

The Sky is *Not* Falling

QUESTIONING ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL
FORMATS CATALOGING

CASEY A. MULLIN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

OCTOBER 26, 2014



RDA is dead.

“RDA is dead...”

Heidi Lee Hoerman (University of South Carolina), “How Should I Prepare for RDA?, Should I Prepare for RDA?”, OLAC-MOUG Cleveland Conference, October 28, 2008

“RDA is dead...”

“Being a cataloging instructor, Hoerman stated clearly she "didn't have a horse in this race." Her best guesses about RDA were derived from reading, poking informants, and thinking about the process. Hoerman predicted that due to time constraints and economic downfalls, RDA will not be published, but instead AACR2/2010- would be published with some underlying RDA principles. RDA's goals of getting rid of AACR2 baggage, being more global, and solving the multiple versions problems are too drastic a change for the cataloging community.”

Robert Ellett (San Jose State University), from “Cataloging News”, *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 47, no. 2 (2009)

“RDA is dead...”

“Hoerman indicated that goals for RDA are conflicting—both to break from the past but also be compatible with AACR2. Hoerman stated that there are several nails in the RDA coffin, including the Library of Congress Working Group on Bibliographic Control's recommendation to suspend work on RDA, and the national libraries' reluctance to implement it prior to extensi[ve] testing by the national libraries and cooperative partners.”

Robert Ellett (San Jose State University), from “Cataloging News”, *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 47, no. 2 (2009)

Is RDA dead?



Assumptions about RDA

(and its impact on the future of library metadata)

- Old wine in new bottles? (“AACR2 baggage”)
- Implementation uncertain (at best), unlikely (at worst)
- The “core” problem
- “MARC [will] die”
- BIBFRAME as panacea

A bit about me

- Pre-professional experiences
- Variations3
- Index to Printed Music
- RDA testing
- BIBFRAME



RDA Timeline

(Ramping up)

- January 2008 – WoGroFuBiCo recommends suspending work on RDA
- November 2008 – Full draft of RDA released
- December 2009 – Release date of June 2010 announced
- June 2010 – RDA published online (RDA Toolkit)
- October-December 2010 – U.S. RDA Test, involving three national agencies (LC, NLM, NAL) and dozens of other institutions
- October 2010 – Testers implement RDA (Brigham Young University, Stanford University, University of Chicago)

RDA Timeline

(The big reveal)

May 2011 – LC’s U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee releases final report; RDA to be implemented “no sooner than January 2013”

According to the Report:*

“The business case for implementing RDA is further based on the community’s need for a descriptive cataloging standard that:

- lends itself to easy use in the changing environment in which libraries and other information producers and users operate
- allows the relationships among entities to be expressed with few or no impediments
- enables greater use and flexibility in the digital environment
- better describes formats beyond printed monographs and serials
- enables the descriptive metadata created to be used in a linked data world
- supports labeling of data elements for ease of data sharing, within and beyond the library community
- is non- or less Anglo-centric
- allows existing metadata to be readily re-used.”

**Report and Recommendations of the U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee. Executive Summary*

<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/source/rda-execsummary-public-13june11.pdf>

RDA Timeline

(Gaining momentum)

- February 2012 – March 31, 2013 announced as implementation date for LC
- April 2013 – LC implements RDA for (almost) all of its cataloging
- April 2013 – “PCC Day One for Authority Records”
 - Conversion of LCNAF (3 phases; 2 completed)
- February 2014 – MLA’s *Best Practices for Music Cataloging Using RDA and MARC21* published
- 2015
 - OLAC’s *Best Practices for DVD and Blu-ray Disc Cataloging Using RDA and MARC21* published
 - OLAC’s best practices for streaming media (using RDA) published
 - OLAC’s best practices for video game cataloging published

RDA Timeline

(As seen through MLA program titles)

