

EURIG survey on adoption of RDA – 2013: report

In January 2012 a survey was carried out of EURIG members' plans to implement RDA. During 2013, implementation of RDA began in earnest. The French and German translations of RDA were also published in the May update. In the light of these developments this new survey was distributed in July 2013 to enable all EURIG members to update information about plans and intentions and to obtain feedback from those institutions that have begun to apply RDA.

The following report is a summary of the survey results. Where applicable the figures from last year's survey are given in square brackets [].

EURIG has a membership of [32 organisations](#). Responses were received from 24 [20] organisations – this is a response rate of 75% [67%].

1. Implementation of RDA

23 organisations responded to this question.

13 organisations (57% respondents) indicated they have definite plans to implement RDA, and 12 [4] (52% respondents) of these gave further information:

- 4 [3] organisations are implementing RDA in 2013 - Koninklijke Bibliotheek/National Library of the Netherlands, British Library and Casalini Libri. OCLC has commenced a phased implementation of RDA.
- A further 4 [1] organisations are planning to implement RDA in 2015 – Swiss National Library, Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Verbundsysteme/ the Consortium of Library Networks, National Library Finland, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek.
- National Library Latvia is implementing RDA in 2016.
- The remaining 3 organisations responding positively have not decided on implementation dates - Landsbokasafn Islands - Haskolabokasafn / National and University Library of Iceland, National Library Sweden, Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

10 respondents to this question said they do not have definite plans to implement RDA. A number of these organisations clarified their response:

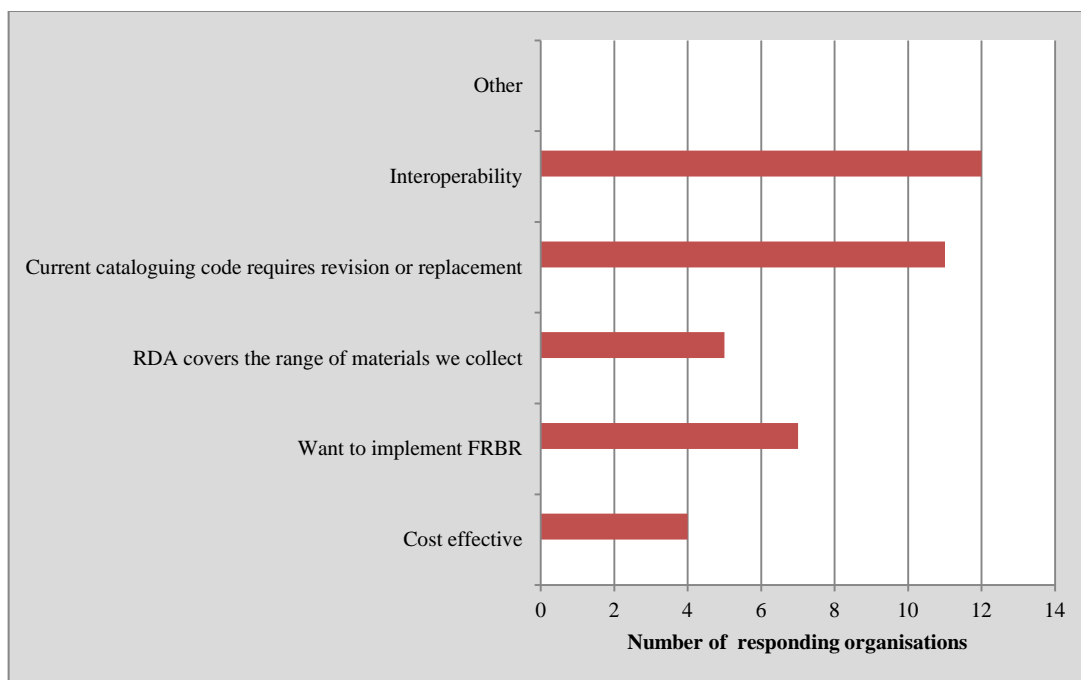
- Danish Agency for Culture and Danish Bibliographic Center (DBC) – ‘... that is not a question if we are going to implement RDA, but when’
- Biblioteca Nacional de España ‘will decide whether to implement RDA during 2014’
- National Library of Norway has not formally decided
- Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal has not yet decided

2. Reasons for implementing RDA

12 organisations responded to this question.

All 12 respondents cited interoperability as a reason for implementing RDA and 11 also indicated the reason was that the current cataloguing code required revision/replacement. Just over 50% respondents said it was because they wanted to implement FRBR. Less popular reasons were 'cost effectiveness' (4 respondents) and 'RDA covers the range of materials collected by the organisations' (5 respondents).

