



BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA

RDA & Rare Materials at the Spanish National Library

Adelaida Caro Martín- Departamento de Manuscritos, Incunables y Raros
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The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

The Manuscripts and Rare Books Department at the Spanish National Library preserves the first collection of rare materials in Spanish speaking countries

Most of its holdings can be accessed at the Cervantes Reading Room

- Manuscripts
- Incunabula
- Books dating from the hand press period
- Leaflets, broadsides...
- Personal papers

The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

Manuscripts

ca. 24.000 call numbers; ca. 80.000 manuscripts

Medieval codices, many with miniatures, Greek and Arabic codices, dramatic manuscripts, countless autographs, and a great amount of historical and genealogical documents

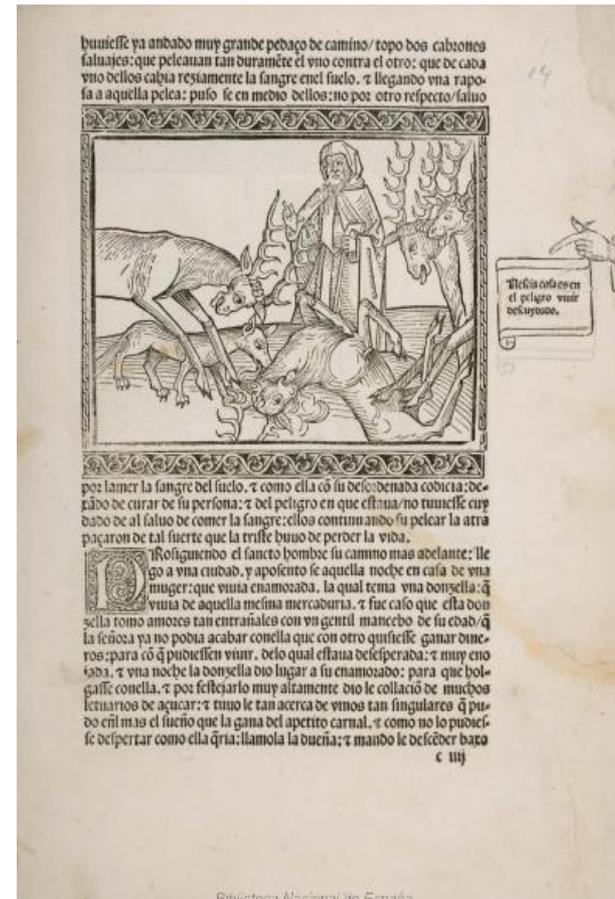


The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

Incunabula

2.300 editions and ca. 3150 items,
among them ca. 350 Spanish
editions, some of them single
copies

The most controlled collection at
the Department



The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

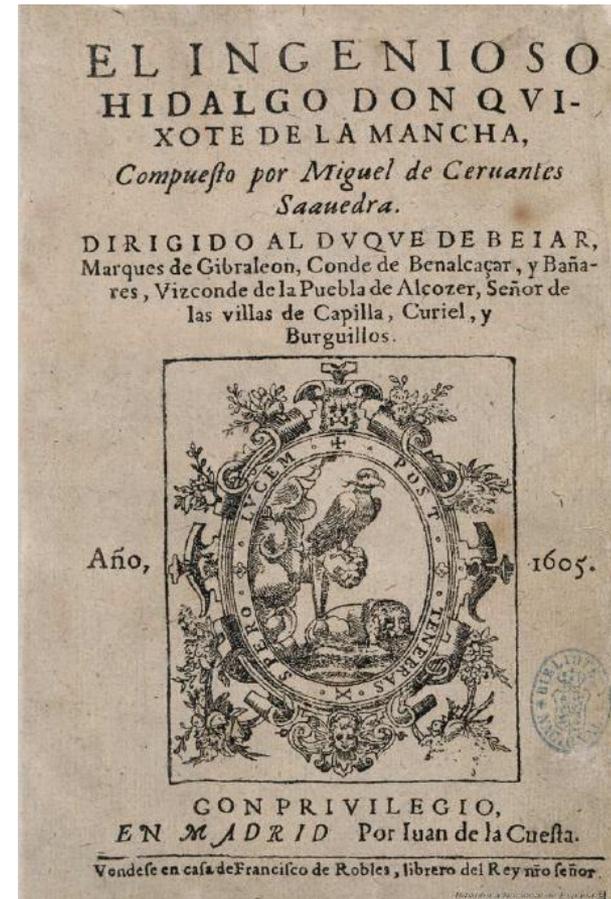
Books from the hand press period (1500-1830): altogether ca. 283.000 documents in different collections:

