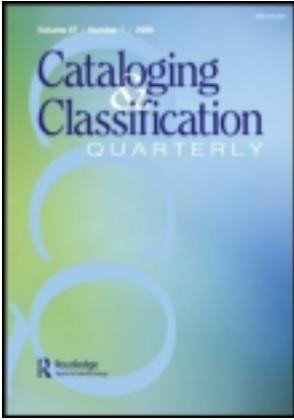


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The RDA Test and Hebraica Cataloging: Applying RDA in One Cataloging Community

Joan C. Biella^a & Heidi G. Lerner^b

^a Library of Congress, Washington, DC, USA

^b Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, California, USA

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The RDA Test and Hebraica Cataloging: Applying RDA in One Cataloging Community

JOAN C. BIELLA

Library of Congress, Washington, DC, USA

HEIDI G. LERNER

Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, California, USA

Research and academic libraries worldwide have substantial collections of materials in non-Western languages. Communities cataloging such esoteric materials expected that Resource Description and Access (RDA) would move away from the English/Anglo-American focus of Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition (AACR2) and provide guidance for handling non-Western bibliographic and publishing practices. This article looks at the experiences of two official Test catalogers who work with materials in Hebrew script. How they sought solutions to cataloging questions and what they learned may guide other specialized communities called on to describe resources according to RDA. Input from catalogers will be needed to “internationalize” RDA.

KEYWORDS *authority control, descriptive cataloging, Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2), Resource Description and Access (RDA), books, nonroman languages*

Application and interpretation of *Resource Description and Access* (RDA), its accompanying Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPS), U.S. RDA Test Policy for the Extra Set: Use of Existing Authority and Bibliographic

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The authors thank the staff of the Library of Congress Policy and Standards Division for their ongoing and timely support and help in interpreting RDA and the LCPSs before and during the Test period, and in exploring options for cataloging situations for which these tools seem not yet to have an answer. Many thanks to them and to members of the Library of Congress Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access Division, and to Joan Aliprand (expert on non-Latin scripts in libraries) for their insightful and helpful editorial comments on this article.

Address correspondence to Joan C. Biella, Library of Congress, Israel/Judaica Section, 1st & C Streets, Washington, DC 20540, USA. E-mail: jbie@loc.gov

Records documents, and e-mail interactions with the staff monitoring mail to LChelp4rda@loc.gov defined the creation of bibliographic records for the 25 institutions who participated in the official U.S. RDA Test period of Fall/Winter 2010. This article looks at the experiences and questions of two Test participants, Heidi Lerner of Stanford University and Joan Biella of the Library of Congress, the only testers who experimented exclusively with the application of RDA to resources in Hebrew script after completing common and extra set records.¹ The purpose of the Test was to determine whether RDA could be applied to Hebraica successfully, and to uncover any problems and issues specific to Hebraica that are not addressed satisfactorily by RDA and the LCPSs. The LCPSs provided for the Test were LC's "best guess" decisions for LC catalogers, and were not intended to be the final answer if an RDA implementation is pursued.²

Topics covered in this article include the recording of title and formulation of preferred titles; recording of first statement of responsibility; recording of dates of publication; the creation of preferred forms of personal names; the identification of access points for compilations; and the execution of cataloging activities such as shelving which rely on descriptive cataloging data.

SCOPE OF THE RDA HEBRAICA TEST

During the test period, the Stanford and LC Hebrew catalogers worked with the types of materials in their respective normal workflows. Stanford University Libraries and Academic Information Systems (SULAIR) has a strong curatorial interest in art exhibition catalogs emanating from Israel, many of which contain content in Hebrew and one or more other languages; the Stanford tester's RDA cataloging consisted mostly of this material although there were some religious materials as well. The LC tester worked chiefly with Jewish religious, liturgical, and sacred texts in Hebrew. With the renaissance of Hebrew as a spoken language in the late nineteenth century, secular Hebrew books began and continued to appear, produced in accordance with contemporary European publishing practices, while religious Hebrew publishing preserved its unique and traditional layouts and typographic conventions. The cataloging of secular materials raised no particular language- or script-related problems. Thus this article discusses primarily issues encountered in the religious material cataloged by LC and Stanford, in particular those in which the dialog between testers and the RDA experts proved most fruitful.

Materials used in the RDA Test of Hebraica were almost exclusively print and monographic, the types of published materials with which the two testers were most familiar.

In order to create a large body of RDA records for study, at both Stanford and the Library of Congress (LC), Test participants created catalog records for

all the materials they cataloged during the three months of the Test according to RDA and the MARC21 standard.³

INITIAL GENERIC TERMS IN TITLES

Appropriately, the first questions arising from the Hebrew materials concerned their titles. The title pages of most religious Hebrew books precede the title itself with a word indicating the genre to which it belongs. These generic terms include “Sefer” (“Book”), *Ḳuntres* (“Pamphlet”), and “Ma’amar” (“Essay”). Frequently, a shortened form of the title, without the initial generic term, appears on the cover, the spine, and/or as a running title. In pre-*Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, Second Edition (AACR2) cataloging practice and in many reference sources, historic catalogs, and bibliographies, such books are named by the part of the title following the introductory word. Under AACR2 catalogers must transcribe the initial generic term in the title proper. AACR2 rules for uniform titles permit use of the title proper without the initial generic term.

Initially, AACR2 did not permit omissions at the beginning of the title proper. Rule 1.1B4 includes: “Never omit the first five words of the title proper (excluding the alternative title).” In 2001, an additional rule (1.1B1) was added that modified transcription of the title proper. The corresponding RDA instruction has identical wording.

