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Implementation of RDA in Cataloguing and Classification in 21st Century: Issues Challenges and Prospects

Abstract

Purpose: The primary goal of each librarian and cataloger is to organize library services to satisfy the users' information-seeking needs, such as searching, locating, selecting and obtaining the necessary information resources from the users within a limited period of time. With the implementation of the Resource Description and Access (RDA) on 4 April 2013 in the United States and other nations, catalogers and qualified librarians face difficulties in gaining access to the training and preparation needed. Against this context, the study examined an overview of the implementation of RDA in cataloguing and classification in the 21st century: concerns and prospects.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Contextual research that included study of materials from journals, texts and the Internet was the approach adopted.

Implication: The ability of libraries to completely fulfill their primary function of meeting the library and information needs of the community they serve will be diminished by any restriction of access, whether intentional or unintended. They need to be equipped with the requisite technical equipment, expertise and skills to meet this demand to strengthen their ability to create quality cataloguing records for their library resources for easy scanning and retrieval by their library users of library resources.

Originality/value: In summary, sufficient funding, staff training, infrastructure provision and maintenance, corruption eradication and management support have been recommended as a way forward to tackle the problems facing cataloguers in implementing RDA in their university libraries' cataloguing and classification practices.

Keywords: RDA, AACR2, Cataloguing & Classification, Organization of Knowledge, Information Retrieval, Cataloguers.

Paper type: General overview

INTRODUCTION

An necessary and critical subset is the library of any academic or organizational institution.

In order to meet their diverse cultural, religious, educational and information needs, the Library acquires, organizes, stores and then disseminates to different library clients (Cabonero, & Dolendo, 2013). There are several information resources in the library that are important to the parent institution, so the library is sometimes referred to as any institution's life blood. Libraries' use of digital media usually means computer systems and other IT tools for the main

housekeeping operations of a library; these housekeeping operations include acquisition, cataloguing, classification, delivery, reference services, serial services, etc. Ekere, (2014). Cataloguing and classification are one of the basic roles of the library and information profession. Cataloguing is the method of identifying and documenting, thus classifying, the physical characteristics of a book required to recognize and differentiate it from other library materials. Classification, on the other hand, is the method of grouping materials according to their subject affinity in a hierarchical order. The methods of defining, arranging and providing access to all information materials available in a library or community of libraries are cataloguing and classifying Jans, & Sheikh, (2011). Increasingly, the 21st century library is drifting away from the use of manuals to electronic means of performing its duties and services. By introducing library apps and the internet, library automation has been allowed. Knowledge products are being more commonly packaged and repackaged in electronic formats in recent times. Cataloguing these resources is a core responsibility of libraries and librarians. The "description of resources and access" is a major evolving standardization method for cataloguing electronic resources (RDA). Via computer systems and networks, library software helps librarians perform operations and services. Thus, cataloging and classification processes are now carried out by the use of computers and the internet. Description and access to resources (RDA) is the latest cataloging standard that replaces the Anglo-American Cataloguing Guidelines, 2nd edition, for English language libraries (AACR2). Work began on the new standard in 2004 by the RDA Joint Steering Committee for Development, aiming to address the evolving needs and behaviors of library users and the shortcomings of AACR2 in defining the types of resource libraries that are made available. The committee consisted of members from the American Library Association, the Australian Cataloguing Committee, the British Library, the Canadian

Cataloguing Committee, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Specialists of the United Kingdom, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek of Germany (German National Library), And the

Congress Library. In November 2008, the panel published the first draft of the new standard.

In March 2013, the Library of Congress formally adopted it after much debate, testing, and revision. Since its inception, catalogers have been scrambling in their own organizations to prepare for the transition to RDA, frequently dismayed by the difficulties of planning local programs and delivering instruction at a time of limited resources.