Fig. 1 Reasons for implementing RDA



Comments:

- OCLC Leiden - 'The Dutch libraries have a strong requirement for internationalization and standardization and want to reduce national guideline and practices in the area of metadata management as much as possible. Note: not sure if the "cost effectiveness" of RDA will be realized. We expect it will be cost-neutral.'

- Casalini Libri – 'Our American customers need records in RDA'

- Bibliothèque Nationale de France 'To us, FRBRization of our catalogues, in the most ambitious scenario, is the key goal; RDA is only a complementary mean. RDA implementation must therefore be satisfactory and compliant from the FRBR model perspective. Our decision to target RDA implementation in the future is also very much linked to our will to take part in international metadata exchanges in an interoperable framework, avoiding national specificities wherever possible.'

3. Reasons for not implementing RDA

Only 7 organisations (29% respondents) replied to this question. All 7 cited the reason for not implementing RDA at present is because they are waiting for evidence of how RDA works for other organisations. Other reasons were cited but by too few organisations to be of real significance - RDA subscription is too expensive; no suitable translation available; not cost effective.

Comments:

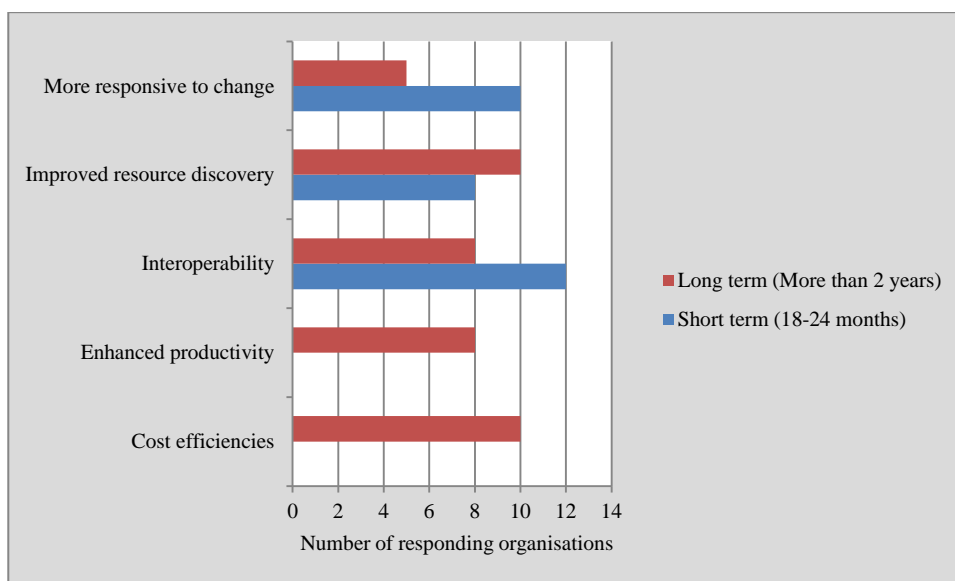
- 'We are still in the process of deciding the conditions and timing in adopting RDA'. Danish Agency for Culture and Danish Bibliographic Center
- 'For the time being we are running RDA tests'. National Library of Poland
- 'Still reconsidering the option of revision or creation of national cataloguing rules'. Nacionalna i sveučilišna knjižnica (National and University Library), Croatia
- 'The ISSN Network uses ISSN rules compiled in the ISSN Manual. The ISSN Review Group (which comprises representatives of the ISSN International Centre and of some ISSN National Centres) participates in the international effort to harmonize ISBD, RDA and ISSN rules. This is particular important for the ISSN Network since, as you know, some hosting institutions of ISSN National Centres have already started to use RDA or will do so in the forthcoming months/years.' ISSN International Centre
- 'The study and translation of RDA is in progress'. Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal
- 'We will probably implement, but it is not formally decided yet'. National Library of Norway

4. Expected benefits of implementing RDA

20 organisations (83% respondents) responded to this question.

The benefits anticipated over the short term (18-24 months) are different from those anticipated over the longer term (more than 2 years) as the following graph shows.

Fig. 2 Expected benefits of RDA



In the short term 3 benefits are indicated by respondents:

- interoperability
- improved resource discovery
- more responsive to change

However in the longer term a high percentage of respondents expect other benefits:

- cost efficiencies
- enhanced productivity

as well as an increase in improved resource discovery.