-ca. 142.000 volumes

-ca. 63.000 documents of “minor printed matter”

-ca. 14.000 volumes and 190 cases with leaflets belonging to the Cervantes collection

-ca. 56.000 volumes of Spanish drama



The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

Personal papers:

35 archives with different amounts of documents each

Many donations during the last decade



The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

Rare books current cataloguing

Rare books are catalogued according to ISBD(A), with updating from the consolidated edition

The access points are created according to the Spanish Cataloguing Rules (Reglas de Catalogación. Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, 1999)

ISBD(A) has been used in Spain since 1983, when the standard was chosen to catalogue printed books from the hand press period at the Spanish Bibliographical Heritage Union Catalogue

The consolidated edition (2009) has not led to significant changes

The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

Manuscripts current cataloguing

Manuscripts do not have “an own ISBD” and are subsequently catalogued mostly according to the Spanish Cataloguing Rules and ISBD consolidated edition

The access points are created according to the Spanish Cataloguing Rules (Reglas de Catalogación. Ministerio de Cultura, 1999)

The description of manuscripts is the less controlled at the Department

The BNE Rare Books and Special Collections and their description

Personal Papers current cataloguing

Personal Papers are catalogued according to the international rules for archival documents, ISAD(G) (General International Standard Archival Description)

The documents are recorded in an independent database not yet connected to the Integrated Library System

The decision was made in order to be able to portray and describe the complexity of these documental corpuses

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

First approximation

The Spanish National Library has been working on RDA since 2008, when its collaboration was asked by the JSC to review the first draft

In 2009 the BNE started a thorough comparison study between RDA and the current Cataloguing Rules

The first report was draft in 2010, about the choice and form of access points

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

RDA Toolkit

When the RDA Toolkit was launched in 2010, the BNE tested it and got a license of the tool

This first approximation to the RDA Toolkit was used to test the new fields which had been implemented in MARC21 to adapt to RDA

It has been used since then for the subsequent studies that are taking place at the institution

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

EURIG

The BNE is an active member of EURIG (the European RDA Interest Group) since its establishment on September 2011

The group has members from most European countries cooperating to bring closer the positions of the big European libraries and the RDA Steering Committee

The BNE also acts as liaison between EURIG and Spanish libraries

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

RIMMF

In 2012 the BNE tested RIMMF (RDA in Many Metadata Formats), a tool designed to catalogue in RDA (and to “think in FRBR”) without the MARC encoding

The BNE also joined the *Janeathon* that took place at the ALA 2015 Midwinter Meeting and the later *Thing-athon*

There is a new session planned for April 2016, the *Cervathon*, focused on resources related to Miguel de Cervantes and his work, which will include rare books and other special materials

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

The Spanish translation

Between 2012 and 2014 the BNE took part on the International Committee that reviewed the Spanish translation of the RDA Toolkit

The work of the Committee remained in a conceptual level

BNE is not fully satisfied with the published translation, and hopes that it will be revised, improved and updated soon

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

BNE RDA working group

Since 2014 there is an inter-departmental RDA working group with representatives from all special materials

As the biggest part of the study has already been done, the group has recently split in three subgroups committed to the study of:

- item level relationships
- Subjects
- the elaboration of a potential “BNE RDA profile”

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

RDA survey

A survey was sent in May 2014 to libraries all along the country (university, regional and public libraries; institutions and library networks)