CATALOGUING & CLASSIFICATION

The role and task of cataloging in library operations can not be taken up with levity. The essence of cataloging is essentially to organize data resources in such a way that they can be easily identified by users. Cataloguing refers to the process by which all the materials available in the library are prepared for catalogue entries. These information resources include books, manuscripts, documents, floppy disks, DVDs, CD ROMS, audio-visual materials such as microforms (i.e. microfilms, microfiches and microcards), digital materials, motion pictures, sound recording, graphics and cartographic materials (Raval, & BankLaw, 2013). Cataloguing is the library's technical section (organization, processing, subject analyses and intellectual activities of all the library materials mentioned above are implemented). Nwalo (2013) reported that cataloguing was the objective of the effort to organize data resources for easy identification, organization, storage, access and use. Cataloguing provided the solution to the uncertainty which, if the funds were not organized, would have been the case in libraries. Ola (2001) concluded that the method of cataloging involves the creation and management of a catalog, including classification, assigning of subject headings, and subject indexing. In order to maintain

uniformity and retain standards, cataloguing was done manually using the AACR2 rules as a guide before the introduction of computers into library operations. During this time, cataloguing was depicted as a stereotypical image of typewriters, 3x5 cards, and convoluted rules books, while cataloguers were described as librarians who had to work hard with rules in dusty offices surrounded by books and catalogue cards. He believed in the work of Eguaveon (2013) that a great deal of energy is exerted by cataloguing and classification, requiring great concentration, commitment and high intellectual ability; it is also described as boring and uninspiring. Today, cataloguing has emerged as one of the most important areas of library work as a result of ICT. Daniel (2013) has argued that computer-based cataloging is one of libraries' most popular large-scale ICT applications. It is theoretically possible for librarians to derive and maintain ICT records for cataloguing. By giving them a unique number for proper identification and thus providing an access point for each, cataloguers are able to individualize and collect material from the library through the cataloguing process. These materials are broad in number and of various kinds in different disciplines. If there was no prior arrangement of objects, it would be difficult to retrieve a single object from among the numerous objects in the collection if possible, according to Bello, & Thomson, (2013). Therefore, the main task of cataloguers in cataloguing the work environment is cataloguing and classification. In order to make it easy for a searcher to identify the documents in a collection when viewed, cataloguing is basically the bibliographic classification of documents. Classification, on the other hand, is the correct placement of a text for the benefit of patrons, easy access to it in a particular position among the Abbas system collections (2014). Given the above definition, it could be seen that, within its context, any library could choose a structured way to catalogue materials. Just as librarianship is a profession, there must be a standard way to describe documents internationally, regardless of where the

documents are produced or the subject matter being handled, in order to give them an appropriate format. This was Tiamiyu's (2017) argument, when he argued that a common standard approach to document definition helps to facilitate uniformity in how documents represent catalogues.

Groups and individuals have constructed a lot of classification procedures and rules. The Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), Library of Congress Classification Scheme (LC), Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), Colon Classification and Bliss are the most prevalent among these. They have also standardized their subject hierarchies, which most libraries adopt as the standard classification scheme. Now in its second edition, the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rule (AACR) is the fundamental rule for the description of documents (Cataloguing) for printed documents, while Resource Description and Access (RDA) has now been applied to the electronic environment.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDA (RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ACCESS) IN CATALOGUING PRACTICES

Resource Definition and Access (RDA) has been implemented as an alternative to previous electronic environment cataloguing activities since mid-2010. This new code is a new one for instruments that have evolved from years of international alliances and are created with well-formed, associated metadata for the digital world, providing a way to manage Web-relevant libraries (Atinmo, 2011). RDA builds on Anglo-American Cataloguing Laws practices (AACR). During the 1990s, the Joint Steering Committee for RDA Development (JSC) acknowledged that AACR2 was not a code that would serve Rogers users in the 21st century (2013). It was structured around card catalogs and linear citation displays, created prior to the internet, and well-formed metadata that computer systems could use. The JSC received a lot of complaints about AACR2 during the 1990s, which is that it (AACR2):

- As updates have been introduced, especially to tackle new digital tools, they have become increasingly complex.
- For a simpler, consistent approach rather than commonalities and universal principles, it lacked a conceptual framework and instead focused on individual rules for each type of content.
- It was arranged by content type, which created problems when cataloging multi-characteristic e-resources.
- Did not discuss bibliographic relationships properly, while the web is all about interconnected information networks.
- A strong Anglo-American bias has been displayed, even though it is used around the world.