AACR2 1.1 B1 Do not transcribe words that serve as an introduction and are not intended to be part of the title

RDA 2.3.1.6 Do not transcribe words that serve as an introduction and are not intended to be part of the title. (Example: Disney presents *Sleeping Beauty*)

AACR2 also allows certain kinds of phrases to be omitted from uniform titles:

AACR2 25.3B1 If no title in the original language is established as being the one by which the work is best known, or in case of doubt, use the title proper of the original edition. Omit from such titles: (1) introductory phrases (e.g., *Here beginneth the tale of . . .*) . . .

However, the LCPS on RDA 6.2.2.8 disagrees with this when explaining how to choose the preferred title (comparable to an AACR2 uniform title) in RDA:⁴

LCPS 6.2.2.8 Do not routinely omit an introductory phrase (e.g., “*Here beginneth . . .*”) or a statement of responsibility at the beginning of the title proper. If later manifestations have different forms of title proper, use the most common form as the preferred title.

In 2001 when the AACR2 rules were issued in their current forms, LC Hebraica catalogers met with staff of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO) to determine how the treatment of Hebrew titles beginning with generic words would be affected. CPSO issued this statement on February 11, 2003, after summarizing the new rules 1.1B1 and 25.3B(1):

LCRI 1.1B1 reflects the decision that the omission of introductory words from the transcription of the title proper is primarily applicable to motion pictures and video recordings, electronic resources, and popular journals. This decision is supported by the fact that the AACR2 examples illustrating the rule are for a video recording (“Disney presents *Sleeping Beauty*”) and for an internet resource (“Welcome to NASA quest”). In other words, the new 1.1B1 provision is to be applied very narrowly.

For other situations, the introductory words are to be transcribed as part of the title proper (“*Sefer . . .*,” “*Kitāb . . .*,” “Here begynneth a *Treatyse of a galaūt . . .*”). For these situations, the introductory words may be omitted from the uniform title based on that title proper (25.3B(1)). An additional title added entry may also be made for the title proper without the introductory words (LCRI 21.30J).⁵

Before the RDA Test began, LC’s Policy and Standards Division (PSD, the successor to CPSO) was asked whether, in RDA, the Hebrew introductory words should be considered the same kind of “introduction” as “Disney presents” and omitted from the title proper, or the same kind as “Here beginneth . . .,” and transcribed. PSD agreed to put the topic on the agenda for a descriptive policy meeting to see if the restriction to video recordings and similar resources would be continued.⁶

This problem arose frequently during the Test period. Before LC’s response arrived, materials with an initial generic term in the title were cataloged with the complete title proper in 245 \$a and the title without the initial generic term in 130 \$a or 240 \$a, just as under AACR2.

A detailed response arrived from PSD on December 10:

Because the instructions for title proper are the same in AACR2 and RDA, we don’t see the need for you to change your practice under RDA for the 245 field. If the community could agree on the treatment of *Sefer*, *Kitāb*, etc., we could document this in the LCPSs if seen as desirable. . . . Under RDA, you could decide that *Sefer* etc. . . ., is not how the works are commonly known and drop it from the preferred title—not because it is an ‘introductory word’ necessarily, but because the works are more commonly known without it. Again, if there is a need for consistency and you think it would help, an LCPS could be crafted.⁷

The decision whether or not to omit such terms as “Sefer” in the preferred title is left to the cataloging community with the assurance that their decision will be documented in an LCPS. The decision should be phrased to preclude the need to apply the second provision in RDA 6.2.2.4:

RDA 6.2.2.4 For works created after 1500, choose as the preferred title the title in the original language by which the work has become known through use in resources embodying the work or in references sources . . . If no title in the original language is established as being the one by which the work is best known, or in case of doubt, choose the title proper of the original edition . . .

An instruction to exclude “Sefer” or comparable terms would spare the cataloger much time-consuming and probably often fruitless research to discover the titles proper of original editions.

The authors recommend that treatment of the title proper remain the same in RDA as in AACR2: initial generic terms such as “Sefer” are to be transcribed in the 245 \$a, although they are dropped from the preferred title in the 240 field or any of the other the MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) fields where preferred titles are entered.⁸ The form without the introductory word may also be given in a variant title access point.

They were puzzled, however, as to how to apply such instructions in the case of compilations which lack a collective title, for which the titles proper often also begin with generic words (see Figure 1).

Figure 2 gives an abbreviated comparison of the AACR2 and RDA treatments of a particularly difficult case. The book in hand consists of three essays, each by a different author, composed in different centuries, all commentaries on the biblical book of Ruth. In AACR2 terms, it is a collection without a collective title. In RDA terms, it is a compilation containing three works, or a work composed of three works. In AACR2, such a collection is entered under the author and title of the first work it contains. In RDA, an authorized access point for a compilation of works by different persons is constructed “using the preferred title of the compilation” (RDA instruction 6.2.2.10), not by naming only one of the works in the compilation as was done in AACR2. Note that the \$t subfields of the 700 fields in both cataloging systems lack the generic introductory word, following the rules and instructions discussed earlier in this section.)

If the manifestation contained only the single work by Krokmal, a 240 field would be used to record the preferred title in RDA just as the uniform title is recorded in AACR2. The relevant RDA instruction on “preferred titles” for compilations is this:

RDA 6.27.1.4 If the work is a compilation of works by different persons, families, or corporate bodies, construct the authorized access point

<p>ספר מקור החיים על מדרש רות חיים קראכמאל</p>	<p>Sefer Meqor ha-ḥayim 'al Midrash Rut Ḥayim Kṛokhmal</p>
<p>ספר ענבי הגפן על מגלת רות אביגדור כץ</p>	<p>Sefer 'Inve ha-gefen 'al Megilat Rut Avigdor Kats</p>
<p>ספר אוריין תלילאי על מגילת רות משה היבמר</p>	<p>Sefer Oryan telitai 'al Megilat Rut Mosheh Hibner</p>

FIGURE 1 Title Page of a Compilation without a Collective Title.

