RDA content in multiple languages

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RDA in Italian in RDA Toolkit? Yes, the Italian translation was scheduled to be included in RDA Toolkit in March 2016.

That translation joins four other full translations already in the Toolkit: Finnish, French, German, and Spanish. An agreement has been signed for a Catalan full translation. Discussions are underway about a Norwegian full translation.

The inclusion of multiple language versions in RDA Toolkit furthers two of the strategic priorities of the RDA Board (RDA Board 2016):

> Make RDA an internationally recognized standard
>
> Increase the adoption of RDA internationally

It is not just the RDA content that can be available in multiple languages in the Toolkit; other types of content can also be supplied by language communities. For example,

- the policy statements from the German-speaking library community are in the Toolkit, listed on the Resources tab and linked by the icon "D-A-CH" appearing in the instructions;
- at the request of colleagues in Switzerland, French and Italian translations of those German policy statements are being added;

- other language content can be added to the Tools tab: for example, the German names of the books and groups of books of the Bible are listed there for use with instructions 6.23.2.9.2 and 6.23.2.9.3.

Some language communities have decided that they only need a partial translation of RDA or decided not to have a full translation included in RDA Toolkit. For example, there is a full Chinese translation available as a printed product; there are also agreements with the national libraries in Slovakia and Vietnam for print-only translations. Another category of translation is "for study", meaning that the translation cannot be distributed for use by others; the National Diet Library in Japan prepared such a translation.

Not all existing translations in RDA Toolkit have been updated to the latest version of the English text in RDA Toolkit.

RDA Reference

Another aspect of the desired internationalization is to provide multiple language versions of the value vocabularies in RDA Reference. "RDA Reference" is the term for the labels and definitions of RDA entities, elements, and vocabularies. RDA Reference is free and is available via the RDA Registry.[1]

Any translation request now requires that the translator complete an RDA Reference template to provide translations of the labels and definitions of the value vocabularies for inclusion in RDA Reference. (The value vocabularies are the specified lists of terms for many of the elements in RDA, for example, the terms for Carrier type or the terms for Form of musical notation.) Other

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[1] http://www.rdaregistry.info.

communities can provide language versions of those labels and definitions without translating all of the content of RDA.

The Registry maintains single linked data Uniform Resource Identifiers for the labels and definitions in the value vocabularies. Such a single URI for a term can be associated with multiple labels and definitions in various languages, allowing local decisions for display of information to users. Developers can also use the URIs to collect and manage data from libraries and other agencies that use different languages.

Below, as an example, is the entry for the Carrier type term "video cartridge" as given in the RDA Registry in January 2016 (Figure 1). Labels and definitions are provided in four of the languages found in the Toolkit (English, French, German, and Spanish) and also in Chinese.

Figure 1 – Entry for the Carrier type term "video cartridge" in RDA Registry

RIMMF

RIMMF (RDA in Many Metadata Formats) is a tool for creating RDA/FRBR entity records and establishing relationships using RDA designators. This RDA data editor was created by and continues to be developed by TMQ, Inc. It is available for download at the TMQ site.[2] That site also has tutorials for using RIMFF.

This data editor has been used by attendees at Jane-athons since early 2015, beginning with the first Jane-athon focusing on the novels of Jane Austen and related works to create RDA linked data (JSC 2015). That event has been followed by five other hackathons, focusing either on Jane Austen or on other persons or types of resources. TMQ, Inc. is developing multi-lingual versions of RIMMF, using translations in RDA Toolkit and the RDA Registry. French and Spanish versions of RIMMF will be used at Jane-athons in France and Spain in 2016. Much more information about the hackathons (past events, the R-balls created at the events, what R-balls are, other frequently-asked questions, etc.) is available at the X-athons website.[3]

Translation policy

The translation policy for RDA and for RDA Toolkit was developed by the Co-Publishers of RDA with ongoing consultation of the RDA Board and the RDA Steering Committee (RSC 2016a). Experience with managing the first translations in French and German helped the Co-Publishers to establish the requirements and guidelines in this policy document.

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[2] http://www.marcofquality.com/wiki/rimmf3/doku.php?id=rimmf.
[3] http://rballs.info/xathons.

The policy document outlines the requirements for being a translation partner: knowledge of RDA and of international cataloging practice and terminology, process of collaboration for the work of translation, promotion of RDA in the language community, and sufficient resources to produce the initial translation as well as maintaining the translation as RDA changes.

The different options for translation are explained: a full translation for RDA Toolkit or for a print product, a translation only for RDA Reference, a translation for study. Different language communities may decide that one option is better for their circumstances than the other options. Information about fees and rights to a translation is included.

Colleagues considering the possibility of a translation should consult this policy document and then contact the Co-Publishers via James Hennelly at ALA Publishing.[4]

RSC Translations Working Group

The RDA Steering Committee recently established a translations working group as a standing working group (RSC 2016b). Most of the working groups are intended to exist for only a few years to address specific tasks. The RSC Translations Working Group is part of the new governance structure for RDA and will have an ongoing role in the strategy for more involvement with international communities.

The RDA Steering Committee (RSC) has already realized the benefit of interaction with the colleagues who have prepared and now maintain existing translations. These colleagues have identified ways in which RDA can be improved by pointing out

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problems with English wording that is not clear for non-English speakers. Although the RSC is aware of some areas of RDA that remain Anglo-centric, the translators have also helped identify instructions that have a cultural bias.

The new working group will enable a structured approach for this valuable interaction with colleagues in multiple language communities. The membership of the group includes a representative for each full translation of *RDA* in RDA Toolkit, a representative for the general category of partial translations, and ex officio positions for the RSC Chair, the RSC Secretary, and the RDA Examples Editor.

Tasks for the group include:

- advising the RSC and the Co-Publishers about translations and the translation process,
- identifying areas of *RDA* needing clarification for international users, and
- working with the RDA Development Team on the functionality and use of multi-lingual vocabularies in the RDA Registry.

Conclusion

Including RDA content in more languages in both RDA Toolkit and the RDA Registry and involving colleagues from multiple language communities in the development of RDA will lead to further internationalization and exchange of data about resources and agents important for libraries and other cultural heritage communities.

References

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RDA Steering Committee. Terms of reference for the RSC Translations Working Group. http://www.rda-rsc.org/RSC/Chair/14

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ABSTRACT: A summary of the presence of RDA content in languages other than English in RDA Toolkit, in the RDA Registry, in the RIMMF data editor, and as separate translations is given. Translation policy is explained and the benefits of translation on the content of RDA are noted.

KEYWORDS: RDA in translation; Resource Description and Access; RDA Toolkit; RDA Registry.