

# Catapult

025. No.122, Paengawhāwhā/April 2026

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## From the editor

Kia ora koutou,

I hope everyone is faring okay after the recent weather events.

We've got a fun article this issue explaining how to approach the new RDA toolkit using metaphors and a call from National Library for input into their plan to support libraries' transition to the new RDA.

Noho ora mai,  
Hazel Loughrey  
Catapult editor

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## LIANZA CatSIG Committee

Contact the Committee: [catsigcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:catsigcommittee@gmail.com)

Co-convenors: Ciaran Findlay, Bridget Jennings

Committee members: Madelene Turnbull, Samantha Finch, Arlyn Yala, Joanne Rowan

ORDAC representatives: Bridget Jennings, George Sweetensen

## Info

Editor: Hazel Loughrey.

Catapult is published three times a year in April, August, and December.

Previous issues are available on LIANZA's Recollect.

## CatSIG update

Joanne Rowan

### Calling all experimenters with AI in cataloguing for brief CatSIG discussion presentations

The next CatSIG discussion webinar will be on AI and cataloguing. We plan to organise this for Tuesday in early June. In order to do justice to this important topic, we need your help!

If you have been experimenting with AI tools in cataloguing (in any capacity, e.g. day-to-day cataloguing, retro projects, etc.), would you be willing to do a brief five-to-ten-minute presentation on what you've been doing and what your findings are?

If yes, then we would love to hear from you! Please email the CatSIG Committee ([catsigcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:catsigcommittee@gmail.com)) and we will be in touch.

If you know someone who has been using AI in their cataloguing work, please feel free to pass this message on to them.

### CatSIG discussion on Reparative Description

The library sector is actively looking at how we describe and manage our collections to better reflect Indigenous voices and ensure cultural safety.

While many institutions are in the early stages of formalising policies, several libraries are currently integrating reparative metadata into their work plans and collection policy updates - with many libraries following Care and Fair guidelines.

The adoption of Ngā Upoko Tukutuku (Māori Subject Headings) is in widespread use to improve discoverability, with some libraries adding iwi affiliations to improve discovery as well. Several libraries are also using the Homosaurus to enhance descriptions for LGBTQ+ materials.

Visual indicators remain a primary tool for guiding users toward Māori and Pasifika resources.

Approaches to content warnings and cultural restrictions are still evolving. Some libraries include notices in their catalogues to warn users about outdated or offensive language.

As this is an evolving area, it would be great if libraries could share what they are doing in this space on the CatSIG list server or as an item in a future Catapult.

# CatSIG update

Joanne Rowan

## Reparative Description - related resources

### TK labels

- <https://localcontexts.org/labels/traditional-knowledge-labels/>

### National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa

- Harmful language statement  
<https://natlib.govt.nz/about-us/strategy-and-policy/harmful-language-statement>
- National Library: Updating the language we use to describe our collections  
<https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/updating-the-language-we-use-to-describe-our-collections>

### Protocols and guidelines from other countries

- Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) Protocol at National Library Australia:  
<https://www.library.gov.au/first-australians/indigenous-cultural-and-intellectual-property>
- Guidelines for First Nations collection description / Tui Raven. Deakin, Australian Capital Territory: National and State Libraries Australasia, 2023.  
<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/10010699>
- CARE principles for Indigenous data governance  
<https://www.gida-global.org/care>

### LGBTQ+ metadata

- Metadata Best Practices for Trans and Gender Diverse Resources (York University):  
<https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=librarians>
- How to use the Alma Refine cloud app for service Homosaurus  
<https://developers.exlibrisgroup.com/blog/how-to-use-the-alma-refine-cloud-app-for-service-homosaurus/>

# CatSIG update

Joanne Rowan

## Related resources cont.

### Name authority records - PCC Standing Committee on Standards

- Final Report: PCC SCS Task Group on Privacy in Name Authority Records

<https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/scs/documents/SCS-TG-Privacy-in-NARs-Final-Report.pdf>

(includes scenarios to help illustrate best practice with regard to what to add to/retain in authority records and what to omit/remove)

### Subject/Genre/Language thesauri examples

- Homosaurus

<https://homosaurus.org/>

- AIATSIS subject thesaurus

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/thesaurus/topical>

- Austlang:

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/languages/austlang>

### Classification schemes from other countries

- Brian Deer Classification at Simon Fraser University:

<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/academic-integrity/indigenous-initiatives/icrc/brian-deer-classification>

- Crash Course in the Brian Deer Classification / Ashley Edwards, Simon Fraser University Library. 2021.