- 2008 (Newport) – RDA: Update, Discussion, and Implementation Plans
- 2009 (Chicago) – RDA: Getting Ready for Implementation
- 2010 (San Diego) – RDA: Approaching Implementation
- 2011 (Philadelphia)
 - RDA: A Hands-on Interaction (pre-conference workshop)
 - RDA: Kicking the Tires
- 2012 (Dallas) – RDA and Linked Data: Moving Beyond the Rules
- 2013 (San Jose)
 - Hit the Ground Running! RDA Training for Music Catalogers (pre-conference workshop)
 - RDA Best Practices for Music: A Conversation
- 2014 (Atlanta) – RDA: Where We Are, One Year Later

RDA – A Living Standard

- Translations:
 - French (2013)
 - German (2013)
 - Chinese (2014)
 - Spanish (in progress)
- Revisions galore! (Constituency proposals submitted to the JSC)
 - 24 in 2011
 - 53 in 2012
 - 27 in 2013
 - 39 in 2014

(source: <http://rda-jsc.org/working2.html>)
- RDA Toolkit updates
 - Beginning April 2012, major updates up to twice per year (April and October)
 - In reality, 2 updates to date: April 2012, April 2014
 - “Fast track” changes as often as once per month
 - In reality, 8 updates to date; the latest in October 2014

(source: <http://www.rdatoolkit.org/development>)

Assumptions about RDA

(and its impact on the future of library metadata)

- Old wine in new bottles? (“AACR2 baggage”)
- ~~Implementation uncertain (at best), unlikely (at worst)~~
- The “core” problem
- “MARC [will] die”
- BIBFRAME as panacea

In Support of RDA

- MARC Formats proposals
 - 2008-05/1-4 (first appearance of 336-338)
 - 2009-01/1-3 (new authority fields)
 - 2009-06/1 (subfields for relationship designators)
 - 2009-06/3 (codes for RDA media carriers)
 - 2010-03 (518 subfields)
 - 2010-04 (38x fields)
 - 2011-02 and 03 (264 field)
 - 2011-02 to 09 (more and more authority fields)
 - 2012-01 (382 subfields)
 - 2012-02, 04, 2013-01, 05-07 (still more authority fields!)
 - 2012-07, 2013-04 (new codes for format of music)
 - 2013-03 (repeatable 250)
 - And more!!!

In Support of RDA

- RDA Registry (<http://www.rdaregistry.info/>)
 - Formerly <http://rdavocab.info> (established in 2008)
 - Published January 2014 in the Open Metadata Registry (OMR) as RDF element sets
 - maintained by the JSC and Metadata Management Associates in association with ALA Digital Reference
- Community-based best practices
 - MLA
 - OLAC
 - LC-PCC PS
- RiMMF (<http://www.marcofquality.com/wiki/rimmf/doku.php>)
 - “RDA in Many Metadata Formats”
 - A visualization and cataloging training tool

What about FRBR?

- FRAD
 - Published in 2009
- FRSAD
 - Published June 2010
- FRBR Final Report of the Working Group on Aggregates
 - Published September 2011
- Harmonization of the FRBR family of models
 - Work ongoing

What about FRBR?

- FRBRoo (http://www.cidoc-crm.org/frbr_inro.html)
 - Approved in principle by IFLA in August 2008
- vFRBR (<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/vfrbr/>)
 - Variations (i.e., the music metadata within) as a testbed for FRBR
 - Three-year grant project (2008-2011)
 - “Scherzo”, a proof-of concept search tool released (<http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/scherzo/>)
- FRBR for moving images
 - OLAC Work-Centric Moving Image Discovery Interface Prototype (<http://olac-demo.herokuapp.com>)
 - Idea of the “work/primary expression” (WPE)

Vocabulary Development

■ LCGFT

- Project launched in Spring 2007; timeline for 5 initial projects announced in October 2008
- August 2007: Radio program headings
- May 2010: Cartographic headings
- June 2010: separate thesaurus spun off of LCSH; extant authority records reissued in May 2011
- May 2011: Moving image headings; [generic] sound recording headings
- 2015: Music headings; Literature headings; Religious works headings; General terms

