To: RDA Steering Committee

From: Gordon Dunsire, Chair, RSC

Subject: Protocol between the RSC and the Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office

Background

"RDA provides a set of guidelines and instructions on recording data to support resource discovery … Other key standards used in developing RDA include the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD), the MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data, and the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data." – RDA; the online version of RDA; "Introduction"

The RDA Steering Committee (RSC) maintains and develops vocabulary encoding schemes (VESs) for several RDA recorded elements, and sets of sub-types for most of the RDA relationship elements. The vocabularies and sub-type designators are amended following established RSC policies and procedures.

The RSC provides linked data versions of the RDA vocabularies and designators in the RDA Registry.

Many of the first published versions of the RDA vocabularies and designators were derived from vocabularies specified in the MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data, 1999 edition.

The Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO) is responsible for the editorial development of the MARC 21 formats for the representation and communication of bibliographic and related information in machine-readable form.

NDMSO updates the MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data following established policies and procedures, and maintains and develops a number of VESs as MARC code lists and source codes for vocabularies.

NDMSO provides linked data versions of the MARC code lists in the LC Linked Data Service.

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to support communication between the editorial processes of the RSC and the NDMSO in order to improve synchronization of relevant MARC 21 documentation with changes to RDA vocabularies and designators, and to support semantic interoperability between data compatible with RDA and data compatible with the MARC 21 formats.

Methodology

The protocol is intended to be light-weight to avoid significant changes to the current practices, priorities, and workflows of the RSC and NDMSO.

The usual channel of communication between the two groups is between the Chair of the RSC and the Chief of NDMSO. They are responsible for routine communication and reviewing each group's activity for potential issues.

The RSC Secretary is responsible for distributing information from the RSC editorial processes for RDA to NDMSO.

Duties of the RSC

The RSC will:

- Inform NDMSO at the earliest opportunity of impending changes to RDA that may impact on MARC 21 vocabularies.
- Liaise with NDMSO on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and MARC 21 element sets and value vocabularies.

Duties of NDMSO

NDMSO will:

- Inform the RSC at the earliest opportunity of impending changes to MARC 21 vocabularies that may impact on RDA.
- Liaise with the RSC on the development and maintenance of linked data mappings between RDA and MARC 21 element sets and value vocabularies.