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# New ways of thinking about authority control

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## *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic and Authority Records*

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## Functional Requirements for Bibliographic and Authority Records

- An emerging trend in subject authority control ... ?
- *What* is FRBR?
- *Why* is there so much interest?
- *How* does FRBR apply to subject authority records?

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## *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*

*What* is FRBR?

- A **conceptual model**
  - **Entities** of highest significance
  - **Attributes** of each entity
  - **Relationships** among entities
- **Functions** of a bibliographic system . . .
- . . . in relation to **user needs**

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## *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*

*Why* is there so much interest in FRBR?

- Worldwide interest
  - **Librarians and catalogers**
  - **System designers and vendors**
- The model helps . . .
  - . . . to *think* about current practices and standards
  - . . . to *talk* about how catalogs should function
- Focus on **catalogs**, not **records** !

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## *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*

*How* does FRBR apply to subject authority control ?

- We start with **bibliographic** records
  - Objectives of the model
  - User Tasks
  - Diagram of the entity-relationship model
- Extensions for **authority** records
- Further extensions for **subject** authority records

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## *Objectives of the Functional Requirements*

- **Primary**: to create a structured framework for relating data recorded in bibliographic/authority records to user needs
- **FRBR**: to recommend basic [i.e., minimal] level of functionality
- **FRAR**: to clarify the function of identifiers or standard numbers for authority records
- **FRAR**: to assess potential for international sharing and use of authority records