■ LCMPT

- March 2012: spun off from music genre/form project
- February 2014: LCMPT released
- April 2014: Provisional best practices for LCMPT published by MLA

Vocabulary Development

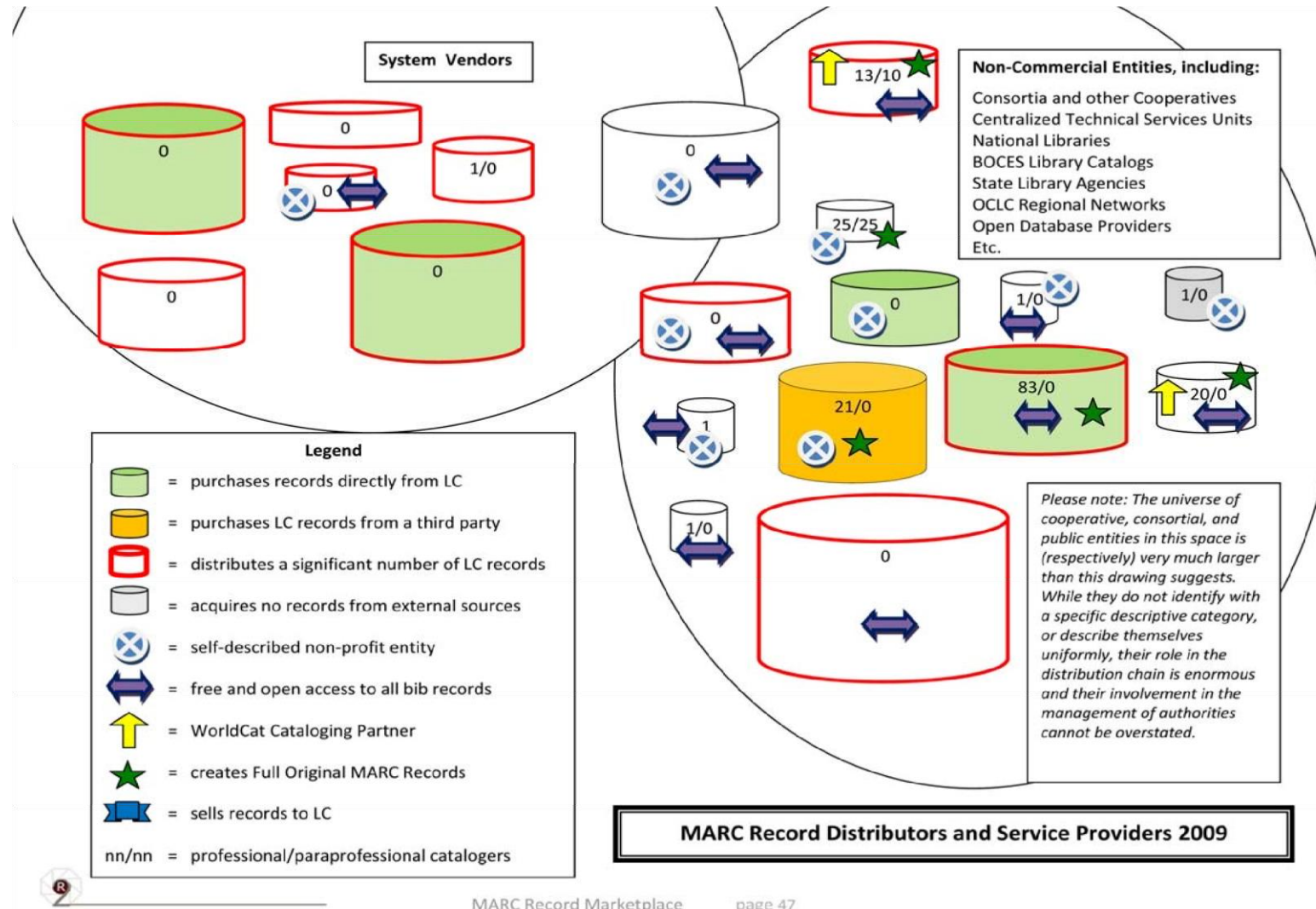
- LCDGT

- Demographic group terms for creator, contributor and audience characteristics
- Approved for development in January 2014

