

RDA & Rare Materials at the Spanish National Library

Abstract

The Spanish National Library (BNE by its Spanish acronym) has been working on RDA since 2008, when its collaboration was asked by the JSC to review the first draft. It is also an active member of EURIG (the European RDA Interest Group) since its establishment on September 2011. Although the institution has not decided yet whether the new standard will be adopted soon or not, a thorough study and comparison with the current Spanish cataloguing rules is being done. In 2014 a new working group was created within the institution, with representatives from all special materials, including rare books and manuscripts.

Although a final conclusion has not been reached yet, the general perception is that RDA is not sufficiently developed for the particularities of rare books and manuscripts, with some problem areas that contradict the Spanish catalographic tradition, and others already mentioned in the international forum regarding transcription, referential relationships, scarce development of relations at item-level, etc. Aware of these problems, the BNE sent a representative to the JSC meeting and seminar about RDA & Rare Materials that took place in Edinburgh last November. At the meeting, both JSC and DCRM2(B) members expressed their interest in creating an international working group on the subject.