representing the work using the preferred title for the compilation, formulated according to the instruction given under 6.2.2. . . . If the compilation lacks a collective title, construct separate access points for each of the works in the compilation

AACR2	RDA
100 1 Kṛokhmal, Ḥayim.	
240 10 Meqor ha-ḥayim	
245 10 Sefer Meqor ha-ḥayim / \$c Ḥayim Kṛokhmal. Sefer 'Inve ha-gefen / Avigdor Kats. Sefer Oryan telitai / Mosheh Hibner.	245 00 Sefer Meqor ha-ḥayim / \$c Ḥayim Kṛokhmal. Sefer 'Inve ha-gefen / Avigdor Kats. Sefer Oryan telitai / Mosheh Hibner.
700 12 Kats, Avigdor. \$t 'Inve ha-gefen.	700 12 Kṛokhmal, Ḥayim. \$t Meqor ha-ḥayim.
700 12 Hibner, Mosheh. \$t Oryan telitai.	700 12 Kats, Avigdor. \$t 'Inve ha-gefen.
	700 12 Hibner, Mosheh. \$t Oryan telitai.

FIGURE 2 AACR2 and RDA Treatments of a Compilation without a Collective Title.

A practical difficulty arises if the authorized access point or title main entry begins with a generic word. It relates to Cuttering (not within the scope of RDA instructions). Under AACR2, the resource in this example would be Cuttered by the first letter of the first word in the uniform title (240 field), in this case the “M” of “Meḳor ha-ḥayim.” In RDA, Cuttering by the “S” of “Sefer,” the word with which the great majority of Jewish religious begin, would result in very many and therefore eventually very lengthy Cutters beginning with “S.” If the preferred title even of a compilation is determined to be the part of the title proper following “Sefer,” that short title will no doubt appear in a 246 “variant title” field in RDA records, but the idea of Cuttering from a 246 is a new one. Nonetheless, this is the practice that was followed in the RDA Test.

A better choice, perhaps, is offered by the Alternative to RDA 6.27.1.4:

RDA 6.27.1.4 *Alternative* Instead of (or in addition to) constructing access points for each of the works in the compilation, construct an authorized access point representing the compilation using a devised title formulated according to the instructions given under 2.3.2.11

RDA 2.3.2.11 If the resource itself bears no title . . . , and a title cannot be found in any of the other sources of information specified under 2.2.4, devise a brief descriptive title that indicates: either (a) the nature of the resource (e.g., map, literary manuscript, diary, advertisement) or (b) its subject (e.g., names of persons, corporate bodies, objects, activities, events, geographical area and dates) or (c) a combination of the two, as appropriate

Note that, according to the Alternative to this instruction, the devised title must be “in the language and script of the agency preparing the description.” In this example, something like “Three commentaries on the book of Ruth” might be suitable, using “T” for “Three” for the Cutter.

SQUARE BRACKETS

The AACR2 practices of qualifying transcriptions of non-standard or erroneous spelling with bracketed characters or insertion of “[sic]” are not part of RDA. RDA’s underlying basic principle of transcription is “record what you see.”⁹ Alternative versions of transcribed data can be given in variant title and other additional fields.

RDA 1.7.9 When instructed to transcribe an element as it appears on the source of information, transcribe an inaccuracy or a misspelled word as it appears on the source, except where instructed otherwise . . . If the inaccuracy appears in a title, record a corrected form of the title as a variant title . . . if it is considered to be important for identification or access

Brackets in RDA appear only when the information they enclose is taken from a source outside the resource for such transcribed elements (RDA instruction 2.2.4). In other words:

On the item:	One day's dty
AACR2 transcription:	One day's d[u]ty
RDA transcription:	One day's dty
RDA variant title:	One day's duty

The place-name “Jerusalem” (standard American Library Association (ALA)-LC Hebrew romanization: Yerushalayim) is normally spelled ירושלים in Hebrew. Occasionally, however, a variant spelling ירושלם appears in religious materials. Both spellings are pronounced “Yerushalayim.”

Using the ALA-LC romanization table for Hebrew, the romanization for the first spelling is “Yerushalayim.” When the second, variant spelling is romanized using the table, the vowel in the last syllable presents a problem. A romanization “Yerushalaim” would represent the pronounced vowels one for one, but ALA-LC romanization does not allow the vowel sequence “ai” if a consonantal *yod* is not present between the two vowels. In the variant spelling, this *yod* is missing.

Paul Maher’s *Hebraica Cataloging* is the authorized¹⁰ tool for interpreting AACR2 rules and Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (LCRI) as they affect Hebrew materials, and documents those practices used by LC catalogers to cope with anomalies. Commenting on this problem, Maher writes, “Occasionally in rabbinic works, the place of publication for Jerusalem in the non-roman may be spelled without the *yod*. If so, it is romanized as: Yerushala[y]im.”¹¹

For the Test, PSD instructed Hebraica catalogers to follow the existing, pre-RDA romanization practice and continue to record “Yerushala[y]im,” retaining the brackets. As this solution does not accord with the RDA principle of “record what you see,” PSD suggests a more permanent solution may lie in a revision of the existing romanization practice.¹²

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

One of the defining characteristics of RDA is the variety of options and interpretations it allows. In the case of the statement of responsibility, for example, the relevant RDA instruction is accompanied by an option that permits abridgement:

RDA 2.4.14 Transcribe a statement of responsibility in the form in which it appears on the source of information. . .

Optional Omission Abridge a statement of responsibility only if it can be abridged without loss of essential information. Do not use a mark of omission (...) to indicate such an omission. Always record the first name appearing in the statement . . .

The corresponding LCPS advises:

LCPS 2.4.1.4 Generally do not abridge a statement of responsibility

This LCPS as applied during the Test did not define the exceptional situations when the “general” policy would not apply, in the expectation that testers would make recommendations for wording if LC implements RDA. As there is an option to abridge a statement of responsibility, what special conditions might result in applying the option rather than the instruction?