- FAST

- “Faceted Application of Subject Terminology”
- 1.7 headings, derived from LCSH
- Development began in 1998
- November 2011: searchFast released (<http://fast.oclc.org/searchfast/>)
- December 2011: released as Linked Data (<http://experimental.worldcat.org/fast/>)
- September 2013: OCLC began systematically adding FAST headings to WorldCat records

How we Share Metadata



How we Share Metadata

- LC Study of the North American MARC Records Marketplace
 - Conducted by R2 Consulting; report issued October 2009
 - Three-tier system described
 - Traditional tier
 - Opportunistic tier
 - Non-library tier
 - Two major conclusions
 - *“There is adequate cataloging capacity in North America to meet the collective need”*
 - *“Cooperative cataloging has not realized its full potential”*
- http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/MARC_Record_Marketplace_2009-10.pdf

How we Share Metadata

- OCLC Expert Community Experiment
 - Extension of Enhance program to those with full-level authorizations
 - Began February 2009 as six-month experiment; has become the new norm
- WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway
 - Formerly OAlster
 - Partnership with OCLC announced in 2009
 - 30+ million digital resources (from 1,500 contributors) discoverable in WorldCat

Beyond MARC

- W3C Library Linked Data Incubator Group (5/2010-8/2011)
 - 11 concrete recommendations, for...
 - Library leadership
 - Standards bodies and participants
 - Data and systems designers
 - Librarians and archivists
 - Final report: <http://www.w3.org/2005/Incubator/lld/XGR-lld-20111025/>

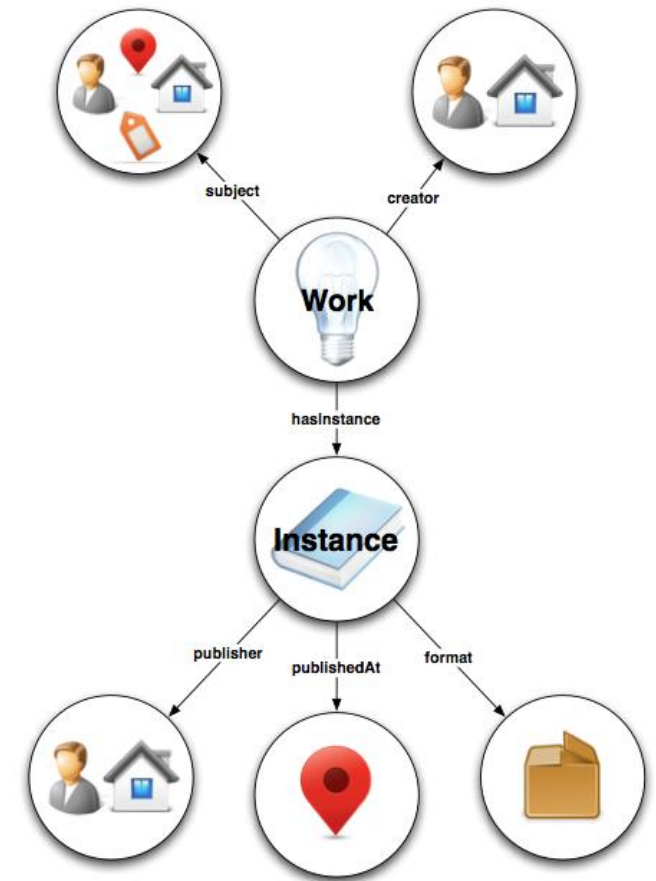
Beyond MARC

- Microdata (syntax specification)
 - RDFa
 - First released in October 2008
 - Version 1.1, 2nd edition released August 2013
- Microformats (syntax *and* vocabulary specification)
 - Schema.org
 - BiblioGraph
 - Terms added via W3C Schema Bib Extend Community Group