[https://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/35498/Crash Course in the Brian Deer Classification.pdf](https://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/35498/Crash_Course_in_the_Brian_Deer_Classification.pdf)

- Brian Deer Classification at Xwi7xwa Library, University of British Columbia:

<https://xwi7xwa.library.ubc.ca/collections/indigenous-knowledge-organization/>

- Galiwin'ku Community Library (Northern Territory, Australia):

<https://www.nsla.org.au/resources/cslp-collections/case-studies/lant-galiwinku/>

- Maawn Doobigeng = Gather Together (Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries, Michigan):

<https://saginaw.ploud.net/MaawnDoobiigeng>

## CatSIG update

Joanne Rowan

### Related resources - cont.

#### Listservs, communities, newsletters etc.

- RadCat: the "Radical cataloging" is a listserv which discusses issues around social and ethical issues in the cataloguing community internationally (primarily US-based):  
<https://listserv.uga.edu/scripts/wa-UGA.exe?SUBED1=RADCAT&A=1>
- Critcatenate: a monthly round up of news relating to critical cataloguing:  
<https://cataloginglab.org/category/critcatenate/>
- Reparative Description Community of Practice. A community of practice run by ACORD (Australia's CatSIG equivalent), the RDCoP (Reparative Description Community of Practice) meets every second month for presentations and discussions about Reparative Description:  
<https://acord.alia.org.au/communities-of-practice/rdcop/>

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## ORDAC Update for April 2026

Bridget Jennings & George Sweetensen

### What is ORDAC again?



ORDAC is the Oceania RDA Committee. ORDAC is responsible for representing the Oceania Region on the RDA Steering Committee (RSC). In turn, the RSC is responsible for maintaining the RDA content standard.

ORDAC provides a regional perspective on RDA changes and developments, to make sure that our communities are able to describe bibliographical resources in a way that is well-formed according to international models but also culturally appropriate for our part of the world.

Currently ORDAC is made up of representatives from Australia and New Zealand, although we're keen to have representation from other parts of the Pacific (let us know if you have any contacts who might be interested!).

### New LIANZA CatSIG ORDAC Representative

Great news! George Sweetensen (NLNZ) is the new CatSIG Representative joining myself and Charlotte Christensen (NLNZ Rep) on ORDAC. We're delighted to have her on the committee!

From George:

Kia ora koutou! I'm George (she/her), a Collection Description Librarian at Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, the National Library of New Zealand. I've been in this role for nearly three years, after previously working as a Library Assistant with Collection Support and Processing. I joined the team just before we began training in Official RDA, giving me brief exposure to Original RDA but most of my experience in Official RDA. I'm delighted to be joining ORDAC as the new CatSIG Representative.

### Official RDA Countdown Clock

May 2026 marks one year until Original RDA is "retired" and Official RDA is fully adopted. There are training videos and tools available in the meantime. For example, the RDA Concepts collection of short videos by Kate James is available on the RDA Toolkit YouTube channel [here](#).

If you haven't already done so, have a look at the National Library's practical training resources on [Niche Academy](#).

## ORDAC Update cont.

Bridget Jennings & George Sweetensen

### Official RDA Toolkit YouTube Channel

The Official RDA Toolkit has a [YouTube channel](#). Check in occasionally to see what new webinars and presentations have been published. This includes:

#### NARDAC Spring Update

The North America RDA Committee (NARDAC) held its Spring Update webinar on 14 April. They covered upcoming releases of documentation and training opportunities to prepare for Official RDA implementation. Additionally, there were short presentations explaining String Encoding Schemes (SES) and the proposals for extent elements.

### RDA Steering Committee Meetings

#### January RSC Meeting

Much of the focus of the January RSC meeting was on the [suite of proposal papers](#) submitted by the Extent Working Group. This was a huge project undertaken by the Working Group, to update and redevelop the way extent is recorded in Official RDA (for extent think stuff that can be counted and measured basically). You can read through the proposals on the RDA Toolkit website [here](#). The Working Group has kept backward compatibility in mind, so the way you currently record extent is not going to be turned into confetti. There will be more options to describe extent of content as well as carrier, for example, and to dig deep into accurate descriptions of special resources.

Additionally, the RSC discussed a paper from the Technical Working Group on Soft-Deprecated Elements. This paper has led to a series of proposal papers which will be rolled out for discussion through the year.