Perhaps publishing practices for religious materials written in Hebrew or Hebrew-script languages provides a case for abridgment of statements of responsibility. In these materials, the statement of responsibility is often complex. The author’s name is buried under or surrounded by a string of honorifics and abbreviations, plus genealogical information that can extend back generations. Most of this information is clearly not essential to identification of the work. Moreover, the abbreviations appearing in a statement of responsibility are often too obscure to appear in the standard Hebrew abbreviation dictionaries available to the Hebraica cataloger.

Figure 3 is a typical statement of responsibility transcribed from a religious publication. A romanization and a translation are provided:

[Romanization] Me menuḥot / \$c nilqāṭim ṽe-nidpasim me-amtaḥat ha-ketavim shel hai tsorev, she-‘oseḵ be-ḥuḳe ḥorev, yomam ṽa-lailah beli ḥaraf, h.h. aḥinu ha-rav, he-ḥ. u-v. muflag ṽe-na‘aleh be-Torah ṽe-yir‘ah, la-Shem ule-tif‘eret, mi-yehide segulah, mi-geza‘ ḳedushah. k. sh. T., mo. ha-R. Mosheh Yirmey. Ṭaṭelboim, z.l.h.h., ben a. mo. r. le-hib. le-ḥ. l. ha-g. ha-ts, mo. ha-R. Shemu‘el, shelṭa, r. a. ha-k. me‘orer ha-shaḥar u-m.s.b.b., y. ts. ṽ.

[Translation] Collected and printed from the bag of writings of that burning one, that occupies himself with the laws [limits?] of desolation, days and nights without cessation, h.h. [abbreviation unclear], our brother, the

מי מנוחות / \$c נלקטים ונדפסים מאמתחת הכתבים של האי צורב, שעוסק בחוקי חורב, יומם ולילה בלי חרף, ה"ה אחינו הרב החו"ב מופלג ונעלה בתורה ויראה, לשם ולתפארת, מיחידי סגולה, מגזע קדושה, כש"ת מוה"ר משה ירמיי' טייטלבוים, זלה"ה, בן אמו"ר להבל"ח הגה"צ מוה"ר שמואל, שליט"א, ראה"כ מעורר השחר ומסב"ב, יצ"ו.

FIGURE 3 Statements of Responsibility from a Religious Publication.

מגלוקטי ונדפסים מאמתחת הכתבים של משה ירמי' טייטלבוים
 nilkṭaṭim ve-nidpasim me-amtaḥat ha-ketavim shel Mosheh Yirmey. Ṭaitelboim
 "collected and printed from the bag of writings of Mosheh Yirmey. Ṭaitelboim"

FIGURE 4 Abbreviated Statement of Responsibility.

teacher, the clever and expert [abbreviated], superlative and exalted in Torah and fear [of God], for the Name [of God] and for glory, from among the elite, from a holy branch, may his name be honored [probably], my teacher R[abbi, abbreviated] Mosheh Yirmey. Taitelboim, may his name be blessed in the world to come [abbreviated], son of [a whole string of abbreviated honorifics some of which are opaquel, Shemuel, may he live long and happily [abbreviated], [more unclear abbreviations], may He [i.e. God] guard his [unclear abbreviation] and give him life.

Applying the RDA instruction as written, without the option, puts a great burden on catalogers of this material. The transcription of all this information, and the associated romanization of it, is time-consuming and prone to error. Romanization presents particular difficulties because abbreviations cannot be romanized correctly unless it is known what they stand for. There is little if any value for patrons, public service librarians, or other catalogers in recording this esoteric information.

Stanford's policy during the Test was to transcribe everything in the first statement of responsibility. After the Test was over, Stanford policy vis-à-vis the transcription of the statement of responsibility was to allow catalogers to record the information presented based on their individual judgment or according to the best practices of their special communities.¹³ This was the practice at LC throughout the Test. Cataloger's judgment would probably reduce the previous complex statement of responsibility to a single line (see Figure 4).

DATES OF PUBLICATION

Hebrew letters can be used as numerals, although today they are so used almost exclusively in recording dates in the Hebrew calendar and other religious contexts. Transcribing and recording such numbers in bibliographic records containing both Hebrew and Latin scripts pose a unique set of issues.

AACR2 prescribes as follows:

AACR2 Appendix C.5A In cataloguing Arabic alphabet, Far Eastern, Greek Hebrew, Indic, etc., materials, substitute roman numerals or

	LC practice	Variant 1	Variant 2 ...
roman 260 \$c	5730 [1969 or 1970]	5730 [1969 or 1970]	5730 [1969 or 1970]
nonroman 260 \$c	5730 [1969 or 1970]	התש"ל	התש"ל [1970 או 1969]

FIGURE 5 Treatments of a Hebrew Date in the 260 \$c.

Western-style arabic numerals in the vernacular as instructed in the following rules...

Appendix C.5D Use Western-style numerals in the following areas and elements of the bibliographic description:... 3) in the date of publication, distribution, etc., element...

There are no LCRIs for these rules, but Maher provides a guideline:

Special problems frequently arise with numerals in that the letters of the Hebrew alphabet each have a numeric value and may be used as such in any part of a published work. In the roman bibliographic record these numerals are always given in their Western-style equivalent. In the non-Latin record, however, the alphabetic representation is retained except as specified in AACR2, Appendix C.4 [i.e., C.5], and q.v.¹⁴

Hebraica Cataloging was compiled before the development of machine-readable non-Latin script and has not yet been updated. After the introduction of Hebrew script capability in Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) in 1988 and in OCLC in the mid-2000s, Hebraica catalogers began to employ a mixture of practices for recording the date of publication in the Hebrew script parallel field. Some catalogers continued to follow the LC practice outlined in *HCM*, while others transcribed the Hebrew script form of the date as it appeared in the source, using the Hebrew letters to record the date, with or without the Gregorian equivalent (see Figure 5).