Beyond MARC

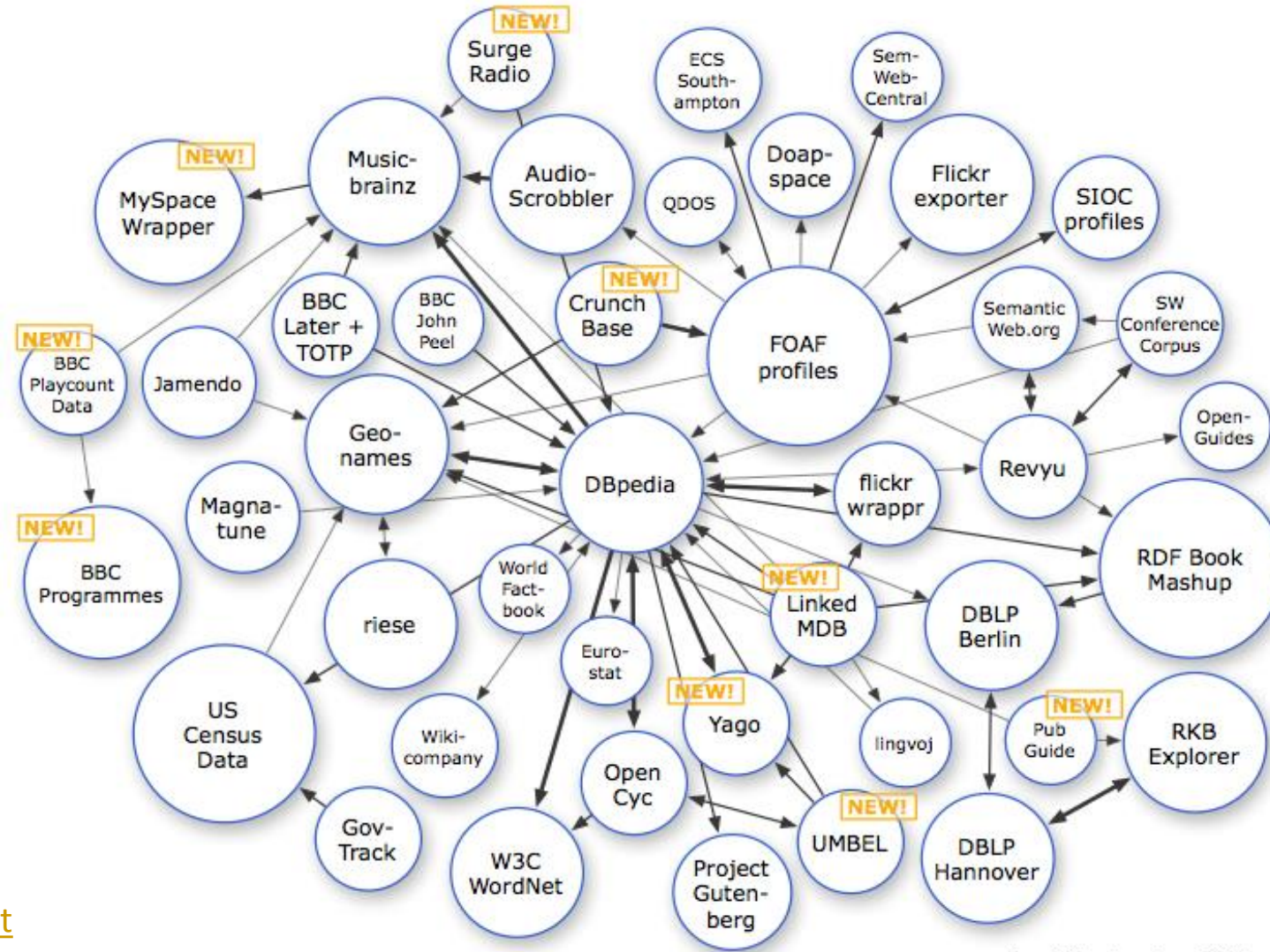
■ BIBFRAME

- Development influenced by WoGroFuBiCo report and U.S. RDA Test
- October 2011: Initiative announced by LC
- May 2012: Contract with Zepheira announced
- November 2012: Initial draft of model released
- January 2013: <http://bibframe.org> released
- 2014: MARC-to-BIBFRAME converter available
- May 2014: BIBFRAME editor released



