AACR2…Meet RDA

Cataloging with RDA (Resource Description & Access) is similar to cataloging with AACR2…and then again it's not! In this 2-hour webinar, key differences between AACR2 and RDA will be identified and shown through examples. Some of the challenges and implications of these differences will be discussed, and possible solutions suggested.

April 1, 2014 1:30 pm-3:30 pm (EDT) $119.00
https://members.mcls.org/workshops/viewcourse.html?id=281

Is RDA on your RaDaR?

RDA has been or is being implemented by many libraries in the United States, Europe and the Pacific. Other libraries are still taking a wait-and-see approach. Interest in the new content standard is high. The goal of this conference is to take the pulse of the library community and see how RDA is working out for us.

February 20, 2014 9:00 am-4: pm (CDT) $134.00
http://www.amigos.org/lda_conference

Linked Data Videos:

Linked Data for Libraries
A short introduction to the concepts and technology behind linked data, how it works, and some benefits it brings to libraries. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWfEYcnk8Z8

Euclid: EdUcational Curriculum for the Usage of LInked Data
EUCLID is a European project facilitating professional training for data practitioners, who aim to use Linked Data in their daily work. EUCLID delivers a curriculum implemented as a combination of living learning materials and activities (eBook series, webinars, face-to-face training), validated by the user community through continuous feedback.
http://euclid-project.eu/

Submitted by
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NOTES ON DEVELOPING A THESIS/DISSERTATION FORM

There are three major considerations in developing a thesis form. What is its purpose? What information are you legally allowed to collect? How do you go about creating your own form?

Purpose. The major reason to have a thesis form is for disambiguation of personal name headings. Most of us have some form of ongoing authority work on our OPACs. In cataloging an institution's theses/dissertations, enough information should be included (such as birth year) in the personal name headings so that duplicate headings are not created with other identical names in the OPAC, WorldCat and/or the LCAF. In our shared environment, this is true even if you are not a NACO certified cataloguer and are not adding authority records to the LCAF.

Privacy Concerns. FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) is the governmental act that covers privacy rights for students. Any information disclosed about students must comply with FERPA.

To research this topic, I interviewed Betsy Gasoske, Registrar at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, about FERPA compliance. I then wrote up my notes and sent them to her via e-mail for her to review to be sure I am correctly understanding and reporting her responses. Here are excerpts from my synopsis of our e-mail exchange from November, 2013:

FERPA has designated information that you cannot ever disclose about a student. Specifically, we cannot disclose the following information regarding a student without their written consent: race, gender, SSN, grades, GPA, country of citizenship, or religion.
FERPA has designated information that we are allowed to disclose without the student’s written consent. This is called directory information. As an institution, once you have decided what information you will disclose, you must declare to the students that you will provide this information. At Covenant, there is a statement in the Student Handbook regarding this. It is the Student Right to Privacy section, and we include a notice about it twice a year in the community news (our e-mail newsletter sent to all students). Usually this is for a couple weeks at the beginning of each term.

Additionally, a student can declare that he or she would not like their directory information disclosed. So, we can't just assume that it is okay to release this information on any student. It is important to look a student up in your institution's student database before disclosing anything.

**TREN's Microfilm Distribution Form.** Most schools in ATLA submit their theses/dissertations to TREN so I think it is worthwhile to discuss TREN's thesis/dissertation form. It is an excellent template to use to develop your own library's thesis form with one caveat. The TREN form asks for 'Country of Citizenship,' which is one piece of information that is specifically disallowed under FERPA. I queried Robert Jones, Director of TREN about the inclusion of citizenship on the form and this is his e-mailed response on Dec. 4, 2013.

We share none of the information on the TREN release form with anybody except the U.S. Copyright office and only then when the student signs up for our copyright registration services on the back of the TREN form.

When we complete the online copyright form it asks for the year of birth, country of domicile and country of citizenship. I think that’s why the country of citizenship was included on the original TREN form created over 30 years ago. I believe the copyright office asks for this in order to be sure that if the author is from another country that that country is a signee to the Berne Convention or the Universal Copyright Convention. http://definitions.uslegal.com/u/universal-copyright-convention/

The data that we display on the TREN website is only the degree, number of pages, author name and title of thesis. We have not and would not share country of citizenship. In the almost 30 years I've been doing TREN nobody has EVER called or written to ask for it.

I asked Betsy Gasoske (Covenant registrar) about this. Her response was:

You are receiving the information as part of your job responsibilities at the institution and contracting with a vendor to perform an institutional function which is all okay under FERPA even around the country of citizenship, **BUT** if it has potentially [sic] to be disclosed to the general public this is not okay. If the student is supplying the information and signing off on the form, we are fine as well.

What this means practically, is that I recognize that the TREN form is an internal worksheet which includes private information which I won't disclose, even on an authority record. The MARC field 370 $c in authority records is for associated country, but that doesn’t imply citizenship.

**Creating the Form.** Once you understand what is needed to conform to FERPA, you are ready to develop your own form. Because the information on your form depends somewhat on the privacy statement for your institution, you cannot just copy a form from another institution and use it. You must make sure you are complying with your own institution’s privacy policies. Interview your registrar (or other administrator in charge of FERPA compliance) about what information your institution has listed as part of your directory information.

Decide what part of that information is relevant to the library. At Covenant, we collect (at the institution level) a lot of information for the directory that I don’t need in the library. The parts of this information I am interested in are: name (last name, first and middle), year of birth, denomination and presbytery affiliation (if any), degrees held, and date of graduation.
In addition, I have added preferred form of name, with the explanation: "Note: this is the form of name you would like to be known by on title pages of works you have published or might publish in the future. For example: C.S. Lewis rather than Clive Staples Lewis)."

Finally, it is helpful if at least one member of the library staff has access to the student information system so he/she can look up information on students to include in authority records and bibliographical records, within the appropriate restrictions described in this article. This may be an acceptable alternative to a printed form.

Submitted by
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SELECTED ARTICLES FROM CURRENT LIBRARY JOURNALS