#### April RSC Meeting

The April meeting of the RSC is in the last week of the month. Up for discussion are two of the Soft-Deprecated Element proposal papers, plus a paper submitted by the Translations Working Group proposing new relationship elements applicable to rare and old materials.

Papers submitted to the RSC are distributed around regional communities for reading and comment prior to RSC meetings. Comments and feedback are then compiled into formal responses that are submitted via the regional representative. For Oceania, this is [Jack Ennis Butler](#). Thank you for feedback, it's much appreciated!

## ORDAC Update cont.

Bridget Jennings & George Sweetensen

### Links and Contact Information

All RSC documents, including meeting minutes, papers and responses to papers can be viewed on the RDA Toolkit website. Keep an eye on the [RSC news section](#) for updates.

You can also join the Oceania RDA discussion list if you have not done so already. There are instructions on the [ORDAC webpage here](#). I also send updates and requests for feedback to the CatSIG list.

If you have any other comments or feedback, please send them our way! All comments are welcome – you can send directly to: [bridget.jennings@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:bridget.jennings@wcc.govt.nz) or [george.sweetensen@dia.govt.nz](mailto:george.sweetensen@dia.govt.nz).

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# National Library seeks input into support plan for transition to new cataloguing standard

Sandra McKenzie

The National Library is thinking about ways to best support the transition of New Zealand libraries to the cataloguing standard Official Resource Description and Access (RDA). This standard will come into effect next year, replacing the [Original RDA which will not be accessible via the Web after May 11, 2027](#).

Original RDA was first published online in June 2010, with the last update in April 2017. As you will appreciate, information technology has changed a lot since then.

There have already been changes in MARC records sourced from the National Library of New Zealand and over the coming months, New Zealand libraries will be seeing changes in records sourced internationally as the transition to the Official RDA gets closer. You can read more about the changes in our MARC records here: [MARC record changes due to RDA implementation | National Library of New Zealand](#).

If you would like to send in ideas, or get in touch for more information, please email Sandra McKenzie, Senior Collection Description Specialist, National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa ([email:sandra.mckenzie@dia.govt.nz](mailto:sandra.mckenzie@dia.govt.nz)) before 14 May 2026 (extended from 30 April 2026)

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## Sheds, kits and belts: stretching the RDA Toolkit metaphor

Bridget Jennings (Wellington City Libraries)

Metaphors can be useful for quickly grasping concepts, and I find them a good way to learn. This can lead to exhaustive interrogation of the metaphor, to see how far it stretches and how useful it really is.

Working the tool metaphor quite hard can be a good way of getting to grips with the RDA Toolkit, so I had a go at seeing how far I could take it.

Disclaimer: I'm not a tool person, so apologies for any bad analogies.

### Shed

I think of the RDA Toolkit as functioning more as a toolshed. It is a communal shed, which many institutions have the key to.

This is why the RDA Toolkit can look overwhelming when you first log in: you've opened the door on a large shed which has 3,000 tools and their instruction manuals, warranties, and some construction how-to guides, and you're not sure how they're organised and where to start looking for what you need. The temptation is to quietly shut the door and step away. But the shed can be organised in such a way that you can find the tools you need.

### Kit

There are tools in the toolshed that you probably are never going to need or use – such is the nature of a communal collection – so you will be wanting a way to ignore the tools you are not interested in, and a way to corral the tools you do use.

For example, in Official RDA there is the relationship element Person: graduate of. Harvard University may wish to link its published alumni to itself, but this element/tool is not really relevant or interesting for a public library.

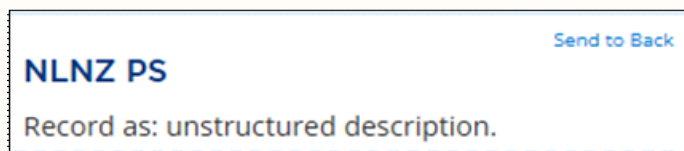
Institutional Policy Statements create a toolkit, the collection of tools that you will be using. It could be that you have permission to use the tools in someone else's toolkit (since you perform similar tasks to them, and it's a collaborative shed after all), or that you keep your own tools in your own kit.

# Sheds, kits and belts: stretching the RDA Toolkit metaphor

Bridget Jennings (Wellington City Libraries)

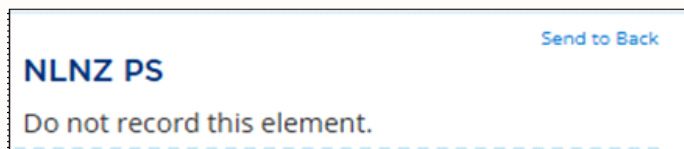
cont.