Also in the longer term 2 benefits are expected to fall away slightly:

- interoperability
- more responsive to change

Comments:

‘The "content - carrier" and "work/expression - manifestation"-distinctions will definitely help endusers to improve finding the resources they need.’ OCLC

‘We do expect that RDA (as a mean to FRBRize our resources) will provide a way to present bibliographic information that will be much more intuitive to our end user and more compliant with the general trends of information research and discovery in a web environment.’ Bibliothèque Nationale de France

‘We hope to see cost savings, but that was not a major motivation and we would like to implement FRBR, but there are many dependencies before that can happen. However, RDA is better for electronic resources, than AACR2 and, with the implementation of e-Legal Deposit in UK this has now become a much more significant component of our cataloguing production. RDA is also being adopted by other major libraries and bibliographic agencies, from whom we derive cataloguing.’ British Library

5. Impact of RDA on productivity

Only those organisations which have implemented RDA were required to answer this question in the survey. Responses were textual. 4 organisations (16% respondents) responded to this question

Casalini Libri – ‘Too early to assess’

Swiss National Library (implementing in 2015) – ‘We have to adjust our workflows: developing the rules will be international (not local) a common authority file for descriptive and subject cataloguing (same entity used for descriptive and subject cataloguing); online toolkit (no paper rules); online workflows’

Deutsche Nationalbibliothek – ‘Sharing data, sharing knowledge, sharing experiences, synergies in collaboration’

British Library – ‘No significant change for most categories of material, but there was an increase in the quantity of authority work required for conference proceedings and other grey literature. This wasn't sustainable, so we have instructed cataloguers to follow core requirements with regard to authorised access points for these types of publications.’

6. Database structure

23 organisations (96% respondents) replied to this question on current database structure.

17 [14] organisations (74% respondents) consider their current database structure as 'linked bibliographic and authority records'; corresponding to RDA implementation scenarioⁱ.

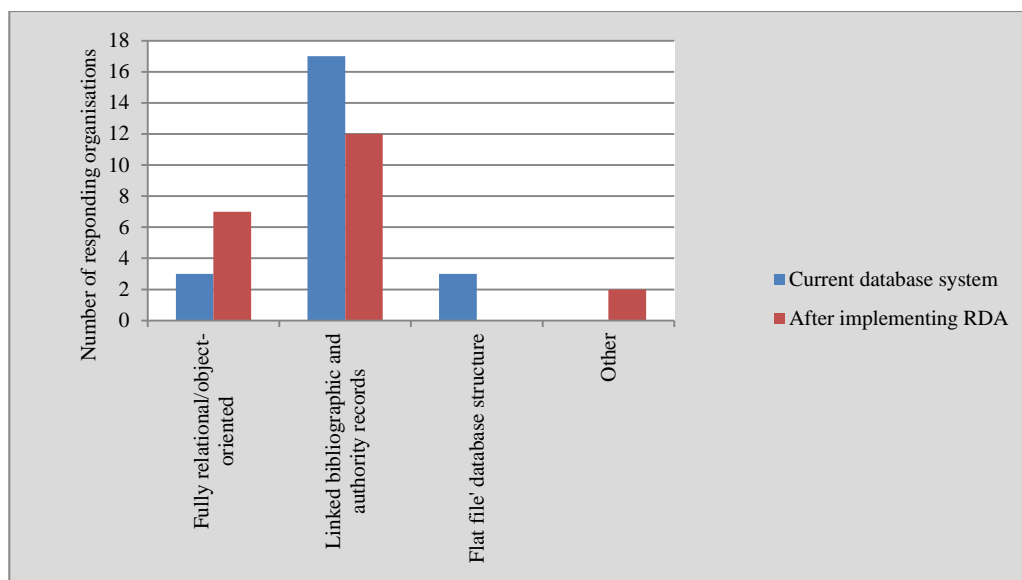
3 [4] organisations (13% respondents) consider their current database structure as fully relational/object-oriented.

A further 3 [2] organisations (13% respondents) describe their current database structure as 'flat file'.

Comments:

- One catalogue for the whole country, nearly all libraries in Iceland participate: One system with many "branches" but all material is catalogued in this one database'. Landsbokasafn Islands - Haskolabokasafn / National and University Library of Iceland
- Moving towards a full implementation of linked data within the database. (will go live Q1, 2014)'. The National Library of Sweden

Fig. 3 Database structure –current and after implementing RDA



After implementation of RDA 4 more organisations, totalling 7 [7], expect their database system to be enhanced to a fully relational/object-oriented database system.

21 organisations (88% respondents) replied to the question on database structure post implementation of RDA.

