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RDA and cultural heritage – a new starting point for international cooperation?

This little paper wants to advocate some issues reoccurring in my daily concerns for description of cultural heritage material and tries to find them an appropriate place in RDA and attract international cooperation in these areas.

- (1) The new role of national retrospective bibliographies
 - as providers for standard identifiers of manifestations of early printed material (the bibliography ID-numbers and issues how to share them)
 - as providers of (standard) titles of works for their area
 - as providers of more standard information: names, printers, publishers etc.
- (2) (Codex) manuscripts as a challenge and a chance in the FRBR world
 - where is their appropriate place in FRBR? In FRBRoo?
 - can we agree on a standard identifier for manuscripts?
 - how to relate them to the „bibliographic universe“
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The paper attempts to invite the international community to see the introduction of RDA as a chance for fostering standardisation on an international level in a broad and diverse landscape of different resource descriptions in order to provide better access to these resources and to integrate the rich legacy in a meaningful way.