There is a conceptual error in the way materials are classified in AACR2 in the work of Miller, (2011). Some materials (cartographic materials, graphic materials, three-dimensional artifacts) are based on content, while others are based on a carrier, the physical medium in which information is processed (sound recordings, motion pictures, video recordings, computer files and microforms). Atinmo (2011) notes that it was in response to the complaints received that JSC went into action to use the IFLA conceptual models to improve the Resource Definition and Access method. RDA emerged from and outside the Anglo-American group of libraries and other information providers in response to global comments. It is focused on the concept of reusing the identification of information from publishers and suppliers, drawing on definitions and relationships not only from libraries but also from all stakeholders in the US RDA Test Coordinating Committee's report and recommendations information chain (2011).

During RDA growth, the emphasis on users and their needs was a guiding principle.

The conceptual structure expressed in the Practical Requirement for Bibliographic Information (FRBR) RDA model including the one set out in the Functional Specifications for Authority Data (FRAD) (Bello & Mansurur) model (2011). These conceptual models have provided a new perspective on the description of resources in order to focus on the content, carriers and interpret their related individuals, families and corporate bodies in terms of their distinguishing features. For the international group of respondents, the FRBR organizations and relationships and the terms used to describe them were relevant. The use of identifying features in the resource specification to fulfill simple user tasks was one of the main aspects of the conceptual models: to find, describe, select and receive IFLA (2013). In addition, instead of building citations, a call to move to an element-based approach to metadata was more compatible with web-use metadata tools in the broader information community. It was well adapted to the methodology of the IFLA conceptual models (Khan) entity relationship approach (2016). One question that could be posed is: why not throw out AACR2 and start from scratch? AACR2 is a widely used standard for resource definition and access, used not only in the English-speaking library world, but across the globe, as can be seen from the fact that translations are available in twenty four (24) languages (Anglo Heritage2007 AACR2 has many characteristics that have made it an attractive standard, such as the way it seeks to reflect popular usage for citations of work and recording of authorship. The rules closely follow real publication practices; they have facilitated continuity of practice and allowed record sharing; and additions to library collection have become commonplace in updating or integrating rules as publication practices have changed or new forms of resources have changed. But one of its disadvantages, as Khan (2016)

observed, is that it is reactive in the sense that it responds to change after the 20th change has occurred. We experienced the beginning of a proliferation of new publishing activities and creative scholarly and artistic communication techniques at the end of the 20th century. In a logically consistent and technically coherent way, AACR2 was not able to accommodate these modifications. A major re-evaluation that officially started with the 1997 Toronto Meeting: the AACR2 International Conference on Values & Future Development, led to this pause in accommodating new forms of capital. Not inherently expandable is AACR2. After recommendations from the meeting, study began on a significant revision. It soon became obvious that the way AACR2 was structured had some fundamental problems, and improvements were not going to be adequate (Kuhagen & Tillett, 2011). Through an international consultation and decision-making process which depends on consensus, AACR is updated and revised. It takes frequent testing of the water with new models and building on what is clearly seen to make sense in order to achieve a major reorientation of a common norm.

As they moved in a new direction, the early revisions were good. They showed that the new ideas were solid, but that the changes actually proposed were not adequate for them. The implication was that if you're going to switch, go for logical consistency and do it thoroughly.