Comments:

- 'It depends on whether we implement RDA in our current systems or wait until BIBFRAME has presented an agreeable solution'. Danish Agency for Culture and Danish Bibliographic Center
- 'We will have a new system in a couple of years, which one is not decided yet'. The National Library of Norway
- 'Linked bibliographic and authority in the first implementation phase. Later on more fully relational structures'. Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
- 'Status quo'. British Library

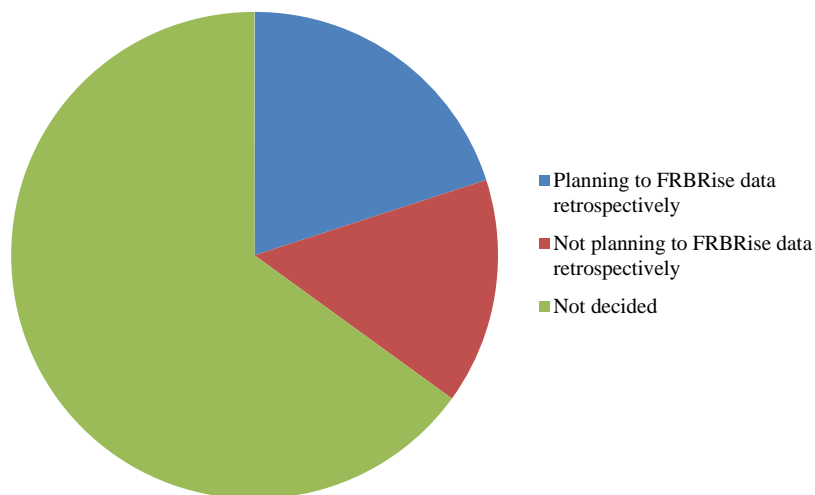
7. FRBRisation

23 organisations (96% respondents) replied to both questions in the survey on FRBRisation.

Just over half the respondents (13 respondents/57%) [13] have not decided on FRBRising their data retrospectively.

Of the remaining organisations 7 [4] (30%) do plan to FRBRise their data retrospectively and 3 [3] (13%) do not.

Fig. 4 Organisations' plans to FRBRise data retrospectively

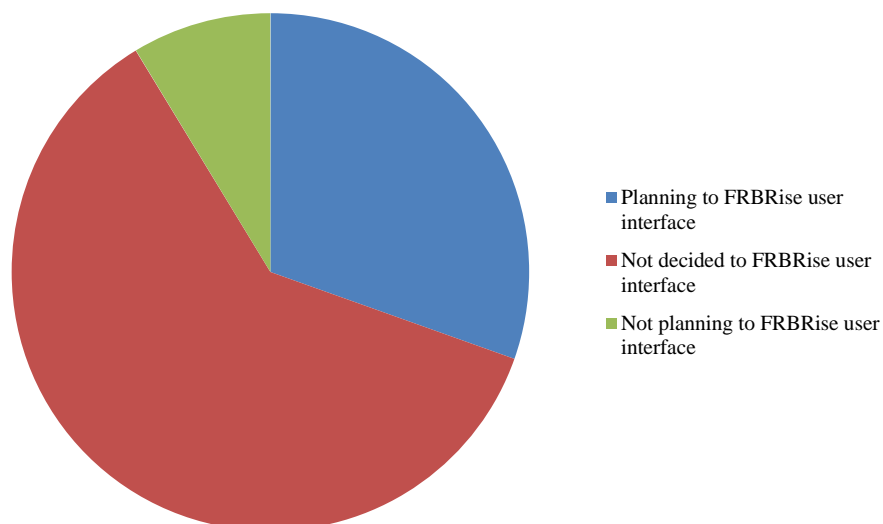


The majority of responding organisations (14 organisations/ 61% respondents) [11] have not decided on FRBRising their user interface.

Most of the remaining responding organisations (7 organisations/30% respondents) [8] do plan to FRBRise their user interface.

2 organisations (9% respondents) replied that they do not plan to FRBRise their user interface.

Fig. 5 Organisations' plans to FRBRise user interface



8. EURIG meetings

The final set of questions asked about the scheduling and hosting of the EURIG meetings.

Nearly two thirds organisations (15 organisations/ 65% respondents) were against holding more than one meeting a year, several citing tightening of financial situations within their organisations. Video conferences and active working groups were given as more appropriate forums instead.

12 organisations (52% respondents) are willing to host a EURIG members meeting.

The majority of organisations (15 organisations/65% respondents) indicated a preference for the EURIG meeting to be held in March/April 2014 as this allows time to plan proposals for discussion at JSC's November 2014 meeting.

ⁱ Delsey. Tom. *RDA database implementation scenarios*. July 2009. [5JSC/Editor/2/Rev](#)