FRBR
Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records

What is FRBR and why is it important?

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What is FRBR?

- final report of the IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records

- approved by the Standing Committee of the IFLA Section on Cataloguing, Sept. 1997; published in 1998 by K.G. Saur

- freely available on the Web:

http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.htm

http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.pdf

What is it really?

- the report had 2 purposes:

  1. to provide a clearly defined, structured framework for relating the data that are recorded in bibliographic records to the needs of the users of those records

  2. to recommend a basic level of functionality for records created by national bibliographic agencies (*FRBR 1.1*)

- report describes an entity-relationship model resulting from an analysis of the data in bibliographic records

Purpose of the FRBR model

- user-focused approach to the bibliographic record (i.e. metadata)
- analyze which parts of the bibliographic record are used to respond to which user task
- ensure that bibliographic record carries the right amount of information to respond to user needs efficiently

FRBR ➡ conceptual model

- IFLA but not tied to ISBD
- not just for "library users"
- concepts and framework are applicable to any metadata about a product of intellectual and/or artistic endeavour

User needs

- Find
- Identify
- Select
- Obtain

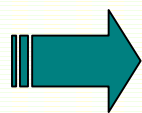add? manage, navigate
     relate, attribute royalties to, preserve

FRBR model

- entities
  - in bibliographic records
  - important to the user
  - divided into 3 groups

- attributes of the entities

- relationships
  between the entities

Group 1 entities

→ products of intellectual or artistic endeavour

- work
- expression
- manifestation
- item

Group 1 entities:

work

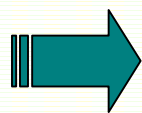   *is realized through*

      expression

        is embodied in

          manifestation

            is exemplified by
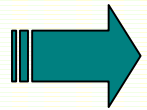
FRBR 3.1.1   item

Group 2 entities

→ those responsible for creating, producing, etc., the entities in group 1

- person
- corporate body

Group 3 entities

➡ subjects of works

- concept
- object
- event
- place

group 1 and 2 entities can also be subjects

Attributes

- each entity has a set of characteristics or attributes (similar to data elements)

- attributes can be inherent or externally imputed

Examples of attributes
(group 1)

work: title, form or genre, date, medium of performance, coordinates (map) …

expression: title of the expression, form of the expression, language of the expression, type of score …

manifestation: title of the manifestation, publisher, date of publication, form of carrier, dimensions, terms of availability…

item: identifier (e.g. location and call no., barcode), provenance, condition, inscriptions …

Examples of attributes
(groups 2 + 3)

person: names, dates, titles …

corporate body: name, number, place …

concept: term (i.e.word, phrase, or group of characters used to name or designate)

e.g. economics

object: term

e.g. ships

event: term

e.g. Battle of Hastings

place: term

e.g. Ottawa

Relationships

- links between entities
- collocation
- assist the user to navigate through the catalogue or database

relationships between entities of the different groups

relationships between entities of the same group (esp between group 1 entities)

Examples of relationships
(between groups)

person/work	created by
person/expression	realized by (as in performance)
corporate body/manifestation	produced by
corporate body/item	owned by
concept/work	is subject of
object/work	is subject of

Examples of relationships
(within group 1)

→ between entities / same work

→ between entities /

different works

Example of a "family" or hierarchy of Group 1 entities:

work	expressions	manifest.	item
Hamlet	original text	London, 1603	RBD
		New York, 1998	MCL
			BIRK
	French trans.		
	(Gide)	Paris, 1946	EDUC
		Neuchatel, 1949	MCL
	(Bonnefoy)	Paris, 1978	MACD
	German trans.	Hamburg, 1834	MUSIC
	audio-book	Paris, 1983	REDP

Example of work to work relationships

Shakespeare, William,1564-1616.Hamlet.

subject

Modern Hamlets & their soliloquies

Critical responses to Hamlet, 1600-1900

imitation

Hamlet travestie

transformation

Hamlet : opéra en cinq actes / musique de Ambroise Thomas ; paroles de Michel Carré et Jules Barbier

adaptation

Hamlet : the young reader's Shakespeare : a retelling / by Adam McKeown

Examples of relationships
(within group 1)

work to work

- successor
- supplement
- complement
- summarization
- adaptation
- transformation
- imitation

work to work: whole/part

Examples of relationships
(within group 1)

expression to expression (same work)

    abridgement

    revision

    translation

    arrangement (music)

expression to expression (between different works)

    successor, supplement, etc.

expression to work

Examples of relationships
(within group 1)

manifestation to manifestation

    reproduction

    alternate

    whole/part

manifestation to item

    reproduction

item to item

    reconfiguration

    reproduction

Why is the model useful?

- maps attributes and relationships to user tasks
- enables a better understanding of the components of the bibliographic record and their function and value to the user
- looks at the bibliographic record within the context of large databases
- broadens focus beyond manifestations

Impact beyond original charge (record user)

- **improve navigation**
  - focus on collocation
  - reintroduce logical indexing vs. purely mechanical filing
- **improve the display of information to the user**
  - improve index, sort and display in OPAC
  - make relationships between resources explicit

Impact beyond original charge (record user) con't

- **organize information to suit a range of user needs**

  does user need a particular manifestation? a particular expression? or does user want to see all expressions, all related works?

- **improve response to user expectations**

  user services in the OPAC at the level of specificity that user requires, e.g. holds

Impact beyond original charge (record creator)

- focuses attention on where cataloguing codes need to be strengthened
  - collocation (esp. indexed headings)
  - information about relationships
  - recording information in ways that allow the retrieval of appropriate sets of records
  - ensure records carry information of value to the user

Impact beyond original charge (record creator) con't

- model puts some longstanding problems in perspective

  e.g. content vs. carrier (or format variation)
  - different but how different
    - where is carrier in the hierarchy?
  - separation into abstract entities and physical embodiment entities
    - 1 physical item — 4 entities
    (and 4 sets of attributes)

Some current OPAC projects

- **AustLIT** (gateway for Australian literature)
- **VTLS Virtua** (FRBR-ized OPAC)
- **VisualCat**
  (Danish cataloguing client (XML/RDF))
- **Variations 2** (Indiana University Digital Music Library Project)
- **OCLC**
  - Fiction Finder
  - experiments to redesign WorldCat

Some projects to improve cataloguing rules

- ISBD community
  - international cataloguing code for bibliographic description and access
- AACR community
  - introduce FRBR terminology into AACR
  - expression-level collocation (JSC Format Variation Working Group)
  - resolve content versus carrier issues (reconceptualize chapter 9 (electronic resources), examine GMDs)
  - improve information about relationships (increase use of relator terms)

FRBR's benefits

- aims to get the user to the resource efficiently
- clarifies what is important in a bibliographic record
- clarifies organizing principles for structuring the display of large sets of records or metadata
- emphasizes the importance of relationships between resources

FRBR's benefits

- generated a re-examination of practices and rules
- presents a conceptual framework for this revision work which should increase clarity for users and maintain coherence and consistency in cataloguing rules
- a model to be maintained, expanded

More information

FRBR Working Group:

http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/w
  gfrbr.htm

Bibliography at FRBR WG site:

http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/bi
  bliography.rtf