The new RDA name was adopted as a signal for the transition to a thoroughly revised standard aimed at wider applicability (Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, and American Library Association. 2002). In a variety of encoding schemes, RDA is supposed to be used for metadata. Records can be stored and distributed in schematic formats of MARC or Dublin Core or MODS metadata (Metadata Object Description Standard). The inclusion of new kinds of capital that have not yet been established is easily extendable. Much attention has been paid to developing a categorization of material, media and carrier types that can be easily used or

expanded to cover the classification of new tools instead of pursuing the reactive path of modifications of AACR2 (IFLA, 2013). A deliberate effort has been made to generalize the guidelines whenever possible so that a variety of services are protected by the same instruction, regardless of content, media or carrier type. Specialized instructions follow the instructions given where required, general directives. Compatibility with current documents is fundamental. According to the US RDA Testing Coordinating Committee, records generated using RDA as the standard must be able to merge with AACR2 records into the same databases without causing significant disconnects and split files (2011). Therefore, unless there are very compelling explanations for such variations, it is doubtful that the guidelines concerning the type and choice of access points would deviate much from AACR2. The RDA would probably promote the addition of data to access points instead of changing the manner in which access points are produced. The arrangement of the guidelines in RDA has been organized in order to direct the cataloguer through a logical decision process. When this framework is converted into a web tool, it will become even more apparent how simple it is to move through the steps needed to create a useful record. This also means that when RDA is considered a content standard for the digital environment, it is especially well suited to be used as a Rogers digital tool (2013). The RDA is a theory-based set of laws. It provides the cataloguer with the philosophical context within which, by making clear the theoretical basis on which the guidelines depend, the cataloguer may exercise judgment. The RDA equips the cataloguer to make decisions based on standards. Therefore, even if a particular case is not specifically covered by the guidelines or examples, the concepts and hypotheses that appear in the introductions, the statements of scope and intent, etc., should allow the cataloguer to make a decision that is logically compatible with the current RDA guidelines. The decision facing libraries is twofold, according to the Report and

Recommendations of the US RDA Test Coordinating Committee (2011) in adopting the RDA. Legacy data also needs to be addressed whilst adopting RDA for current cataloging. Three choices are available:

- Leave all legacy data in the mentioned catalog with AACR2 or earlier rules
- Conversion of all legacy data to RDA retrospectively
- Convert essential portions of legacy data selectively to RDA

The third of these options is the most feasible if a uniform exploration is to be accomplished finite resources experience. RDA can offer two types of hybridity at the micro and macro levels within the library catalogue. Managed access points will be created at the individual record (micro) level, in compliance with RDA rules that may conflict with those created under AACR2. How to adapt to these changes needs to be determined by the library. These modifications can be seen instantly by libraries that build authority records or obey the Library of Congress Name Authority. They must then tackle the problem of harmonizing this new information with any legacy data. Failure to do so would provide an inconsistent experience of discovery as names fail to file together, for instance, thereby generating additional index entries. There would be two index entries for the same entity if the older version of the access point is not retrospectively transformed. Retrospective conversion would result in hybrid records, mixing descriptive activities from AACR2 with access points regulated by RDA.

The library catalog or discovery layer will also become a hybrid at the catalog (macro) level, combining documents generated under AACR2 rules, RDA rules, and a combination of both in individual, hybridized bibliographic records.

CATALOGUING & CLASSIFICATION IN 21TH CENTURY: ISSUES CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

The 21st century digital library is gradually drifting away from manual use to automated means of conducting its tasks and services. The advent of library apps and the Internet have allowed library automation. Library software helps librarians, through computer and network systems, execute operations and services. (2013, Raval, and BankLaw). Thus, cataloging and classification processes are now carried out by the use of computers and the Internet. Cataloguing is an intellectual assignment. When discharging their responsibilities, cataloguers need to be proactive. Cataloguers must therefore always be mentally alert in order to accurately and consistently apply cataloguing standards. This is because librarians need to properly organize and integrate the plethora of robust information found on the internet into the university databases as well as the OPAC.