During discussions among constituent communities on newly drafted rules for "AACR3,"¹⁵ Hebraica catalogers reexamined guidelines for recording and transcribing publication dates in which numbers appeared as Hebrew characters. The first draft produced did not address their specific concerns:¹⁶

A1.4F1 For resources in a published form, record the date (i.e., the year) of publication. Record dates in Western-style arabic numerals. If the date is not of the Gregorian or Julian calendar, record the date as it appears on the source of information and follow it with the year(s) of the Gregorian or Julian calendar

, 1975
 , 4308 [1975]
 , [4308 i.e. 1975]
 , 5730 [1969 or 1970]
 , anno 18 [1939] *not* , anno XVIII

A1.4E a) For published resources, transcribe the date in which the resource was published as it appears on the resource, usually only as year(s).

i) If the date is not in Western-style Arabic numerals, transcribe the date as it appears on the resource in non-Latin transcriptions. In the case of chronograms, transcribe only the characters comprising the date. In romanized transcriptions, transcribe the date according to the practice prescribed in the appropriate romanization table.

ii) If the date is not of the Gregorian or Julian calendar, follow it with the equivalent year(s) of the Gregorian or Julian calendar in square brackets if needed for comprehensibility. Note: Such additions need not be included in non-Latin transcriptions.

Example:

762 [2001 or 2002]
תשס"ב

FIGURE 6 Rule A1.4E, “AACR3.”

An important item on LC’s wish list for RDA was acknowledgment of particular problems in non-Latin script cataloging and RDA’s commitment to “internationalization” and the hope that RDA would include more examples of access points and transcribed elements from resources that are in non-Latin scripts. LC commented on the draft:

[N]one of the examples include access points or explanations of transcribed elements from resources other than in the roman alphabet. When a non-roman script community produces an RDA translation, it is likely that many/most of the examples will be replaced with non-roman script examples. However, it would be both an indication of internationalization and a reflection of what Anglo-American libraries have in their collections if some examples of resources with transcribed elements in non-roman scripts were added to appropriate instructions in Part A. LC would be willing to supply such examples.¹⁷

The draft rule was revised (see Figure 6).¹⁸ This welcome guidance in the formulation of non-Latin fields, however, did not carry over into the final version of RDA. Here is RDA’s instruction for treatment of issues of language and script for transcribed elements:

RDA 1.4 Record the elements listed below in the language and script in which they appear on the sources from which they are taken [the following includes “date of publication” among many other elements]

RDA 1.8.2 Record numerals in the form preferred by the agency creating the data, unless the substitution would make the numbering less clear.

Alternatives [1] Record numerals in the form in which they appear on the source of information

The corresponding LCPS instructs catalogers to apply the Alternative and “record what they see.”

in source	תשס"ב
in roman 260 \$c	762 [2001 or 2002]
in nonroman 260 \$c	[2001 or 2002] תשס"ב

FIGURE 7 Proposed Treatment of a Hebrew Date.

RDA also provides optional guidelines on recording (in roman script fields) dates of publication that appear on the resource from other than a Gregorian or Julian calendar:

RDA 2.8.6.3 Recording Date of Publication, Optional Addition If the date as it appears in the resource is not of the Gregorian or Julian calendar, add the corresponding date or dates of the Gregorian or Julian calendar. Indicate that the information was taken from a source outside the resource itself as instructed under 2.2.4

[Jewish calendar example] 5730 [1969 or 1970]

(Instruction 2.2.4 says that such information should be placed in brackets.)

The corresponding LCPS instructs the cataloger to provide this optional addition—that is, to add the Gregorian date or dates. The example of a Hebrew date provided in instruction 2.8.6.3 shows the Western-style equivalent of the Hebrew date as it would be given in a fully romanized field, although in the vast majority of situations the date is given in the source in Hebrew characters. No guidance is given for transcription in the non-Latin field.

This issue was not referred to LChelp4rda@loc.gov during the Test period, but both Lerner and Biella chose to apply the AACR2 practice of recording dates of publication expressed in Hebrew characters in their Western-style numeral equivalent in both the Latin and non-Latin fields. The Hebraica cataloging community may still choose to ask for an LCPS allowing Hebrew characters representing numbers to appear in non-Latin fields as they appear in the source, followed by the Gregorian date equivalent enclosed in brackets. Figure 7 shows an example.

CHRONOGRAMS

Among the idiosyncrasies of Hebraica publishing, especially in materials focused on Judaism, is the chronogram system. A chronogram is a sentence or verse in which the numerical values of all letters or of specific ones add up to the desired number. Although similar systems were occasionally applied in Western publishing in the past, the labor of creating and interpreting them seems to have driven them to extinction there. Many Hebrew manuscripts, however, and an even greater number of printed books, both old and new, are dated simply by means of chronograms with publishers, typographers,

RDA 2.8.6.4 If the date of publication as it appears on the source of information is in the form of a chronogram, transcribe the chronogram as it appears

Optional Addition Add the date in numerals (in the script and calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description). Indicate that the information was taken from a source outside the resource itself as instructed under 2.2.4

LCPS on the Optional Addition Apply the alternative

Alternative In place of the chronogram, record a supplied date in numerals (in the script and calendar preferred by the agency preparing the description). Indicate that the information was taken from a source outside the resource itself as instructed under 2.2.4. Make a note giving the chronogram if it is considered to be important for identification (see 2.20.7.3)

LCPS on the Alternative Record a supplied date in numerals instead of giving the chronogram

FIGURE 8 RDA 2.8.6.4, Option, Alternative, and LCPSs.

and authors trying to outdo one another in encryption. The cataloger must solve these riddles to discover the publication dates.