128 responses arrived: most of the libraries had not yet made a decision about the new standard

Only 17 libraries had resolved to adopt RDA, most of them from the Catalanian university sphere along with the regional libraries of Catalonia and Galicia

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

RDA Meeting

On April 2015 a National Meeting intended to inform the Spanish library community of the current situation regarding RDA took place at the BNE

Representatives from public libraries and other institutions were encouraged to explain their position about a future embracement of RDA

Since then, some have been collaborating with the BNE, like the CSIC (High Council for Scientific Research) and the Regional Library of Castilla y León

RDA at the Spanish National Library: an overview

RSC Technical Group

The BNE has a representative at the RSC Technical Working Group

The general purpose of RSC Technical Working Group is to “Assist the RSC in developing RDA in technical areas such as models, structures, and standards”

RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Some outcome from the analysis of RDA by the BNE Rare Books and Manuscripts Department:

The members of the Manuscripts and Rare Books Department at the BNE RDA working group have been working on the comparison between the current cataloguing practices and RDA for almost two years.

Although the study is not yet entirely finished, the general perception is that RDA is not sufficiently developed for the particularities of rare books and manuscripts.

On the other side, some of the RDA policies suit rare books and manuscripts better than the current ISBD(A) practice.

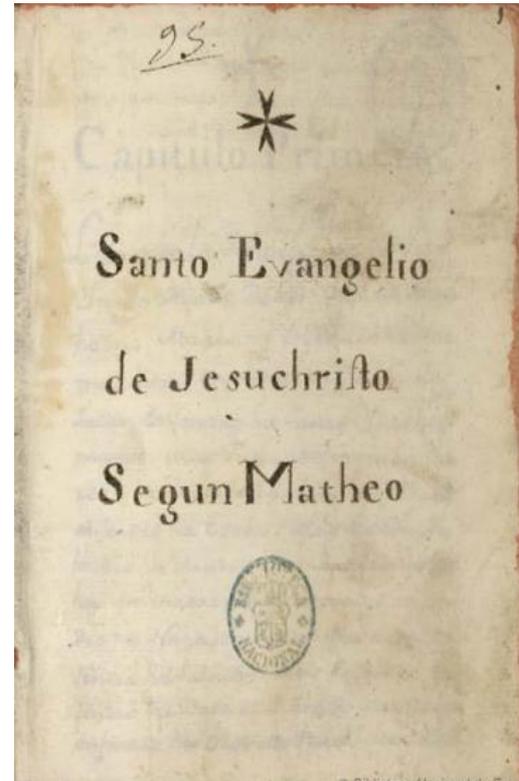
RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Problem areas: Access points

Title of a Religious Work: Parts of the Bible: The division and designation of the parts of the Bible are based on different sources.

In RDA, the source was the Authorized Version; in the Spanish Cataloguing Rules, the Vulgata.

The April 2015 update states that titles may vary depending on the version of the Bible used by the cataloguing agency

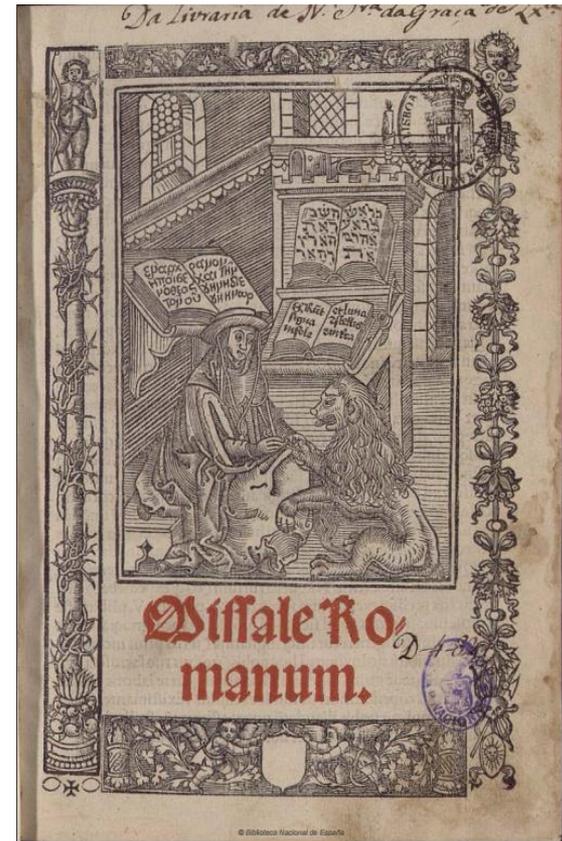


RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Problem areas: Access points

