dissemination and spreading among the Spanish speaking librarian community. Likewise, this situation ensures that the Spanish-speaking cataloguing community is inserted in a new global context that uses RDA as an international standard.

In the course of the 28th General Assembly of ABINIA (Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo de las Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamérica), parallel to the joint work of the National Libraries of Mexico, Colombia and Argentina, the Mexico RDA Work Group and ABINIA itself, an agreement for the creation and configuration of the RDA Work Committee for Latin-America was celebrated.

This decision was ratified by a subsequent agreement of the aforementioned institutions, during a videoconference held on August 6, 2018.

The Committee's objectives are the following:

- To promote cooperation, communication and exchange of experiences between current and potential RDA users in Latin-America in order to facilitate its implementation in regional libraries.
- To disseminate information for the development of RDA according to the needs of Latin-American libraries and users, working in close collaboration with the RDA Board.
- To promote the participation of RDA Latin-American users, through the exchange of experiences on its application.
- To cooperate in RDA's Spanish translations.
- To create a web site in which current and future Latin-American RDA users can take part in.
- To seek economic resources for the funding of the Committee in order to enhance the development of plans and projects.
- To analyze, research and decide in the virtual and/or on-site sessions held, the inclusion of additional national libraries that by their experiences may contribute to the RDA implementation management strategy in Latin-America –such as Chile, Brazil and/or Spain–, and eventually the advising of other important actors to strengthen the discussions in the light of RDA work development.

In this framework the following strategic actions are outlined:

- **To integrate the committee** with representatives from the National Libraries of Mexico, Argentina and Colombia.
- To appoint the **Chair of the Committee**, in the context of ABINIA's meetings, who will perform as spokesman and representative within the



RDA Board, IFLA, the Library of Congress, as well as any other associations and organizations of interest.

- To define a **work plan** regarding the adoption and implementation of RDA in Latin-American libraries. This should be accompanied by an estimated timeline for the fulfillment of the proposed activities; the involved and required human resources, materials, technology, etc., the estimated budget; and a methodology for the assessment of the expected results.
- To guarantee the formal adoption of **ABINIA** as the official ruling entity of the Spanish translation of the text and of future RDA's updates.
- **To explore and analyze published literature about RDA implementation experiences** by different libraries in the world as well as about RDA implementation management. To contrast such contents with the findings and experiences of Latin-American libraries that have implemented RDA either fully or partially. To define lines of action and conclusions that contribute to plan and trace an efficient and successful RDA implementation in Latin-American libraries.
- **To structure RDA training and education** so they both comprise the following matters: familiarity with the conceptual models of the bibliographic universe; familiarity with RDA terminology, and its similarities and differences with AACR2; knowledge of RDA instructions; familiarity with the RDA Toolkit. Spanish RDA training materials can be used to complete this activity. These materials are an outcome of the project "*Translation of the Library of Congress (LC) RDA Training Materials*" sponsored by ABINIA and lead by the Mariano Moreno National Library of Argentina, in collaboration with the National Library of Spain, the National Library of Colombia and the National Library of Chile. To consider the best options to impart the contents of

RDA training, such as on-site courses, online courses, workshops, methodological guidelines, etc. to name a few.

- To select librarians from many parts of Latin-America and **to prepare them as instructors in the basics of RDA training** for those professionals working for Latin-American libraries.
- To prepare the **documentation that accompanies RDA training manuals**, the cases of bibliographic records with a particular problematic (rule of three, compilations, etc.), the comparison between AACR2 and RDA records, to mention a few fundamental issues to be understood.
- To develop a core document to develop cataloging policies based on RDA for Latin-American libraries. These core document should include policies —even if not exclusively— about aspects such as the best kind of description to apply; the transcription and/or the record of RDA elements; the selection of RDA standards (alternatives, optional omissions, optional additions, exceptions); and other related decisions, such as language used in access points, the numeral system, etc. In order to fulfill this point, it is recommended to study and analyze current RDA cataloging policies —such as the LC-PCC PS (Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements), OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), to name a few that are relevant— with the intent of being consistent with already existing decisions in the international librarian context.

In consequence, for ABINIA and the Committee proposed by the National Libraries of Mexico, Argentina and Colombia, all the aforementioned activities are established in a collaborative framework developed by regional libraries. The progress and developments obtained will be substantial in the field, and will



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allow for a constructive dialog from Latin-American libraries and librarians with regard to RDA appropriation.

Sincerely,

Asociación de Estados Iberoamericanos para el Desarrollo  
de las Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamérica ABINIA

RDA Work Committee for Latin-America

September 10, 2018