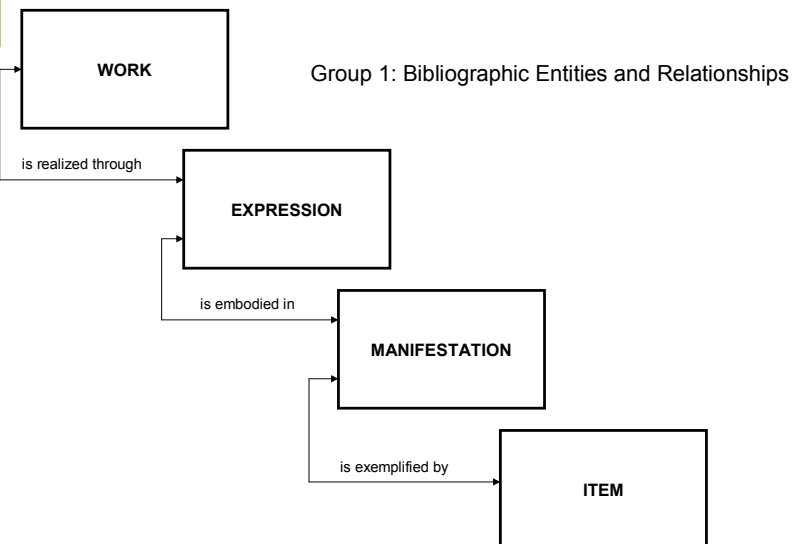
# User Tasks

## Bibliographic Records

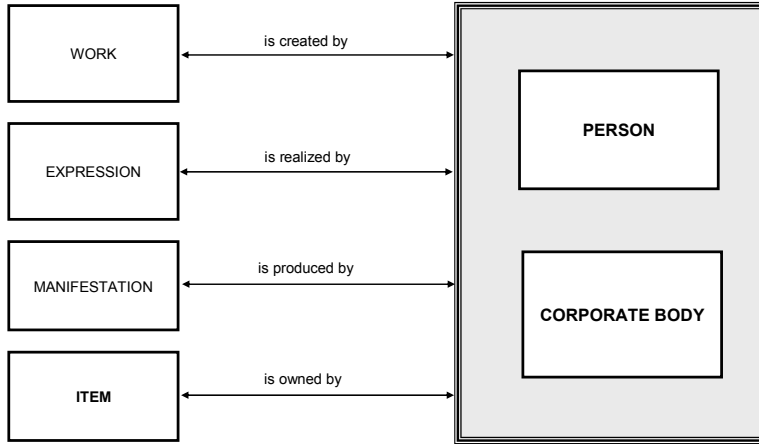
- FIND
- IDENTIFY
- SELECT
- OBTAIN

## Authority Records

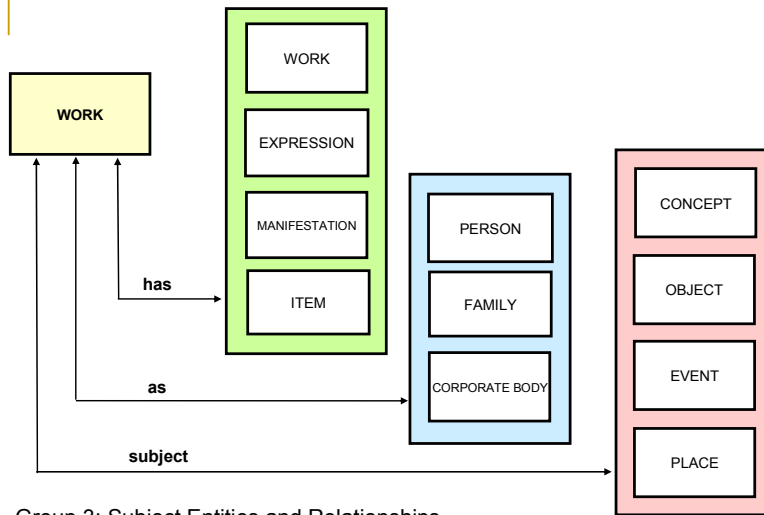
- FIND
- IDENTIFY
- CONTEXTUALIZE
- JUSTIFY

