



National Library of Spain statement regarding RDA

RDA is becoming a *de facto* international standard. At present, RDA is being used in the main libraries of the world, especially Anglo-Saxon ones, as well as in several European national libraries. In addition, taking into account that RDA is the natural continuation of AACR2, it is presumably that which will be implemented widely in Latin America. RDA, therefore, will increase its presence in the field of large collective catalogues, such as OCLC, and bibliographic information services provided by publishers and other related platforms. In Spain, as the survey conducted this year on the subject made clear, a good number of libraries expressed their intention to migrate to this new standard (Biblioteca de Catalunya, Biblioteca de Galicia, many of the university libraries, etc.).

The National Library of Spain (BNE) is actively seeking an alignment with RDA that doesn't involve a sudden break in our current cataloging practices. We believe that RDA focuses on two main goals which the BNE currently considers of prime importance, such as FRBRization and linked data development. However, we find some obstacles that discourage RDA implementation at this moment:

The standard is still undergoing major changes in its drafting through periodical revisions. Furthermore, some RDA chapters are still to be written.

Current format environment, based on MARC 21, doesn't provide enough flexibility to take advantage of RDA FRBR-based structure. The role of BIBFRAME, supposedly the natural replacement for MARC 21, is not clear in the short term and its development is being even questioned in North America. We think ILS development will be decisive in this new context.

A move from Spanish Cataloguing Rules to RDA would involve a number of major changes in legacy data -especially regarding access points- where potential benefits currently do not appear to worth the great effort required.

Last but not least, the current economic situation would not allow many Spanish institutions to assume the costs (licenses of RDA Toolkit, training, etc.) of RDA implementation.

These are the reasons why the BNE has decided not to adopt the new standard for the time being. This does not mean, however, that the BNE is rejecting any further decision in the future.

In this approach to RDA, the BNE will go in depth regarding the development of controlled vocabularies and the use of new MARC 21 fields created for RDA elements. We will also continue investigating key aspects where RDA comes into conflict with Spanish cataloguing tradition, assessing the cost/benefit ratio of each decision to be taken. Given that the results of the survey regarding RDA in Spain show that most Spanish libraries are looking at the BNE decision in order to make a move, we will create a specific information channel on our website to communicate decisions taken and to handle enquiries and comments from the Spanish library community.

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