Data Sources Proliferate

Linked Data Cloud 2008

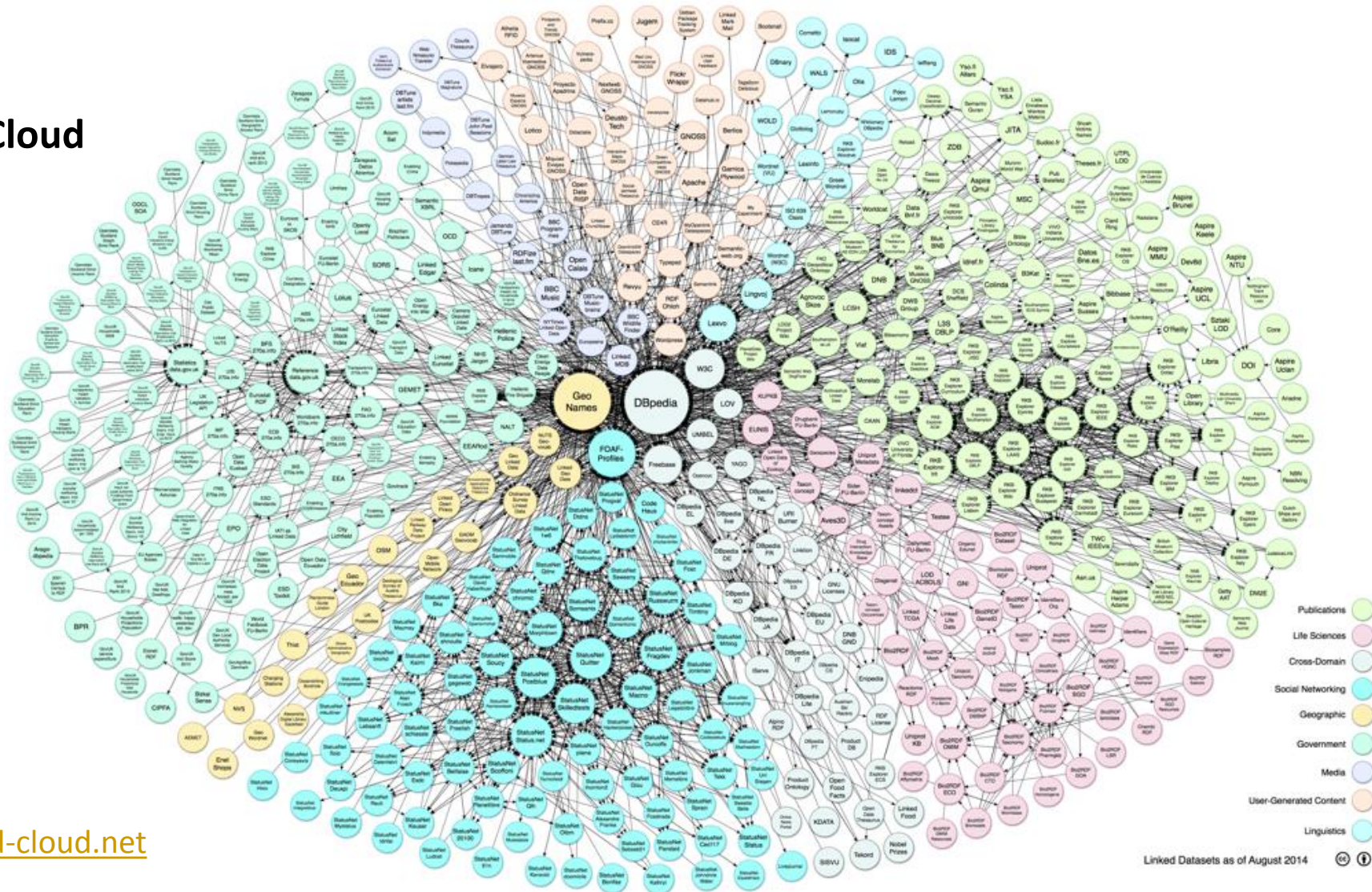


As of September 2008

Source: <http://lod-cloud.net>

Data Sources Proliferate

Linked Data Cloud 2014



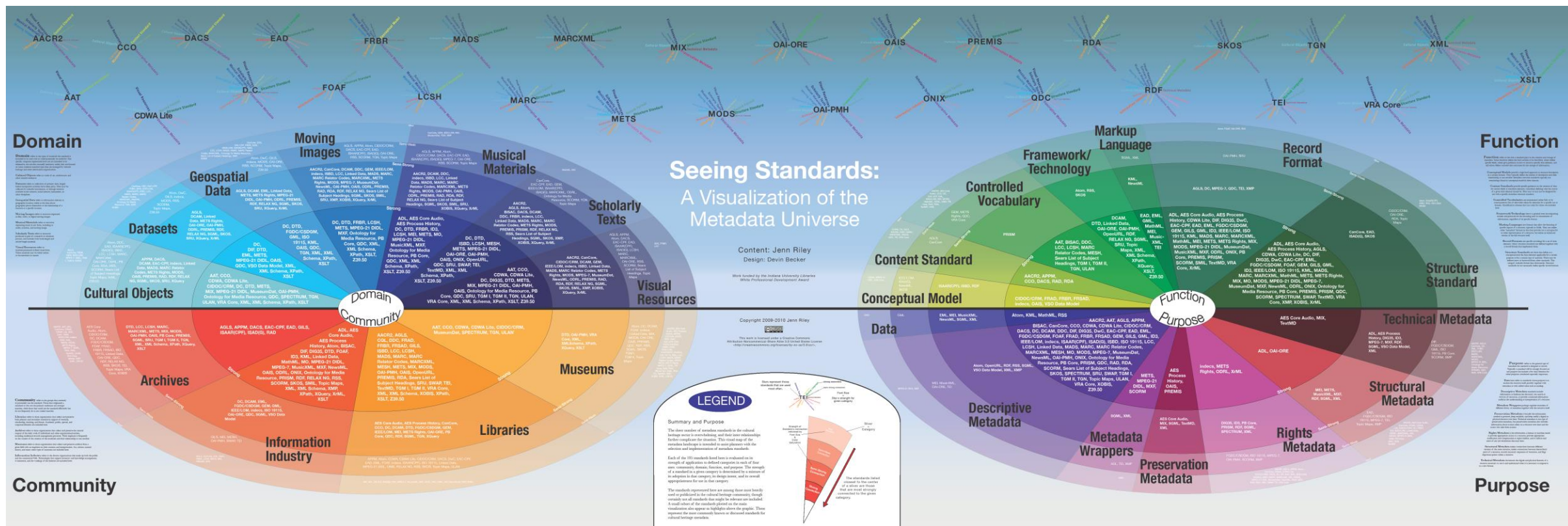
Data Sources Proliferate

- <http://id.loc.gov> (2009)
 - Formerly lcsh.info (2008)
 - New vocabularies continue to be added
- VIAF (2012: production status)
- Dewey.info (2009)
- Europeana (2012), BnF (2011), DNB (2010), British Library (2011)
- FAST Headings (2011)
- WorldCat bibliographic data (2012)
 - Using schema.org markup
- WorldCat Works (2014)
- ISNI (2012), ORCID (2012)

Time to Catch our Breath



Source: <http://iwannagetphysical.blogspot.com>



Source: <http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/metadatamap/seeingstandards.pdf>

Credits: Jenn Riley (content), Devin Becker (design)

Assumptions about RDA

(and its impact on the future of library metadata)

- **Old wine in new bottles? (“AACR2 baggage”)**
- ~~Implementation uncertain (at best), unlikely (at worst)~~
- The “core” problem
- “MARC [will] die”
- BIBFRAME as panacea

Old wine in new bottles?

