De-Mystifying FRBR: A Whirlwind Introduction

Jenn Riley
Metadata Librarian
IU Digital Library Program
jenlrile@indiana.edu
Agenda

- Introduction to FRBR
- LC proposals for fitting FRBR into existing record structures
- Why you should care
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What is FRBR?

- Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
- Either F-R-B-R or “Ferber”
- Outlined in a 1997/1998 report from IFLA
- A “conceptual model”
  - entities
  - attributes
  - relationships
Contents of FRBR Report

- Introduction
- Objectives, Scope, and Methodology
- Entities
- Attributes
- Relationships
- User Tasks
- Basic Requirements for National Bibliographic Records
User Tasks

- FRBR
  - Find
  - Identify
  - Select
  - Obtain

- Cutter
  - To enable a person to find a book of which either
    - the author
    - the title
    - the subject
    ...is known
  - To show what the library has
    - by a given author
    - on a given subject
    - in a given kind of literature
  - To assist in the choice of a book
    - as to its edition (bibliographically)
    - as to its character (literary or topical)
Group 1 Entities

**WORK**

- is realized through

**EXPRESSION**

- “the physical embodiment of an expression of a work”
- “a single exemplar of a manifestation”
- “the intellectual or artistic realization of a work”

**MANIFESTATION**

- is embodied in

**ITEM**

- is exemplified by

- **w1** Franz Schubert’s *Trout* quintet
  - e1, the composer’s score
  - e2, a performance by the Amadeus Quartet and Hephzibah Menuhin on piano...
  - e3, a performance by the Cleveland Quartet and Yo-Yo Ma on the cello...

- **w1** Harry Lindgren’s *Geometric dissections*
  - e1, the original text entitled *Geometric dissections*...
  - e2, a revised text entitled *Recreational problems in geometric dissections*...

- **w1** Ronald Hayman’s *Playback*
  - e1, the author’s text edited for publication
  - m1, the book published in 1973 by Davis-Poynter
  - i1, copy autographed by the author
Not always clear where a real-world situation falls

- New preface
- New illustrations
- Braille
- Screenplay
- Serials
- Aggregations
Expression entity uncertainty

- FRBR report, p. 19:
  - “Strictly speaking, any change in intellectual or artistic content constitutes a change in expression. Thus, if a text is revised or modified, the resulting expression is considered to be a new expression, no matter how minor the modification may be.”
  - “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, and on the anticipated needs of users.”

- Expression entity working group now formed
Group 2 Entities

“…responsible for the intellectual or artistic content, the physical production and dissemination, or the custodianship of the entities…” in Group 1

- Person
- Corporate body
- [Family]
Group 3 Entities

- Subjects of Works
  - Groups 1 & 2 entities
  - Concept
  - Object
  - Event
  - Place
FRANAR

- Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records IFLA Working Group
- Released FRAR report in 2005
- Companion document to FRBR
- Discusses cataloging process more than entity-relationship analysis
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Possible FRBR applications

Scenario A - Now

Authority

Work/Expression Uniform Title

Bibliographic

Manifestation

Series (work/expression) Uniform Title

Concept

Holding

Item
Scenario B

*FRBR record structure slides are from Barbara Tillett’s May 2005 presentation at the OCLC FRBR Workshop*
Scenario C

*FRBR record structure slides are from Barbara Tillett’s May 2005 [presentation](#) at the OCLC FRBR Workshop
Scenario D

*FRBR record structure slides are from Barbara Tillett’s May 2005 presentation at the OCLC FRBR Workshop*
Scenario E

*FRBR record structure slides are from Barbara Tillett’s May 2005 presentation at the OCLC FRBR Workshop*
New record structures

- No decisions made yet about the best way to proceed within MARC
- Any changes will be phased in over time
- Any changes will represent steep challenges both to ILS vendors and to implementing libraries
- Any changes will be made with user functionality as a prime consideration
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How many records are affected?

- Average work has 1.5 manifestations
- 78% of works have a single manifestation
- ~99% of all works in WorldCat have seven manifestations or less
- ~30,000, or ~1% have more than 20 manifestations

R. Bennett et. al. (2003) "The concept of a work in WorldCat: an application of FRBR" *Library Collections Acquisitions & Technical Services* 27, 45-59.

- So *why* do we need FRBR?
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End-users

- Grouping and disambiguation of search results [example]
- Better distinction between versions
- Better support for browsing, discovery of previously unknown items
- ILL
- Holds
“The FRBR and FRAR models provide RDA with an underlying framework that has the scope needed to support comprehensive coverage of all types of content and media, the flexibility and extensibility needed to accommodate newly emerging resource characteristics, and the adaptability needed for the data produced to function within a wide range of technological environments.”
Other cataloging changes

- Non-MARC environments
  - Many already doing FRBR-like things
  - Tend to have lots of programming support

- MARC environments
  - Need more innovation from ILS vendors
  - Catalogers used to looking at 1 record (well, 2 records) showing everything
  - Need to provide complex relationships when necessary, hide when not
  - Supporting legacy records will be complicated
Perspectives from the 2005 ALCTS FRBR ALA Preconference

- Glenn Patton (OCLC)
  - Clearer understanding of why we do what we do
  - Better collocation and navigation
  - Clearer, more useful relationships
  - More controlled, authoritative information for productivity
- Jennifer Bowen (Rochester): “Is FRBR really coming? It’s already here!”
Some implementations & related projects

- OCLC FictionFinder and Curioser
- RLG RedLightGreen
- AustLit Gateway

- VTLS Virtua ILS system
- III Millennium 2005 ILS system

- IU Variations2
So what do I do now?

Learn more!
For further information

- **FRBR report**
- Readings on handout
- **FRBR listserv**
- **FRBR blog**

- **jenlrile@indiana.edu**
- These presentation materials:  
  <http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/presentations/ilf2006/>