Figure 8 shows the RDA instruction and the accompanying LCPS on chronograms. Applying the RDA instruction as is seems to suggest that the cataloger should transcribe the whole chronogram as it appears in Hebrew script, that is, the whole phrase or at least the significant letters (in the texts these sometimes appear in a larger font, or are marked with diacritics). If the whole phrase is transcribed, but only some of the letters are significant, the cataloger has no prescribed means of marking the significant letters.¹⁹ So more commonly, in accordance with the LCPS, catalogers apply the alternative instruction, which is to substitute numerals for the relevant letters.

Thus the current Jewish year, 5771 (counting from a little before the year of the Creation of the world according to the Bible), is expressed as shown in Figure 9.

AUTHORITY WORK

The rules of the Test prescribed that every authorized access point used in a test record must be established according to RDA instructions for authority work, or, if already established, reconsidered in the light of RDA instructions. During the test period, 7XX fields reflecting the RDA formulation for an authorized access point used in a test record were added to all extant AACR2 name authority records in the LC/Name Authority Cooperative (NACO)

ה'תשע"א on the piece in hand,
5771 in the 260 \$c of the bibliographic record

FIGURE 9 Current Jewish Year.

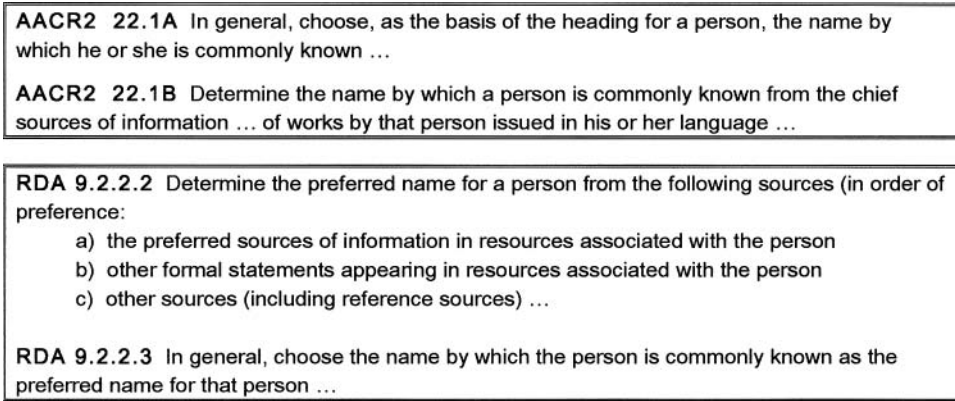


FIGURE 10 AACR2 22.1A and 1B, RDA 9.2.2.2 and 9.2.2.3.

Authority File whether or not the AACR2 and RDA forms of the authorized access point were different.²⁰

The basic rules for choosing the form of a personal name to be used in an authorized heading (AACR2 terminology) or preferred access point (RDA terminology) are very similar (see Figure 10). The rules for persons who write in the Hebrew alphabet, however, have been governed not by AACR2 rule 22.3C itself but by a section of the LCRI on this rule that was requested by the Hebraica cataloging community and issued by LC in the early 1980s. In February of 2010, when LCPSs were being written for the U.S. RDA Test, staff of LC's Policy and Standards Office asked the Israel/Judaica Section of the Library of Congress to propose changes to this RI before it was used during the Test. Hebraica librarians Heidi Lerner of Stanford University and Yossi Galron of Ohio State University were also consulted.²¹ The Hebraica experts proposed a number of changes, in an order of preference. It was acknowledged that what was proposed might be altered if and when RDA is fully implemented. Figure 11 gives a line-by-line comparison of the LCRI for AACR2 22.3C and the LCPS for RDA instruction 9.2.2.5.3, as it is presently recorded.

Aside from changes in vocabulary, the only differences between the LCRI and the LCPS are the omission of the initial requirement to consult general English-language encyclopedias from the LCPS and the requirement in the LCPS to check modern online reference sources if no romanized form of the person's name is found prominently in the piece in hand.

Figure 12 compares the effect of establishing a personal name according to AACR2 and RDA procedures using information from the same reference sources. No romanized form of the name is found prominently in the piece, so the heading established under AACR2 is in standard ALA/LC romanization (choice 4 in the LCRI), while that established under RDA is in a nonstandard romanization obtained from a Facebook posting (choice 3 in the LCPS).

LCRI for 22.3C (AACR2)	LCPS for 9.2.2.5.3 (RDA)
<i>Persons with Surnames Written in the Hebraic Alphabet</i>	<i>Names Written in a Non-Preferred Script (Hebraic Alphabet)</i>
Follow this order of preference when establishing headings for Hebrew and Yiddish persons with surnames:	Follow this order of preference for persons with Hebrew and Yiddish surnames:
1) If the name is found in <i>Academic American Encyclopedia</i> , and in <i>The Encyclopedia Americana</i> , and in <i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i> (15 th ed.), use the form found in these three sources; if the form varies in these three sources, use the form found in <i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i> (15 th ed.).	<i>Academic mic</i>
2) If the name is found prominently in a romanized form on the person's works in Hebrew or Yiddish, use this form.	1) If the name is found prominently in a romanized form on the person's works in Hebrew or Yiddish, use this form.
3) If the name is found in <i>The Encyclopaedia Judaica</i> , use this form.	2) If the name is found in <i>The Encyclopaedia Judaica</i> , use this form.
	3) If a romanized form of the name is found in modern reference sources that are widely and easily consulted, use this form, especially for persons of recent fame or where the person who writes primarily in the Hebrew script provides a preferred form of their name in the Latin script in the reference source (e.g., Wikipedia, Facebook, LinkedIn).
4) Otherwise, use the systematically romanized form of the name.	4) Otherwise, use the systematically romanized form of the name.