AACR2 “baggage”	RDA improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same basic core elements• Composite description (a.k.a., Implementation Scenario 2/3, a.k.a. MARC bibliographic record)• Emphasis on textual access points• Appendix D (MARC, ISBD syntaxes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broader array of available sources of information• Less abbreviating, abridging, fussing• More granular elements• Relationships!• ISBD optional• Access points only one of several methods• Ready for Linked Data!

Conclusion: The baggage lies not in the content standard itself but in how we are choosing to implement it.

Assumptions about RDA

(and its impact on the future of library metadata)

- ~~Old wine in new bottles? (“AACR2 baggage”)~~
- ~~Implementation uncertain (at best), unlikely (at worst)~~
- **The “core” problem**
- “MARC [will] die”
- BIBFRAME as panacea

The “Core” Problem

- AACR2 had the “rule of three” but RDA has the “rule of one”
- “Core-if” elements (e.g., the “Cascading Vortex of Horror”)

264 _1 [Place of publication not identified] : \$b [publisher not identified], \$c [date of publication not identified]

264 _2 [Place of distribution not identified] : \$b [distributor not identified], \$c [date of distribution not identified]

264 _3 [Place of manufacture not identified] : \$b [manufacturer not identified], \$c [date of manufacture not identified]

- Fewer core elements means less robust records in general

Assumptions about RDA

(and its impact on the future of library metadata)

- ~~Old wine in new bottles? (“AACR2 baggage”)~~
- ~~Implementation uncertain (at best), unlikely (at worst)~~
- ~~The “core” problem~~
- **“MARC [will] die”**
- **BIBFRAME as panacea**

“MARC [Will] Die?”

- Recent MARC development
 - 2012: 7 proposals, 5 discussion papers
 - 2013: 9 proposals, 6 discussion papers
 - 2014 (to date): 6 proposals, 7 discussion papers
- MARBI is dead. Long live MAC
- BIBFRAME conversion problems
 - Conversion of bibliographic data currently very lossy
 - What about Authority and Holdings formats?
- Infrastructure (sharing and ILSs)
 - Data storage vs. data exchange: which function(s) are we replacing?

BIBFRAME as Panacea

- Legacy data conversion
- Infrastructure needs
 - Cataloging interfaces
 - Sharing mechanisms (e.g., “Work registry”)
 - Storage methods (triplestores)
 - Display (and aggregation, syndication...)
- Profiles (and vocabulary extensions) needed
 - MLA-BCC Task Force to be charged
 - AV Modeling Study
- BIBFRAME Work vs. FRBR Work
- Reconciliation

So, What Now??

So, What Now??

- RDA is here to stay
- MARC to stay (for awhile yet)
- BIBFRAME not yet ready for prime time (yet implementation is imminent)
- There is still lots of cataloging to be done!!

A Call to Action

(in 5 easy steps)

1) Link more (type less)

- In MARC, this means more access points and fewer free text notes
- Relationships, relationships, relationships

2) Do more authority work

- All (PCC) authority work now automatically becomes Linked Data
- Differentiate undifferentiated names
- Reconcile, reconcile, reconcile

3) Participate in standards development

- Join a committee or task force
- Review and comment on documents
- Perform real Information Science
 - Test assumptions
 - Publish the results

4) Collaborate with technologists

- Co-design projects
- Give feedback on interface design
- Push back on vendors! Make them work for you!
- ***You*** are the domain expert
- Learn (at least something about) XML, RDF, other web programming standards

5) Keep cataloging!!

- Remediate and refresh legacy data
 - Be strategic, systematic and opportunistic
 - Stop fussing (so much) over copy
- Analyze sets, series and collections
- Remediate metadata for digital collections

The sky is not falling...



It is *rising*...

Source: <http://beauty-places.com/beautiful-skies/>

Thank you!!

cmullin@stanford.edu