

# Clown: readings in theatre practice

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## Clown : readings in theatre practice

Author: [Jon Davison](#)  
Publisher: Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.  
Series: [Readings in theatre practice](#)  
Edition/Format: Print book : English [View all editions and formats](#)  
Summary: This rich collection of readings offers a wide-ranging and authoritative survey of clown practices, history and theory, from the origins of the word clown through to contemporary clowning. Covering [Read more...](#)  
Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated) [0 with reviews - Be the first.](#)  
Subjects: [Clowns.](#)  
[Clowns -- History.](#)  
[Clowning.](#)  
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Genre/Form:	History
Document Type:	Book
All Authors / Contributors:	<a href="#">Jon Davison</a> <input type="text" value="Find more information about: Jon Davison"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
ISBN:	9780230300149 0230300146 9780230300156 0230300154
OCLC Number:	843034340
Description:	1 volume : illustrations ; 24 cm.
Contents:	PART I: WHAT DO CLOWNS DO?.- Grock's Entree.- Clown History.- Clown and Pierrot.- Birth of the Auguste.- Clown Drama.- Death and Rebirth of the Clown.- Clown Women.- PART II: HOW DO CLOWNS CLOWN?.- Clown Theory, Technique and Technology.- Clown Authors.- Clown Training.- Clown Politics.- Clown TV.- Clown Plots.- Clown Truth.- Conclusion: Clown Today.- Bibliography.- Index.
Series Title:	<a href="#">Readings in theatre practice</a>
Responsibility:	Jon Davison.

Also our second object is a book, but in this case we found it in WorldCat. Entitled *Clown : readings in theatre practice*, this book was written by Jon Davison and published by Palgrave Macmillan, in Basingstoke, in 2013, as part of the series “Readings in theatre practice”.

It is a wide-ranging and authoritative survey of clown practices, history and theory, from the origins of the word clown through to contemporary clowning. In particular, it is important for us because Jon Davison make in it an analysis of a Grock’s spectacle. We can find the quotations from the “Grock’s entrée” and many other reference to Grock.

The repository where we found it is **WorldCat, the world's largest network of library content and services**. It is a database of bibliographic records that are descriptions of items held by or accessible to OCLC member institutions. (OCLC means *Online Computer Library Center* and it is an American nonprofit cooperative organization "dedicated to the public purposes of furthering access to the world's information and reducing information costs". )

Members catalog library materials according to current recognized cataloging content standards such as **Resource Description & Access** (RDA) and Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2). While **MARC standard** is a means for the representation and communication of bibliographic information in a machine-readable code.

We made a **comparison** between how different is the approach to the metadata of the item from the institutions that follow mainly this two different standards ISBD and RDA.

First of all, RDA is a **universal and non-bibliographic standard**, it aims to make possible creation of well-structured metadata for any kind of resources, reusable in any context and technological environment. In fact, despite being based on theoretical documents born in a bibliographic context, it can be used in libraries, archives, museums and for the resources produced and disseminated using

digital technologies. RDA aims to make possible **creation of well-structured metadata for any kind of resources, reusable in any context and technological environment.**

On the other side, the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) is intended to serve as a principal standard to promote universal bibliographic control.

In the analysis of our object we can easily find some big differences.

In Worldcat there is not **standardized punctuation** (colons, semicolons, slashes, dashes, commas and periods used to identify and separate the elements and areas inside the record).

In ISBD the metadata schema has a meticulous order, ISBD is not only a content standard, but it gives rules also in how to order and display the elements. On the contrary, RDA is a pure content standard that does not provide a display for the results but leaves the option open to all possibilities.

The second big difference is that the ISBD **record is a string**, where the item is equipped with a series of devices through which it is searchable and reachable: the headings in the tabbed catalog, the access points in the electronic catalog. It is the “traditional cataloging process” which starts from the description of a publication. RDA analyse atomic element (es. Parallel Publisher's Name, Parallel Distributor's name, Date of Production, Date of publication.) and establish relationship.

RDA requires an original approach, in RDA there is no part dedicated to the description. (From the centrality of the record we move on to the centrality of the single data!) RDA guidelines deal with the registration of the attributes of one entity (identifying an entity) and the relationships of that entity with other entities (linking an entity). **Once the entity is identified and connected, the data creation process is complete.**

The main focus of ISBD is the information that identifies the **Manifestation** entity, while RDA is a comprehensive code of rules, to carry out the description and access to information of the **primary entities** (Work, Expression, Manifestation, Item, Person, Family and Corporate bodies).

[In fact in RDA we have elements like “Identifier for the Work”, “Identifier for the Expression”, “Identifier for the Manifestation”, “Identifier for the Item”, “Note on Manifestation or”, “Note on Expression” and so on...]

Innovations in RDA are many: it promotes **interoperability** between catalogs and other search tools, it adopts terminology and concepts of the *Semantic Web*, it is a global standard, it can be applied by different agencies to create data.

We can look deeply in the metadata of our item and check for detailed differences or similarities in the way the properties are displayed.

In reality, it was difficult to find the RDA elements, because what the users can see on Worldcat is a different structure, probably considered more user-friendly. So we try to recognise some elements and to look for them in RDA and in ISBD.

The **author** is Jon Davison and it correspond to the “RDA: 2.4.2 Statement of responsibility” and to the “ISBD:1.4 Statements of responsibility”. It is a statement relating to the identification of any agents responsible for the creation or contribution for the realization of the resource.

But his name appears also in other row of the table, like “All Authors/**Contributors**: Jon Davison” or in “Responsibility: Jon Davison.”. They may correspond to the “2.20.3 Note on Statement of Responsibility” (a note providing information on an agent not named in a statement of responsibility to whom responsibility for the intellectual or artistic content of the resource has been attributed) or, we imaged it may be also about the copyright even if we didn't found it in the RDA documentation.

The the **title** of the item is *Clown : readings in theatre practice* displayed on the top of the metadata, without been introduced by a propriety. (“RDA: 2.3.2 - Title Proper” and “ISBD:1.1-Title proper”)  
The Proper Title is in ISBS “the title of a resource given internally on the file or externally in the form in which it appears on the preferred source”, while in RDA it is “the chief name of a resource”, usually the title normally used in citing the source. The difference is in the level the resource is considered by the two standards, in ISBD they take in consideration the manifestation of the item, while RDA focus on a more abstract level.

The information related to the manifestation, such as the responsibility for the item **distribution**, are shown the ISBD style in Worldcat “Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.” instead of the division of the elements.

It should correspond to the “RDA: 2.5.4 Statement of responsibility relating to the edition” or “RDA: 2.8.4 Publisher’s name” with the “RDA: 2.8.6 Date of publication” and the “RDA: 2.8.2 Place of publication”.

The **Subjects** highlighted are: “Clowns”, “Clowns - History” and “Clowning”, but additional keywords are in what is called Contents in the table, here we found the name Grock. In ISBD for this area we have “7.7 Notes relating to the contents”, in RDA we have “RDA: 6.9 Content type ” or “7.1 Summarization of the Content”.

The document type corresponding to the **physical description** is “RDA: 3.2 Media type” is written “book”, without any other information.