This tool is in the NLNZ kit:



**NLNZ PS** [Send to Back](#)  
Record as: unstructured description.

This tool is not in the NLNZ kit:



**NLNZ PS** [Send to Back](#)  
Do not record this element.

Screen images from the RDA Toolkit ([www.rdatoolkit.org](http://www.rdatoolkit.org)) used by permission of Copyright Holder for RDA (CFLA-FCAB, Canadian Federation of Library Associations).

## Belt

Even once your tools are organised into your toolkit this can still prove too unwieldy; it's hard to get a toolkit up a ladder and it's annoying to drag it around the ground after you as you nail floorboards down. Not all tools are used every time you perform a task, and not all tools are suited to all tasks (you can't hammer nails with a screwdriver). Enter the toolbelt.

A metadata application profile (MAP) is a set of elements, policies and guidelines that can be used to create a metadata description set (e.g. a catalogue record). This, in the world of the tool metaphor, is the toolbelt.

An NLNZ toolbelt:



**NLNZ MAP Static Text Non-aggregate**

Version:	License	Category	Last Updated
	CC BY	ApplicationProfile	2024/02/07

Static Text Non-aggregate Metadata Application Profile

Screen image from the RDA Toolkit ([www.rdatoolkit.org](http://www.rdatoolkit.org)) used by permission of Copyright Holder for RDA (CFLA-FCAB, Canadian Federation of Library Associations).

# Sheds, kits and belts: stretching the RDA Toolkit metaphor

Bridget Jennings (Wellington City Libraries)

cont.

A toolbelt is most efficient when it is compiled based on scenarios, so in your belt you only have the tools you will need for the task that you are performing. You will have a different belt set up for carpet laying, joinery, roofing etc. Or, for bibliographic metadata purposes, a MAP for notated music, cartographic material, websites, serials, etc.

## Tools

To stretch the metaphor even further, you will find some tools in your toolkit are critical (you are helpless without them) while others just make tasks a lot easier.

You will find that you have some tools in all your toolbelts that you use every time you work, some tools that you use every time you perform a particular task, and some tools that come in very handy but only when you strike a particular situation.

For example, Manifestation: title proper is a hammer. You will always use this tool, and it will be in everyone's tool belt. Every manifestation needs a title.

Manifestation: designation of edition on the other hand is a wrench. It's good to have in your toolbelt should the occasion arise that you need to wrench something. Not every manifestation has an edition statement.

Manifestation: broadcast standard is a carving chisel. It will be in your toolbelt if you are whittling or carving wood = it will be in your MAPs for cataloguing video recordings.

I imagine it is possible to continue torturing the metaphor, but I think I probably should take mercy on it and stop. Hopefully this has been a worthwhile journey so far.

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## Important updates

### OLAC Catalogers Network

OLAC Metadata Application Profile and Policy Statements for the Official RDA Toolkit

<https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/olac-publications/31/>

### Dewey updates

- Seven changes were considered by the DDC Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) in January, five of which were approved. Changes include a new class and clarification of instructions. More here:

<https://community.oclc.org/t5/dewey-services/results-of-epc-146a/ba-p/62738>

- The print on-demand version of The Dewey Decimal Classification is now available. More here:

<https://community.oclc.org/t5/dewey-services/the-dewey-decimal-classification-2026-print-on-demand-version-is/ba-p/63318>

### Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC)

- Changes from Original RDA for Monographs

<https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/sct/documents/Changes-from-Original-RDA-for-Monographs-Report.pdf>

- PCC Task Group on Training and Mentorship Needs Assessment: Final Report

<https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/sct/documents/SCT-Training-Mentorship-Needs-Assessment-TG-Final-Report.pdf>

- SCS CONSER Documentation Modernization Task Group

<https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/PFCCP/SCS+CONSER+Documentation+Modernization+Task+Group>

### From the OCLC research blog

- Data-driven workflows and the art of informational collaboration / Brian Lavoie

<https://hangingtogether.org/data-driven-workflows-and-the-art-of-informational-collaboration/>

## Articles of interest

### AI

Enhanced archival metadata through AI: a case study of digitized photograph descriptions / Erin Wolfe

<https://www.emerald.com/el/article/doi/10.1108/EL-07-2025-0281/1342915/Enhanced-archival-metadata-through-AI-a-case-study?searchresult=1>