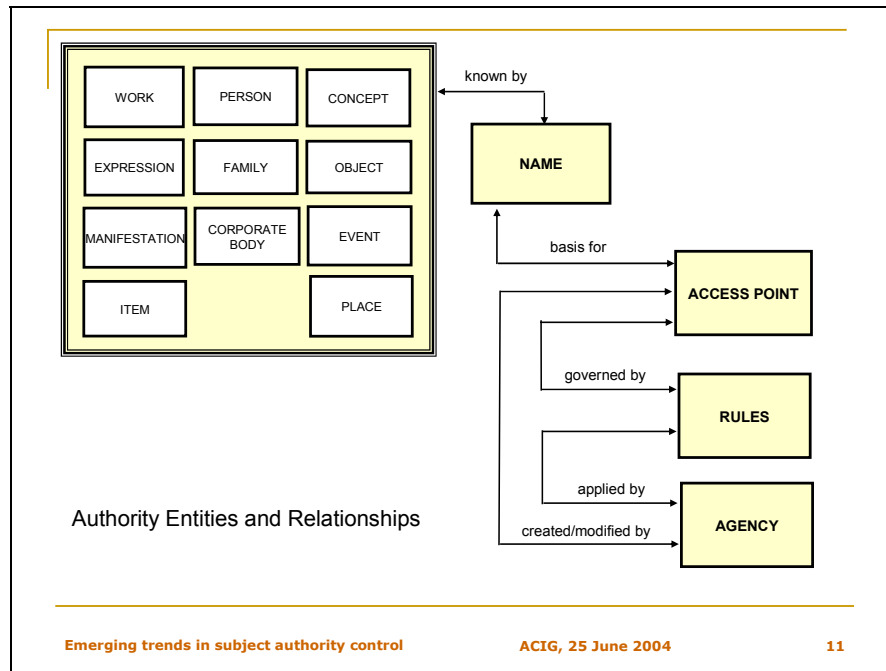


Group 2: Agency Entities and Relationships



Group 3: Subject Entities and Relationships

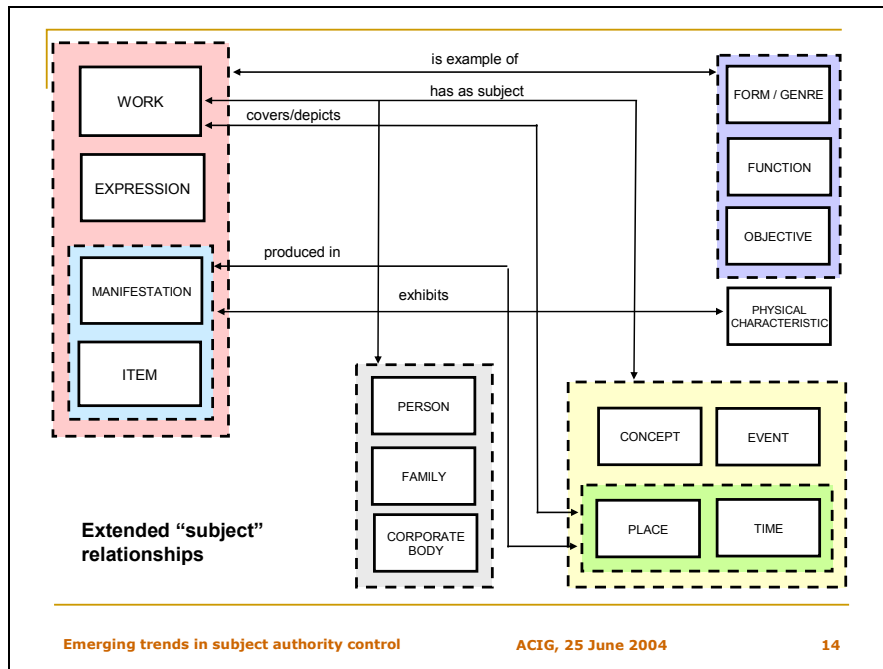




## Modeling subject relationships

- Subject **headings** vs. subject **concepts/facets**
  - **Post-coordination:** each concept or facet is independently related to the work
  - **Pre-coordination:** the concepts or facets are organized into a structured access point – which in turn is related to the work
- New entities for additional facets:
 

□ Form/genre	□ Time
□ Function	□ Physical Characteristic
□ Objective	
- New relationships



## Sharing authority records

### Barriers to record sharing

- Different **agency** applying rules
- Different **rules**
- Different **names**
- Different **person/body/concept/etc.**

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## Sharing authority records

### Global sharing of authority records requires

- Global sharing of authority records requires . . .
  - . . . knowing where cataloging rules agree
  - . . . knowing where cataloging rules do *not* agree
  - . . . minimizing areas of disagreement
- IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code

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## Sharing authority records

### Subjects present unique challenges

- Subject terminology is language-determined
- Subject thesauri are self-contained and function only as a whole

Building and understanding subject thesauri in terms of a consistent conceptual model will enrich our understanding of subject relationships

# New ways of thinking about subject authority control: *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic and Authority Records*

## Sources and Sites

*Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Final Report*. München: IFLA Section on Cataloguing, G. K. Saur, 1998. Available in HTML and PDF versions on the Cataloguing Section website at: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/sc.htm>

FRBR Review Group; Patrick Le Boeuf, chair. Website at:  
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/wgfrbr.htm>

This site contains a wealth of resources about FRBR, including an extensive bibliography:  
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/bibliography.htm>

The *Functional Requirements for Authority Records* draft has not been released for comment yet, but an announcement will be made on the Cataloguing Section website.

On FRBR and subjects, see:

Buizza, Pino, and Mauro Gureeini. "A Conceptual Model for the New *Soggettario*: Subject Indexing in the Light of FRBR," *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 34, no. 4 (2002), 31-45.

Delsey, Tom. "Modeling Subject Access: Extending the FRBR and FRANAR Conceptual Models," *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, forthcoming.

IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code:

The first meeting was held in Frankfurt in 2003; the conference website is available at:  
[http://www.ddb.de/news/ifla\\_conf\\_index.htm](http://www.ddb.de/news/ifla_conf_index.htm)

The group drafted a "Statement of International Cataloguing Principles," available at:  
[http://www.ddb.de/news/pdf/statement\\_draft.pdf](http://www.ddb.de/news/pdf/statement_draft.pdf)

Dr. Barbara B. Tillett's presentation to CC:DA is available at:  
<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/imeicc-ccda.pdf>

Exchange of thesaurus fragments:

IMS Global Learning Consortium, "Vocabulary definition exchange specification" [VDEX]  
Website at: <http://www.imsglobal.org/vdex/index.cfm>