New ways of thinking about authority control

Functional Requirements for Bibliographic and Authority Records

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An emerging trend in subject authority control ... ?

What is FRBR?

Why is there so much interest?

How does FRBR apply to subject authority records?
**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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*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!
**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

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Group 1: Bibliographic Entities and Relationships

WORK

is realized through

EXPRESSION

is embodied in

MANIFESTATION

is exemplified by

ITEM
Group 2: Agency Entities and Relationships

- WORK
- EXPRESSION
- MANIFESTATION
- ITEM

is created by
is realized by
is produced by
is owned by

PERSON
CORPORATE BODY

Group 3: Subject Entities and Relationships

WORK
EXPRESSION
MANIFESTATION
ITEM

has
as

subject

PERSON
FAMILY
CORPORATE BODY

CONCEPT
OBJECT
EVENT
PLACE
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
  - Function
  - Objective
  - Time
  - Physical Characteristic

- **New relationships**
Sharing authority records

Barriers to record sharing
- Different agency applying rules
- Different rules
- Different names
- Different person/body/concept/etc.
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

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**


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


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)


Dr. Barbara B. Tillett’s presentation to CC:DA is available at: [http://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/imeicc-ccda.pdf](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](http://www.imsglobal.org/vdex/index.cfm)