# FRBR: the bright new future?
# Part 1

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## Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records

- Approved by IFLA in 1997
- Published in 1998
- Conceptual model of the 'bibliographic universe'

- Still 'new'?

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## User functions

- using the data to FIND materials that correspond to the user's stated search criteria
- using the data retrieved to IDENTIFY an entity (e.g., to confirm that the document described corresponds to the document sought by the user, or to distinguish between two similar documents)
- using the data to SELECT an entity that is appropriate to the user's needs (e.g., to select a text in a language the user understands, or to choose a version of a computer program that is compatible with the hardware and operating system available to the user)
- using the data in order to acquire or OBTAIN access to the entity described

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## Entities

- Group 1 (products of intellectual and artistic endeavor)
  - Work
  - Expression
  - Manifestation
  - Item
- Group 2 (actors related to Group1 entities)
  - Person
  - Corporate Body
- Group 3 (subjects of works)
  - All in Groups 1 and 2 plus:
  - Concept
  - Object
  - Event
  - Place

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## "The FRBR revolution"

- User-oriented view of cataloguing
- Catalogue as a database and not a replica of a card catalogue
- Re-thinking of current cataloguing theory and practice

- potential for interoperability within ALM, rights management, Semantic Web

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## Obstacles to implementation

- Conservative views
- Legacy data
- Model is perceived as 'very abstract and theoretical'
- Open to interpretation (e.g. expression)
- No data model, no cataloguing rules

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## But...

- FRBRisation experiments
- OCLC FictionFinder
- VTLS
- ...

## The "FRBR family"

- FRBR: the original framework
  - All entities, focusing on Group 1
- FRAR (FRAD): Functional Requirements for Authority Records/Data
  - Focus on Group 2
  - Almost finished
- FRSAR: Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records
  - Focus on Group3
  - Ongoing

## Recent developments

- Workshop in Dublin, OH (2005)
- IFLA pre-conference in Järvenpää (2005)
- Active role of FRBR Review Group
  - Expression
  - Aggregates
  - Attributes
- FRBR/CRM harmonisation WG

## Expression WG

A more pragmatic definition of Expression:

> On a practical level, the degree to which bibliographic distinctions are made between variant *expressions* of a *work* will depend to some extent on the nature of the *work* itself, on the anticipated needs of users and on what the cataloguer can reasonably be expected to recognize from the *manifestation* being described.

Augmentations (illustrations, foreword...) as independent works

## Aggregates WG

Plans to cover (a) collections, selections, anthologies..., (b) augmentations, (c) series, (d) journals, (e) integrating resources, (f) multipart monographs

Composites of dependent/independent works

Ongoing work

## Issues

- Granularity of works
- Models

## Work

- Distinct
- Autonomous

- Universality of works
- Properties of work independent of its manifestations

Rarely a one-to-one relationship between work and manifestation

Evidence from all of the manifestations can be used to identify a work

## Types of aggregates

- Collections: groups of two or more separately and independently created works that are 'published' together. Collections include selections, anthologies, monographic series, serials, journals (aggregates of articles) and CDs (aggregates of individual songs or tracks). Usually similar in type.
- Augmentations: a work has been supplemented with additional material that is not integral to the original work and does not change the original work (forewords, introductions, illustrations, notes). Combination with dependent works.

## Aggregation work

- the act of combining works
- when significant, should be considered a work in its own right (e.g. compiling an anthology)

## Models discussed

- 'work-of-parts'
- 'manifestation-of-works'
- 'work-of-works'

## FRBR and CRM

- Two conceptual models of the cultural heritage sector

## CIDOC CRM: museum conceptual model

- "CRM" is for "Conceptual Reference Model"
- Developed from 1996 on by ICOM CIDOC (International Council of Museums – International Committee for Documentation)
- Maintained by CRM-SIG (Special Interest Group)
- Accepted as ISO 21127 in September 2006
- Covers any kind of data ("descriptive" or "authorities") created by museums in the fields of fine arts, archaeology, natural history…

## FRBR/CRM Harmonisation

- To reach a common view of cultural heritage information (because we share users and types of materials)
- To check FRBR's internal consistency
- To enable interoperability and integration (mediation tools, Semantic Web applications…)
- For FRBR's and CIDOC CRM's mutual benefit (to extend the scope of both)
- To open the way to future applications (semantic paths between heterogeneous library and museum databases)

## Outcomes

- Draft of "FRBRoo" published for public comment

- Clarifications of FRBR (manifestation)
- Modeling of processes
- Publisher (intellectual) contribution
- Clarification of concepts, definitions

## Next steps

- Group 2, Group 3, FRAD and FRSAR attributes
- FRBR, FRAD & FRSAR relationships
- Refinements
- Check the robustness
- Draft deliverables: scope notes and examples for each class & property, tutorials, explanatory documents…
- Core FRBRoo
- Prepare a prototype application
- …

## Potential of FRBR

- National bibliographies

- Portals (clustering of results)

- Intellectual rights management

## The future

- The new cataloguing rules (RDA)/Italian
- International Meetings of Experts for an International Cataloguing Code (IME-ICC)
- Prototypes of FRBRisation tools
- Prototypes of new catalogues

## Interoperability

- Within the library community
- With other communities in the cultural heritage sector
- Other

## Within library community

- Acceptance within the community
  - Development of the model
  - Cataloguing rules
- Real-life applications
  - Data model
  - Interface
- Legacy data

## Legacy data

- Incomplete records
- Inconsistent data
- Notes as source of important infomation
- Many works only published once

- Accept less-than-perfect results
- Social tagging/annotation?

## Interoperability with museum documentation

- Develop/refine FRBRoo further
- Prototypes needed

## Other?

- Archives
- Intellectual rights management

- Should be investigated

## A quote from my favourite book

Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it. And then he feels that perhaps there isn't... (A.A. Milne, The House at Pooh Corner)

## The library community should

- Finaly accept FRBR
- Understand the importance of cooperation with other communities