

Application of RDA Rules on Cataloging of Minority Documents in China

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Keywords: RDA, Cataloging, Minority Document

Abstract: The new international rules led by the Library of Congress - Resource Description & Access are widely used worldwide. This rule applies to the description of all types of document resources that may or may not be available in the future, and the resource has more provisions, more specific provisions, and more content, and is used by multiple countries and OCLC (the world's largest library joint cataloging agency). The paper sorts out the characteristics and cataloging status of Chinese minority literature, and analyzes the advantages and difficulties of minority literature cataloging based on RDA rules.

1. Introduction

RDA is primarily a revision of AACR2 (the second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloging Regulations). AACR has always been the main rule in the international cataloging world. The cataloging regulations in many countries refer to the AACR, and the Chinese cataloging work in China has long followed the AACR principle. AACR has two versions, AACR1 and AACR2. AACR2 was published in 1978. For more than 30 years, its main structure and ideas have not changed despite several major revisions. However, with the emergence of digital literature and the application and popularity of computer cataloging networks, the revision of AACR2 appears to be difficult to adapt to real needs. In order to adapt to the changes in the new situation, better describe various types of literature (especially electronic resources), share bibliographic records, and be compatible with various cataloging formats, at the AACR International Conference on Principles and Future Development, held in Toronto, Canada, in 1997. JSC (The Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, AACR Co-Revising Steering Committee) and the AACR Committee of Principles (CoP) invite experts from all over the world to jointly study and formulate the future development plan of AACR. Experts recommend the new international The cataloging principle sets a new version of AACR. Since then, the development of the first draft of the new AACR has been ongoing. In 1998, IFLA officially published the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FR-BR), whereby the conceptual model and philosophy of FRBR provided theoretical support for the revision of AACR2. In 2004, CoP was the author of the new version. In December 2004, the first part of the AACR3 draft was issued and the opinions and suggestions of the parties were sought. The opinions and suggestions collected were discussed at the JSC meeting in April 2005. At this meeting, JSC and CoP integrated parties' constructive comments and suggestions on the draft AACR3 decided to establish a new development direction and a new work name RDA for the development of the new version. From the naming point of view, there is no trace of AACR, so the goal is to hope that the new rules will be more widely used. Therefore, the original name "Anglo-American" is not suitable, and use "Description & Access" instead of "Cataloging" means that the resource type is more widely applicable. The first full version of RDA was released in November 2008. After each part of the announcement, there will be a discussion for a while, and JSC will make changes based on this. JSC released the latest version of RDA Toolkit in June 2010, and has descriptions in several languages, including Arabic, Chinese, German, and French. The transition period after the end of the RDA test at the Library of Congress on December 31, 2010 marked the beginning of a new phase of RDA.

2. China's ethnic minority literature and its current status

China is a multi-ethnic country. Each of the 55 ethnic minorities has created their own splendid culture. At the same time, it has formed a rich and colorful national literature. It is a valuable spiritual wealth of 55 ethnic minorities in China. It is a social, economic, technological and cultural. The development of art and other aspects has incalculable value and role, and is also an important part of the entire human civilization. The types of ethnic minority carriers are complex and diverse, and can be said to be a collection of books, information, archives, and museums. As long as they have national characteristics, they belong to minority literature, including books, scriptures, accounts, inscriptions, stones, maps, word of mouth, bone books, electronic documents, and so on. There are 21 ethnic groups in China that have their own texts. If there are minority languages that have died out and minority languages that use two or more types of characters, there are more types, about 50 to 60. These languages cover almost all forms of the world, such as pictorial characters, hieroglyphics, syllables, and pinyin characters. Minorities without words use word of mouth, songs, rituals, etc. to pass on their rich ethnic culture. Since the 20th century, many ethnic minority electronic documents, websites, and digital publications have appeared. It can be seen that the minority literature has the characteristics of diversified document carrier, diversified expression language, slow aging and strong vitality. At the same time, the content is complex, wide-ranging and fuzzy.