FIGURE 11 Comparison of LCRI 22.3C and LCPS 9.2.2.5.3.

Figure 13 presents a more thought-provoking example, the formulation of the personal name for a well-known rabbi of the 11th century under RDA procedures.

Because all the 670 data in an authority record must be reconsidered when the heading is first needed for an RDA bibliographic record, Ibn Paḳuda's heading must become:

Bachja ibn Jōsēf ibn Paḳūda, \$d active 11th century²²

according to the first form in Latin script recorded from a prominent source in one of his works—the Germanic romanization adding an unexpected

AACR2 style		RDA style	
040	CSt-HC \$b eng \$c CSt-HC	040	CSt-HC \$b eng \$c CSt-HC
100 1	Yovel, Yosi	100 1	Yovel, Yossi
400 1	Yovel, Yossi	400 1	Yovel, Yosi
400 1	יובל, יוסי	400 1	יובל, יוסי
670	Le-hinaše la-Geveret Aikhman, 2010: \$b t.p. (יובל, יוסי = Yosi Yovel)	670	Le-hinaše la-Geveret Aikhman, 2010: \$b t.p. (יובל, יוסי = Yosi Yovel)
670	Facebook, Nov. 17, 2010 (Yossi Yovel)	670	Facebook, Nov. 17, 2010 (Yossi Yovel)

FIGURE 12 Comparison of AACR2 and RDA Authority Records.

exotic charm for English-speakers. Such results may be a good argument for the “grandfathering” of AACR2 headings under RDA.²³

Like the LCRI on 22.3C, the LCPS on 9.2.2.5.3 in its present form uniquely prescribes that, if the author uses the Hebrew script, the romanized form of his or her name found prominently in the works takes precedence over any other form. The “Hebraic alphabet” section of the LCRI was proposed by the Hebraica cataloging community via the Association of Jewish Libraries in the early 1980s and was adopted without adaptation by the Descriptive Policy Division (ancestor of the present Policy and Standards Division), in a gesture of collegiality toward specialized cataloging communities. It is clear that the Library of Congress is ready to maintain this attitude into a post-AACR2 era, and now might be an appropriate time for a reconsideration of these policies.

100 0	Baḥya ben Joseph ibn Paḳuda, \$d 11 th cent.
400 0	Bachja ibn Jōsēf ibn Paḳūda, \$d 11 th cent.
400 0	Baḥye ben Yosef ibn Paḳudah, \$d 11 th cent.
400 0	בחי בן יוסף אבן פקודה
<i>[many references omitted]</i>	
670	His Al-Hidāja 'ilā farā'id al-qulūb, 1912: \$b t.p. (Bachja ibn Jōsēf ibn Paḳūda)
670	His The book of direction to the duties of the heart, 1973: \$b t.p. (Baḥya ben Joseph ibn Paḳuda)
670	Torat Ḥovot ha-levavot, 2007?: \$b t.p. (בחי בן יוסף אבן פקודה = Rabenu Baḥye ben Yosef ibn Paḳudah)
670	Encyc. Judaica, c1971 \$b (Baḥya (Baḥye) ben Joseph ibn Paḳuda; 2 nd half of 11 th cent.; moral philosopher; lived in Muslim Spain, prob. in Saragossa)
<i>[many 670s omitted]</i>	
700 0_	Bachja ibn Jōsēf ibn Paḳūda, \$d active 11 th century

FIGURE 13 Part of the Authority Record for Baḥya Ibn Paḳuda.

CONCLUSION

RDA was written to succeed AACR2. Among its goals were the intention that it should move away from reflecting the Anglo-American focus of AACR2 and lend itself to easier application across a wider range of resources and materials. After working closely with it during the Test period, the authors did not observe that it presents a more “international” viewpoint. The commonplaces of Hebrew-script publishing discussed in this article are no more easily shoehorned into the general structure of RDA than they were into that of AACR2—and considering the vast panorama of worldwide publishing traditions, this is not a surprising fact.²⁴

Catalogers coping with such materials under AACR2 were forced to expand the rules, bend them, or offer new interpretations to fit their own cases, sometimes with the help of the framers of the general code, and sometimes on their own with only their own experience to guide them toward the necessary adaptations. During the Test period LC showed great tolerance for variant practice when consulted. LCPSs sometimes even restore AACR2-like treatment precluded by RDA, as the authors have shown.

Any specialized cataloging community called upon to catalog with RDA will encounter the same kind of problems and need to pursue solutions through the channels available to the authors during the Test period. Since 2006 there have been ongoing discussions on supplementing RDA with specialist manuals.²⁵ A few existed in the AACR2 environment. Adapting these or creating new ones for the world of RDA would be difficult and time-consuming, and the results would be, as under AACR2, jury-rigged structures at best, built over an inadequate infrastructure. To achieve sounder, better-integrated results, communities could seek to remedy shortcomings they perceive in RDA itself, the LCPSs, or other RDA documentation. If the basic instructions cover a broader range of situations, the need for specialized manuals (“supercommentaries” in the language of Hebraica publishing) will be decreased.

Areas in which the Hebraica cataloging community might propose improvements include:

- revised wording for RDA vis à vis the recording of terms such as “Sefer . . .” at the beginning of a title proper (RDA Ch. 2) and in the preferred title (RDA Ch. 6)
- a recommendation for an LCPS practice for recording dates of publication expressed in Hebrew characters when recording date of publication in non-Latin script fields
- a recommendation for changes to the LCPS for 9.2.2.5.3 regarding selecting the best Latin script form of preferred names

- a recommendation for changes to the ALA-LC Romanization table for Hebrew with regard to the romanization of the variant spelling of “Jerusalem”
- a proposal for a change in shelflisting practice to Cutter by the word following a generic word in a title proper

As the authors have shown in their own experience, individual catalogers and cataloging communities who work with specialized resources in non-Western languages will need to take an active role in evaluating and modifying existing RDA instructions and guidelines to insure that RDA becomes truly internationalized.²⁶

NOTES

1. These materials are referred to in the body of the article as “Hebraica” and may include resources in Hebrew, Yiddish, Biblical and Talmudic Aramaic, Judeo-Arabic, Ladino, and Judeo-Persian.

