RDA for Everyone Else
by Chris Todd
What is it?

- Resource Description and Access

- Successor to AACR2 – NOT AACR3

- New cataloguing rules/guidelines
Why do we need it?

- AACR2 has lasted very well but …
- Based on card catalogues
- Blends requirements for description and display
- Multiple versions or formats are hard to distinguish
- E-resources are difficult
What’s different about RDA?

- Covers content only
  - Not coding of content (ISBD, MARC)
  - Not display of content (Library system)
- Based on FRBR and FRAD
  - Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
  - Functional Requirements for Authority Data
More differences

- Clearly distinguishes content and carriers of content
- Designed as an online tool
RDA Goals

- **RDA as a standard**
  - Cover all types of resources *and*
    - all types of content
  - Be usable outside the library community

- **RDA data**
  - Support user tasks (Find Identify Select Obtain)
  - Be compatible with existing library catalogues
  - Independent of encoding formats
When will we get it?

What’s happened so far
- 1997 – conference on cataloguing principles
- 2004 – AACR3 draft
- 2005 – change name to RDA – draft
- 2006 – more drafts
- 2007 – new structure for RDA and 1 more draft
What’s happening next

- October 2008 – release of final draft as online prototype
- Jan 2009 end of review period for final draft
- Later in 2009? publication
What difference will it make?

- Better displays
- Clearer data
- More choices for encoding data
- Greater flexibility in moving forward
Current view

Mister Pip / Lloyd Jones  Rearsby : W.F. Howes, 2008


Mister Pip / Lloyd Jones  Toronto : AA Knopf Canada, [2007]


Future view?

Title: Jones, Lloyd. Mr Pip
Format: Text -- English
Text -- French
Audiobook -- English

Publications: Text -- English
A.A. Knopf, 2007
Dial Press, 2007
W.F. Howes, 2008
What can I do?

- Ask your system vendor what they’re planning re RDA
- Watch the RDA website for information about releases