Liturgical Works: The practice determined by RDA of accepting titles in the language of the cataloguing center contradicts what has been established by the IFLA at its [*List of Uniform Titles for Liturgical Works of the Latin Rites of the Catholic Church*](#)

The BNE is also against the shift for liturgical works which apply only for certain orders or dioceses

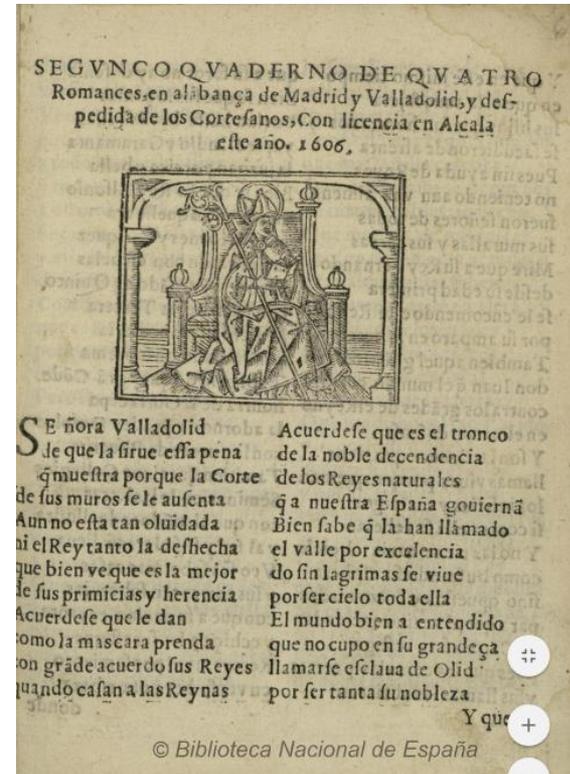


RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Problem areas: Bibliographical description

Transcription: Inaccuracies: According to RDA, everything is transcribed as it appears in the document, whereas ISBD allows the use of abbreviations as [i.e.] or [sic]

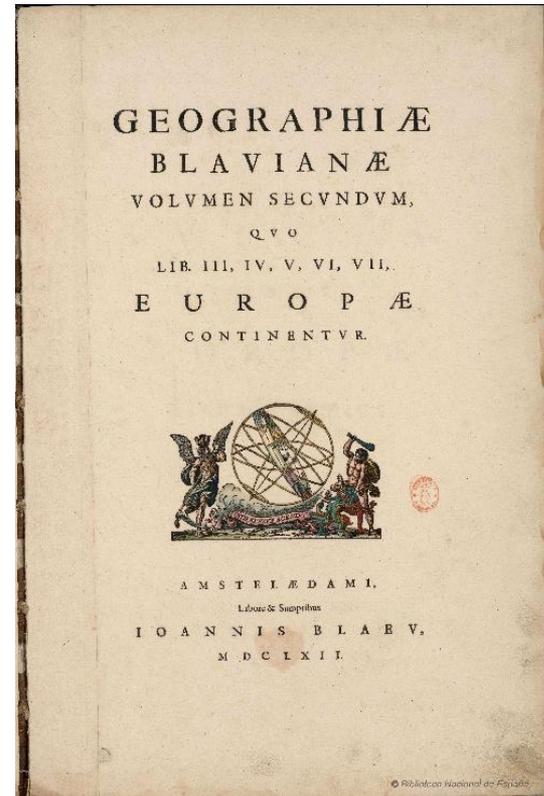
For rare books, with its many typographical misprints, the lack of use of these indications would lead to continued searches in order to confirm that they are not typing mistakes



RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Problem areas: Bibliographical description

Recording Extent: The fact that designations of units and subunits won't be abbreviated in the bibliographical record is particularly troublesome for manuscripts and rare books, because of the inherent complexity to record all their pagination sequences



RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Problem areas: Bibliographical description

Latin abbreviations: The surrender of Latin abbreviations as determined at RDA has been polemic

Regarding rare books and manuscripts, the members of the working group are against the shift

The use of Latin abbreviations is fully institutionalized within the library community (and within most of the patrons researching rare books and manuscripts)

It is a standardized code that helps the universality that RDA aims to achieve

RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

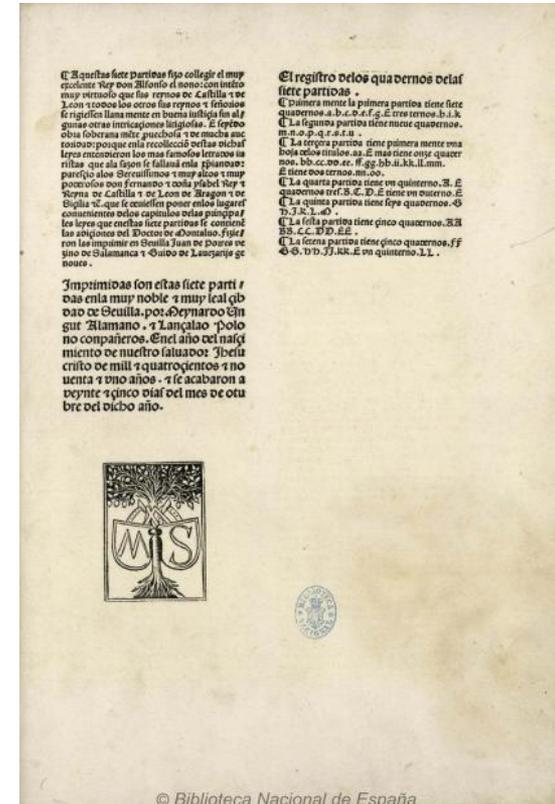
Problem areas: Bibliographical description

Date of publication/Date of manufacture:

Manuscripts and rare books are against the shift

Such distinction doesn't fit for rare books, in which the date of printing is usually considered the date of publication

Regarding manuscripts, RDA also contradicts the order of sources of information



RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Problem areas: Relationships

The BNE fully agrees with the ALA Recommendation about referential relationships (6JSC/TechnicalWG/3 Recommendation 2)

It expressed resistance to characterizing the relationship within a resource such as a bibliography or catalogue and the WEMI (Work-Expression-Manifestation-Item) it describes as a subject relationship

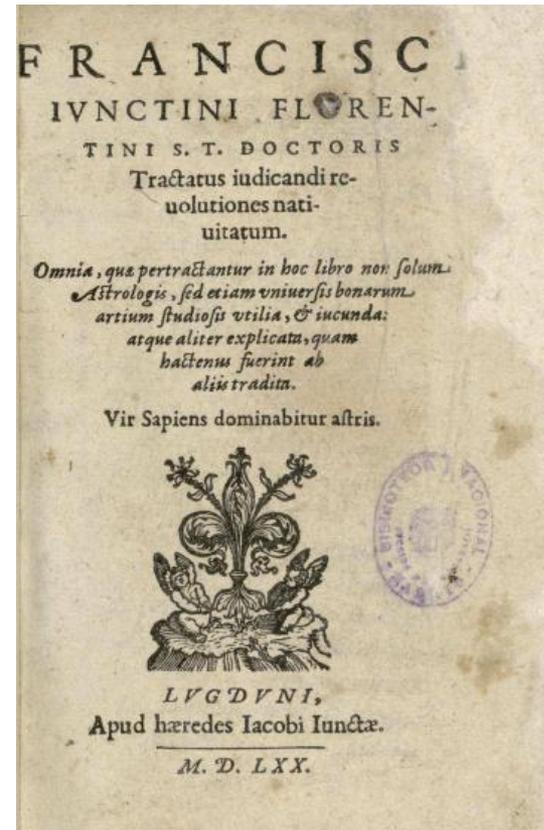
It is also against considering relationships only between two entities at the same WEMI level

RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Improvements: Access points

Families: The inclusion of families as entities has been considered as highly positive for manuscripts and rare books, and they are already being used as subjects

It could be useful to create access points for families of printers

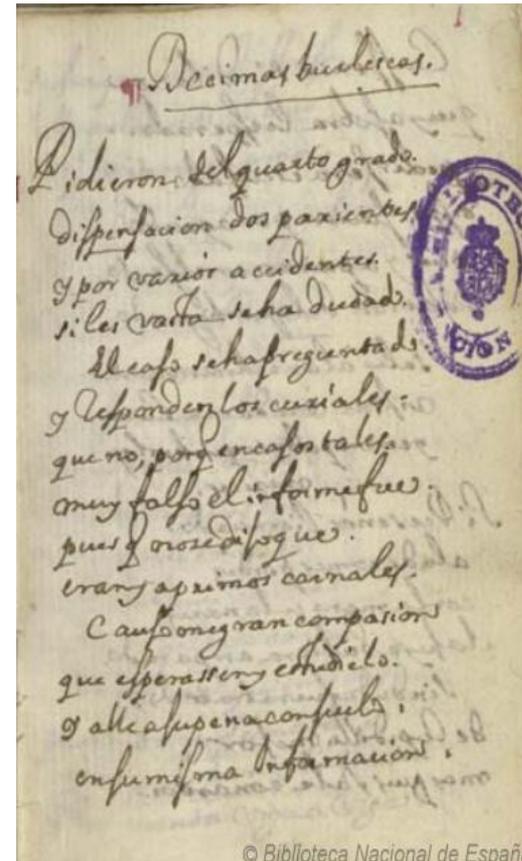


RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Improvements: Access points

Compilations of Works by Different Persons, Families, or Corporate Bodies: the change has been considered as positive

Regarding the devised title, the BNE wishes for further information about how to record and standardize it



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RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Improvements: Access points

Additional elements in authorized Access points representing persons

The greater flexibility of RDA regarding the inclusion of additional elements in access points representing persons has been positively valued

It is already a usual practice with manuscripts and rare books

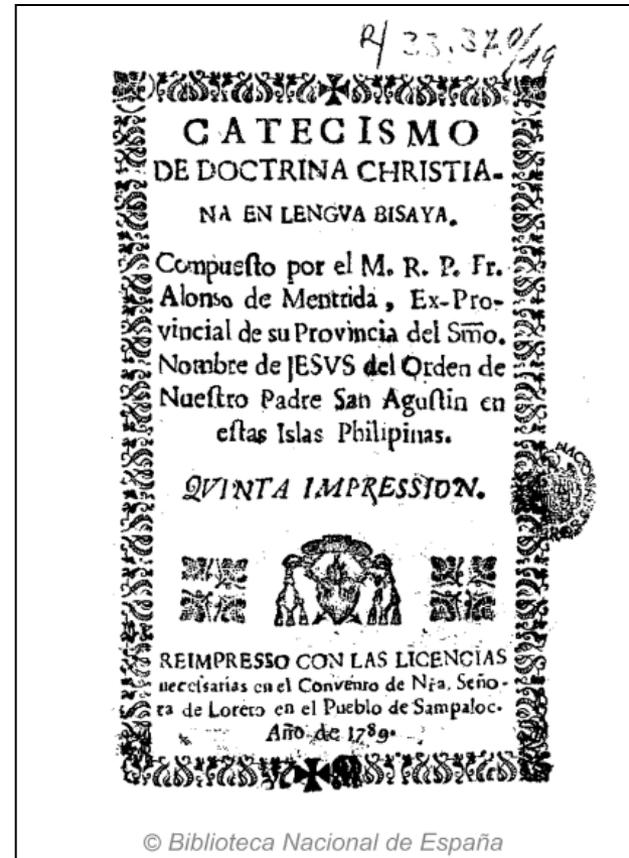
Further information about its recording would be necessary

RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Improvements: Bibliographic Description

Statement of responsibility: The shift has been seen as positive as it allows for more information that could be useful to identify the resource

The optional omission could allow the institution to establish the exact amount of information that should be recorded



RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Improvements: Relationships

Related works, expressions, manifestations and items: the introduction of the concept has been considered as a great opportunity when recording rare books and manuscripts

Specifically, to relate editions, issues, states, the so called *partes de comedias*, etc, just as the different testimonies of a manuscript work



RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Improvements: Attributes

RDA offers a wider range of attributes and allows for higher standardization when recording the information

Some examples of particular interest for manuscripts and rare books are:
field of activity of a person, production statement for manuscripts, distribution statement for rare books, manufacture statement, carrier type (broadsheets, rolls...)

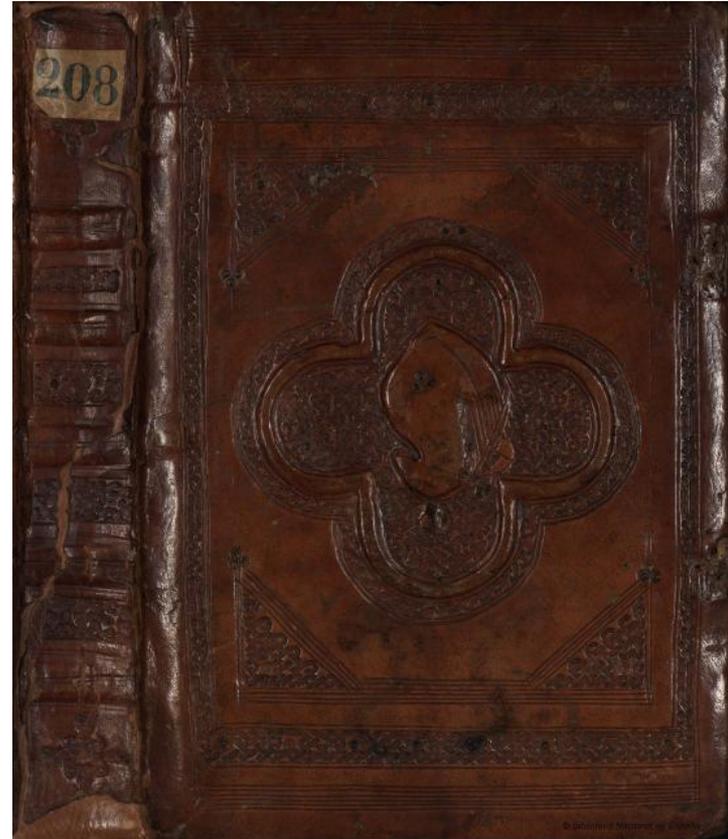


RDA & rare materials at the BNE: early conclusions

Item working group

The Manuscripts and Rare Books Department has just started working in the new group committed to the study of the item

The entity item is not sufficiently developed for rare books recording: physical condition, provenance, bindings, issues and states, handwritten annotations, censorship notes, modified items, etc., need a standard to be recorded.



Internationalization(?)

On an international level, the BNE sent a representative to the JSC meeting and seminar about RDA & Rare Materials that took place in Edinburgh last November.

Although the DCRM2(B) task force is already working on the development of RDA for rare materials, both RSC and DCRM2(B) members expressed their interest in creating an international working group on the subject

EURIG has sent the RSC nominees to be members of the group and is still waiting for a response from RSC on the matter

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Adelaida Caro Martín

Departamento de Manuscritos, Incunables y Raros

adelaida.caro@bne.es

Pº de Recoletos 20 -22

28071 Madrid

España

T +34 915 807 800

www.bne.es