2. Library of Congress, Library of Congress Documentation for the RDA (Resource Description and Access) Test: Library of Congress Policy Statements (LCPs), http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/RDAtest/rda_lcps.html; PSD, e-mail to Biella and Lerner, May 10, 2011.

3. The authors refer throughout the article to various MARC tags that store the relevant cataloging data. The MARC21 Standard uses numeric tags to encode this information. See: RDA Toolkit, Tools: RDA to MARC Bibliographic Mapping and MARC Bibliographic to RDA Mapping; The Library of Congress, MARC Standard Webpage, “MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data,” <http://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/ecbdhome.html>

4. Instruction 6.2.2.8 itself, “Recording the Preferred Title for a Work,” merely directs the reader to various other instructions for particular types of works.

5. Quoted by PSD staff member, LChelp4RDA, e-mail message to Biella, December 22, 2010.

6. PSD, e-mail to Biella, August 12, 2010.

7. PSD, e-mail to Biella, December 10, 2010.

8. In MARC21 preferred titles can be entered in 130, 240, 600, 610, 611, 630, 700, 710, 711, 730, 800, 810, 811, and 830 fields.

9. Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine. “RDA Test ‘Training the Trainer’ Power-Point Presentation,” Module 3, slide 7, <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/RDAtest/rdatraining.html> (accessed March 23, 2011).

10. Maher’s *Hebraica Cataloging: A Guide to ALA/LC Romanization and Descriptive Cataloging* (Washington, DC: Cataloging Distribution Service, 1987) describes its own role on p. 6: “The manual was originally prepared as an internal training document for new Hebraica cataloging staff in the Descriptive Cataloging Division of the Library of Congress. It has been revised to serve as a published guide to the romanization and cataloging of Hebraica by the Library of Congress.”

11. *Ibid.*, p. 38.

12. LChelp4RDA, e-mail message to Biella, October 6, 2010, on retaining the spelling “Yerushalafylim” for the test; e-mail communication from PSD to Biella and Lerner, May 11, 2011, on possible revision of romanization practice.

13. SULAIR Metadata Development Unit website, “STANFORD-RDA Test: Stanford vs. LC decisions (upd. 10/15/2010),” <https://lib.stanford.edu/metadata-department/stanford-rda-test-stanford-vs-lc-decisions-upd-10152010>,” SULAIR Metadata Development Unit website, “STANFORD-RDA Post-Test: Stanford vs. LC decisions (upd. 2/2011),” <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5rda-parta-ch6&7rev-lcresp.pdf>.

14. Maher, *Hebraica Cataloging*, p. 45.

15. An updated version of AACR2 that was begun but later scrapped in favor of the new concepts that became RDA.

16. RDA JSC Web site, SC/RDA/Part I [2005/12/09], <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5aacr3-part1.pdf>

17. RDA JSC website, JSC/RDA/Part A/Chapters 6-7/Rev/LC response, <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5rda-parta-ch6&7rev-lcresp.pdf> (accessed March 23, 2011).

18. JSC/RDA/Part I [2005/12/09], <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5aacr3-part1.pdf>; JSC/LC/2/ALA response, <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5lc2-alaresp.pdf> (accessed March 23, 2011).

19. Given the current limitations of bibliographic utilities and ILSs, finding a practical solution is not easy. Some catalogers have used a “geresh” (a character similar to a prime or apostrophe) to identify these letters, but that would result in an inaccurate transcription since these marks do not appear in the source.

20. Described in the document “US RDA Test Policy for the Extra Set: Use of Existing Authority and Bibliographic Records,” at the Library of Congress Documentation for the RDA (*Resource Description and Access*) Test Web site, <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/RDAtest/rdatest.html>

21. Biella, e-mail to PSD, February 22, 2010.

22. Note that “active” is the term prescribed in the LCPS on instruction 9.3.4.3 for a period-of-activity date, and that the AACR2 abbreviation “cent.” is spelled out as “century” in access points under RDA.

23. Library of Congress, Program for Cooperative Cataloging Web site, “PoCo Discussion Paper on RDA Implementation Alternatives,” <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/PoCo-RDA-Discussion-Paper040511.pdf> (accessed April 18, 2011).

24. The authors note that Israeli cataloging practices for Latin script materials adhere to international standards such as AACR2, with modifications made to AACR2 for the cataloging of materials in Hebrew script. See: Elhanan Adler, “Judaica Cataloging: The Hebrew Bibliographic and Israeli Traditions.” *Judaica Librarianship* 6, nos. 1–2 (1992): 9–10; Elhanan Adler, Avivah Shihor, Rochelle Kedar. *ba-Kitlug: Sefer yesodot u-kbelalim*, 3rd ed. (Yerushalayim: Merkaz ha-hadrakhah le-sifriyot tsiburiyot, 1995).

25. RDA JSC Web site, “JSC 5JSC/ALA/3/ALA Follow-Up,” <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/5ala3-alafolup.pdf> (accessed March 23, 2011).

26. On June 13, 2011 the library community was notified that the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine will adopt RDA with certain conditions. In light of this knowledge it is more important than ever that the groups of specialized cataloging communities take the opportunity to work with JSC to remedy shortcomings that they find in the current manifestation of the RDA Toolkit. If changes and modifications are made within the Toolkit itself it will lessen the need for a host of specialist manuals that exist separately.