## Courses

### Library Juice: On demand

Describing Photographs for the Online Catalogue	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/064-describing-photographs-online-catalogue/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/064-describing-photographs-online-catalogue/</a>
LRM: A New Foundation for RDA & the RDA Toolkit	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/230-lrm-new-foundation/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/230-lrm-new-foundation/</a>
LSSC Elective Competencies: Cataloging and Classification	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/247-lssc-cataloging-and-classification/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/247-lssc-cataloging-and-classification/</a>

### Library Juice: May 2026

Electronic Resources Cataloging	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/320-electronic-resources-cataloging/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/320-electronic-resources-cataloging/</a>
Introduction to AI and Metadata: Uses with Library Data	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/356-introduction-to-ai-and-metadata-uses-with-library-data/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/356-introduction-to-ai-and-metadata-uses-with-library-data/</a>
Linked Data & Libraries	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/280-real-world-objects-linked-data-in-library-metadata-cataloging/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/280-real-world-objects-linked-data-in-library-metadata-cataloging/</a>

## Courses

### Library Juice: June 2026

Introduction to Metadata	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/105-introduction-to-metadata/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/105-introduction-to-metadata/</a>
Metadata and Description for Digital Special Collections	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/205-metadata-description-digital-special-collections/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/205-metadata-description-digital-special-collections/</a>
Names, Identities & Entity Management	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/278-identity-management/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/278-identity-management/</a>
Using MarcEdit	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/180-using-marcedit/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/180-using-marcedit/</a>
Using OpenRefine for Library Metadata	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/130-using-openrefine-library-metadata/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/130-using-openrefine-library-metadata/</a>

### Library Juice: July 2026

Authority Control	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/134-authority-control/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/134-authority-control/</a>
Library of Congress Subject Headings & Genres	<a href="https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/338-library-of-congress-subject-headings-genres/">https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/shop/course/338-library-of-congress-subject-headings-genres/</a>

## Related publications

Title	Latest issue	Link
Cataloging & Classification Quarterly	Vol 64, issue 1-2	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wccq20/64/1-2?nav=toCList">https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wccq20/64/1-2?nav=toCList</a>
Catalogue & Index	Vol 214	<a href="https://journals.cilip.org.uk/catalogue-and-index/issue/view/57">https://journals.cilip.org.uk/catalogue-and-index/issue/view/57</a>
Cataloguing Lab—Critcattinate	Nov 2025 (on hiatus)	<a href="https://cataloginglab.org/2025/11/">https://cataloginglab.org/2025/11/</a>
The Code4Lib Journal	Issue 61, 2025-10-21	<a href="https://journal.code4lib.org/issues/issues/issue61">https://journal.code4lib.org/issues/issues/issue61</a>
IFLA Journal	Vol 52 Issue 1, March 2026	<a href="https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/iflb/52/1">https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/iflb/52/1</a>
International Journal of Librarianship	Vol 11 No. 1 (2026)	<a href="https://journal.calaijol.org/index.php/ijol/issue/view/29">https://journal.calaijol.org/index.php/ijol/issue/view/29</a>
Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship	Vol 37, Issue 4 (2025)	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wacq20/37/4">https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wacq20/37/4</a>
Journal of Library Metadata	Vol 26, Issue 1 (2026)	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wjlm20/26/1">https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wjlm20/26/1</a>
Library Resources & Technical Services	Vol 70, No 2 (2026)	<a href="https://journals.ala.org/index.php/lrts/issue/view/907">https://journals.ala.org/index.php/lrts/issue/view/907</a>
OLAC Newsletter	Vol 46, Issue 1	<a href="https://www.olacinc.org/resources/Newsletters/current-newsletter.pdf">https://www.olacinc.org/resources/Newsletters/current-newsletter.pdf</a>
The Serials Librarian	Vol 87, Issue 3-4 (2026)	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wser20/86/7-8">https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wser20/86/7-8</a>
Technical Services Quarterly	Volume 43, Issue 2 (2026)	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wtsq20/43/2">https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wtsq20/43/2</a>

## Contribute to Catapult

### Contribute

Working on an interesting project? Implement something new? Technology changing how you work? Catapult is seeking cataloguing/metadata content and would love to hear from you! Contributing to Catapult is a great way to share ideas and engage with the cataloguing community.

Please email the editor or with your idea, article, or suggestion.

LIANZA

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**CatSIG**

Cataloguing Special Interest Group