Over the years, under the attention of research institutions at all levels, professionals have systematically collected and organized various ethnic minority documents in China. Various types of books, information, archives institutions and related scientific research and publishing institutions across the country have compiled a large number of catalogues of minority nationalities based on their own advantages. They published many printed catalogues such as "National Manchu Books and Materials". Since the Internet era, various document information units have established a variety of minority literature databases around their respective geographical advantages, resource advantages and disciplinary advantages, which has marked great achievements in the cataloging, retrieval and utilization of minority literature. However, the printed bibliography of publications can only be used by those who own the book, which is not conducive to the dissemination and application of bibliographies and documents. The printed edition of the bibliography also has the disadvantage of being manually searchable, slow and inefficient. The minority literature database can be accessed and shared remotely through the network, but most databases are not built using uniform standards. The data format, description language, and management software are different and cannot be shared in depth. The database is searched in a single way, and the literature cannot be revealed from multiple angles to meet the needs of readers. In today's information explosion, the bibliography compiled in the above way has basically become an information island. In addition to professional researchers, few readers are willing to access obstacles (like too many network links) to access. The literature on ethnic minorities is so rich and colorful, but the utilization rate is so low. It cannot be said that changing the cataloging of minority literature is imminent.

3. Using RDA for the advantages of minority literature cataloging

RDA is the latest international cataloging rule developed in response to the development of the digital environment. It has been widely used all over the world. In addition to the United States, Britain, Germany, Australia, Canada and other countries, the world's largest online bibliographic database OCLC-WorldCat also launched RDA in 2013. The Shanghai Document Co-cataloging Center, one of the three major bibliographic data compilation organizations in China, has also begun to catalogue Western and Chinese literature by using RDA. It is a general trend for RDA to replace the current rules as a new international cataloging rule. Therefore, in order to keep up with the pace of development of the discipline, it is imperative to carry out research on the cataloging of Chinese minority literature based on RDA rules. Creating conditions for the deep sharing of Chinese national minority bibliographies on a global scale. From the history of the development of Chinese

literature cataloging, it is limited to the use of traditional CNMARC cataloging rules, making the bibliographic data set difficult for foreign libraries to accept, indirectly affecting foreign countries. The library's collection of Chinese national literature and the promotion of Chinese national publications abroad. At present, RDA is increasingly developing into an international standard for resource description and retrieval, and the Chinese national minority bibliography that makes RDA rules will be more easily read, understood and used by foreign readers. This will create conditions for the deep sharing of Chinese national minority bibliographies on a global scale, accelerate the dissemination of Chinese minority literature bibliography, objectively promote the world's understanding of the excellent culture of all ethnic groups in China, and promote pluralistic Chinese culture. RDA describes resource objects according to the three-dimensional framework of entity-attribute-relationship. It is an extensible framework for describing and organizing many resource types. It is very beneficial to multi-lingual, multi-type, multi-carrier Chinese minority literature. The catalogue can more truly and comprehensively reveal the various information contained in the national minority literature, and can cover all types of literature resources that may exist in the future. Under this premise, this topic is expected to break the current situation of different nationalities literature cataloging rules, industries, and ethnic groups, and establish a more standardized and standardized cataloging framework and rules, which has become an important reference for peers.

RDA differs from traditional MARC in that it changes from a linear flat structure to a solid-attribute-relational three-dimensional structure, which is a change in the conceptual perspective of document cataloging. How to use the RDA rules to better catalog the minority literature? Of course it requires high practical experience on researchers and librarians. For all types of minority literature, find as many physical documents as possible, to make the catalogues and methods true, detailed and comprehensive. Document cataloging is a very tedious task that requires a lot of time and effort, and patience and perseverance. When studying a new RDA-based cataloging method, each record, field, and item needs to be carefully checked and considered repeatedly.

4. Conclusion

Based on the RDA rules, the research on the cataloguing of Chinese minority documents will no longer only use the researchers in the professional field as the target users of the minority bibliographic information, but will extend the users to non-professional general readers, all domestic and foreign network users. Today, when the Internet has connected the world, the Chinese minority literature, which is a valuable spiritual wealth of mankind, should be searchable, understood and used by everyone at least at the catalogues level. Based on the above viewpoints, the research on the cataloging of Chinese minority literature based on RDA rules, by cataloging more literature, increasing the comprehensibility of the literature, expanding the scope of the readers served and the internationalization of the cataloging rules, will greatly improve the national minority literature influence in the world.

Acknowledgements

Fund Project: Research on New Methods of Cataloging Chinese Minority Documents Based on Resource Description and Retrieval (RDA), No. 2017SZYQN38.

Project Category: Fundamental Research Funds for Central Universities of Southwest Minzu University

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