Education and re-training of cataloguers is very important. Cataloguers have to attend workshops, seminars, and other related functions where their abilities can be sharpened in order to keep up with standards. Staff exchange with other universities will also be beneficial. This will improve professional exposure, build capacity and ensure the adoption of best practices in cataloguing. It is very important to have sufficient computer skills for all catalogers and librarians that will allow them to perform their tasks efficiently and assist their library patron using computer. Cost of subscription to packages: The cost of subscription to some packages is very high. Some packages are renewable annually instead of being off-front payment which may scare subscribers to limit acquisition Nwalo, (2013). Poor network provider: The life line of any hybrid library stands on subscription. Subscription should be done as at when due hence users will be denied service. Frequent power failure and generator fuel consumption. RDA implementation requires constant power generation. Where electric power is stable, the bill, every month is on the high side. Poor network services: The challenge pose by network service is

a global one. However, library is expected to make thorough findings before one is chosen and subscribed to and in addition, alternation option like modem is provided for essential units. Increase in library expenditure: Combination of e-resources with prints increase expenses in acquisition, maintenance, processing and preservation of materials and information packages. Lack of ICT and other infrastructure facilities. In order to sustain automation, these libraries lack facilities such as steady power supply, internet facilities and even sufficient numbers of computers. Many libraries have agreed to have Internet facilities built in the past, but none of them are currently available. This was due to a shortage of funds to operate and maintain these services. As one of the major issues facing Nigerian libraries, Ebiwolate (2010) complained about the lack of ICT. This is mainly caused by insufficient funding of libraries be it academic, public, special, and so on.

Recommendations

Financing

Computer hardware and software as well as network installation and maintenance Owing to the poor financial situation of most libraries, they are very costly and unaffordable in Nigeria. Daniel (2013) argued that the key explanation for the shortage of funds was the underdevelopment of Nigerian libraries. He further cautioned that any effort to modernize libraries in Nigeria would remain a mirage until the financing problem was resolved.

Education of the workers

It is necessary for library management to employ, train and deploy skilled personnel to handle both technical activities and professional work in order to effectively and efficiently apply ICT to cataloguing practices. Ironically, in Nigeria, library schools are not equipped with the requisite equipment for training librarians that can fit into computerized libraries working place. Atinmo

(2013) claimed in support of this argument that libraries will need to be training and retraining workers who can manage the complexities of 21st century data Landscape.

Infrastructure Provision and Maintenance

Infrastructure availability and maintenance is the backbone of every automated system that will help the process of organizing library resources. Basic infrastructure such as computer hardware and software, internet and intranet services, constant energy and so on are paramount for automated cataloging procedures. Jan and Sheikh (2011) found that computer hardware and software, internet connectivity and other properties, such as human finance, are unavoidable in library automation.

Corruption Eradication

In most developing nations, including Nigeria, corruption has become a growing phenomenon and has taken on a dangerous dimension. It is generally distributed and is part of everyday life (Khan, 2006). Public or official conduct, such as awarding contracts for the procurement of ICT services, undermine fraudulent practices. Corruption can be characterized as a system where public officials abuse the law in pursuit of their private interests.

Management Support

Operating an automated library is capital intensive. It is impossible to run such a scheme without the support of appropriate management and their governing boards. This is very important to every project's output. It will be hard to get funds to execute any project without management funding. Attempts by libraries to raise funds from external sources will not succeed without support from the management of their parent institutions. Libraries and librarians would have to engage with management and also provide them with information as to why it is necessary to embark on automated services. Heads of libraries must be taught the act of

diplomacy and advocacy, particularly in their relations with the management of their parent bodies and with the oversight of government ministries. The RDA handbook simplifies RDA terminology, provides a basic overview of RDA rules, and provides cataloging workflows and various samples of cataloging records to guide catalogers to create RDA records for their library materials. The author hopes it will help catalogers in the target libraries to overcome the above-mentioned challenges by tailoring this handbook for this audience.

Conclusions

The information requirements of library users can only be met if the resources available are well organized through the method of cataloguing and classification. Therefore, the role of cataloguers and classifiers is a big one. Cataloguing and classification is an academic method that in libraries has provided the solution to misunderstanding. Unless drastic steps are taken, libraries will remain far behind their counterparts in developing countries. It is hoped that the relevant authorities and policy makers would consider and implement the strategies outlined in the report.

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