

Use case



American Library Association

The Challenge

The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world, providing association information, news, events, and advocacy resources for members, librarians, and library users. Founded on October 6, 1876 during the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the mission of ALA is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

In 2010, the ALA released the Resources Description and Access (RDA) for the first time to provide libraries with a more effective standard for descriptive cataloguing as well as instructions and guidelines for formulating bibliographic data.

ALA stakeholders engaged our partner Dakota Systems to design a solution to enable geographically dispersed teams of authors to collaborate easily and efficiently. Specifically, the system needed to support new content creation and upload as well as:

- Content sharing,
- Online editing,
- Review and approval workflows, and
- Advanced translation management functionality.

A Collaborative Solution

Over the course of the past few years, the ALA has worked with Dakota Systems to successfully complete several projects in support of a variety of publishing initiatives. The primary goal of the most recent effort was to tie these past projects together within a unique repository to manage the RDA XML content, output transformations, and streamlined workflows.

This custom solution provides ALA with:

- Supports SMEs distributed worldwide,
- Automated processes for translation management,

- Offers non-technical authors a fully customized web-based authoring tool, and
- Publishing to web and print.

The result is an end-to-end publishing solution using Componize CCMS as its core product to support the publication to multiple outputs for print, e-readers and web.

The big wins? Non-technical authors can contribute to the content directly from their web browser and ALA customers can browse the RDA toolkit online.

The future holds new challenges and improvement for the RDA toolkit. James Hennelly, Managing Editor at American Library Association confirms: “Going forward, we will seek to improve services and systems used by both subscribers and authoring groups. Dakota Systems has been selected to provide technology services as we make changes to the content management and authoring systems in the coming months.”

Eric Fox, business development manager at Dakota Systems, adds “Componize was the perfect tool for our project. Easy to learn and integrate, we also benefited from Componize excellent support. We are glad to be Componize integration partners and anticipate a very successful relationship”.

About Componize

Componize is a DITA content management system that optimizes the authoring, management and publishing of high-volume product information such as product documentation or learning content. Combining enterprise-wide collaboration, ease of use, scalability and an open architecture, it provides the full range of features that organizations need today for their content strategy. Spend less time organizing, searching for and re-doing content, and more time creating real value through better reuse and faster multi-channel production. Componize is today modernizing information development for AMD, SAP and Merck, among others.

About Dakota Systems

Specializing in enterprise publishing and content management solutions, Dakota Systems helps its clients maximize the return on their technology investment. Whether working with technical manuals or scientific journals, Dakota's proven analysis and development methodologies provide quick and cost effective integration of intelligence and publishing processes.

Dakota Systems is a certified Componize system integration partner.

For more information, contact sales@componize.com