



# Introduction to the BIBFRAME Vocabulary

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PCC Operations Committee Meeting, May 8, 2015

A (very) brief introduction to the BIBFRAME vocabulary. Everything within is painted in very broad strokes, so do not expect any nuance.

## Where to Begin?

- <http://bibframe.org/vocab/>
- Three views and three supplemental documents:

See also: [Vocabulary Description](#) | [Terminology and Conventions](#) | [BIBFRAME Primer Document](#)

### Model View

Using the BIBFRAME model as a starting point, enter the vocabulary through the major framing classes, drilling down into associated properties. Each class view includes properties inherited from *Resource*, any parent class, specific properties for the class, as well as additional specific subclasses.

Select Model View »

### Category View

This display of the BIBFRAME vocabulary presents all of the properties, sorted into broad categories like *titles*, *identifiers*, *relationships*, etc. Each category includes properties inherited from *Resource*, any parent class, specific properties for the class, as well as additional specific subclasses.

Select Category View »

### List View

This single-page view presents the entire vocabulary on one page with an ordered list of classes and properties, followed by more detailed information about each. Links are internal to the page, and the browser back button can reverse your navigation on the page.

Select List View »

The BIBFRAME vocabulary homepage has six links of interest. There are three different “views” of the vocabulary terms, and three supplemental, supporting, “see also” documents. Going straight into the vocabulary can be quite confusing, so I would highly advise starting with two of the “see also” documents, the Terminology and Conventions; and Vocabulary Description. The BIBFRAME Primer Document deals more with the background and development of the BIBFRAME model, so is not essential to understanding the current vocabulary.

## Terminology and Conventions

- Every vocabulary term is either a *class* or a *property*
- *Resource* is the über class
- *Domain* = *RDF subject* = *Used With*
- *Range* = *RDF object* = *Expected value(s)*
- Naming conventions: *ClassName* vs *propertyName*

Title
bf:Title
Title information relating to a resource: title proper, translated title, or variant form of title
Label: Title Entity

title
bf:title
Word, character, or group of words and/or characters that is a name given to a resource
Label: Title

Resource
bf:Resource
Any BIBFRAME object
Label: Resource
Property: Continued by
Used With: Work
Expected value(s): Work

This is just a brief overview of some of the helpful information found in the Terminology and Conventions document. The document itself is extremely short and filled with extremely useful information. Do not venture into the vocabulary without looking here first.

A class is defined simply as “a type of thing” while a property is “a relationship between entities.” Any term that is a class will be the subject or object of an RDF triple, while any term that is a property be the predicate of a triple.

Though not specifically mentioned in the BIBFRAME model, within the vocabulary “Resource” is the top-most class. Every other class in the BIBFRAME vocabulary is a subclass of “Resource.”

Domain and range are terms common to vocabularies. They are provided for properties. Easiest to think about these in the form of an RDF triple. The domain is the subject, the property is the predicate, and the range is the object. Also, depending on which view of the vocabulary you are using, you may see either domains and ranges referred to as domains and ranges, or you may see them referred to as “Used With” and “Expected value(s).” Just remember that these are equivalent.

An easy way to discern whether a term is a class or a property is by looking at the capitalization. Classes always begin with a capital letter while properties always begin with a lowercase letter.

# Vocabulary Description

- Scope notes and additional information for vocabulary terms

title
<b>bf:title</b>
Word, character, or group of words and/or characters that is a name given to a resource
<b>Label:</b> Title
<b>Type:</b> <a href="#">rdf:Property</a>
<b>Range:</b> <a href="#">rdfs:Literal</a>

VS

titleValue
<b>bf:titleValue</b>
Title being addressed.
<b>Label:</b> Title
<b>Type:</b> <a href="#">rdf:Property</a>
<b>Domain:</b> <a href="#">bf:Title</a>
<b>Range:</b> <a href="#">rdfs:Literal</a>

A simple *title* property for the title as a string is provided for when no more specificity is needed or available, such as data coming from a Dublin Core application or other simple data format.

Some terms in the BIBFRAME vocabulary appear to overlap judging solely by the information found in the vocabulary. This is where the Vocabulary Description document comes in handy. It contains what I would consider the scope notes for many terms that may be confusing. For example, if you are not sure whether a title should have the title or titleValue property, the Vocabulary Description can bail you out with more information on the title property.

# Vocabulary Views

- Two distinct interfaces with three ways to get in:
  - Model View  $\approx$  Category View (i.e., <http://bibframe.org/vocab/provider.html>)
  - List View (i.e., <http://bibframe.org/vocab-list/#provider>)

provider
bf:provider
Place, name, and/or date information relating to the publication, printing, distribution, issue, release, or production instance.
Label: Provider
Type: rdfs:Property
Domain: bf:Instance
Range: bf:Provider

Provider - Property		
Place, name, and/or date information relating to the publication, printing, distribution, issue, release, or production instance.		
Provider		
Place, name, and/or date information relating to the publication, printing, distribution, issue, release, or production instance.		
Property:	Provider	
Used With:	Instance	
Expected value(s):	Provider	
URI:	<a href="http://bibframe.org/vocab/provider">http://bibframe.org/vocab/provider</a>	
Subproperties		
Select a column by clicking the column header. Select a second element below to learn more about that property or class.		
Property	Label / Description	Used With
distribution	Distribution event / Place, name, and/or date information relating to the publication, printing, distribution, issue, release, or production instance.	Instance
manufacture	Manufacture event / Place, name, and/or date information relating to the publication, printing, distribution, issue, release, or production instance.	Instance
production	Production event / Place, name, and/or date information relating to the publication, printing, distribution, issue, release, or production instance.	Instance
publication	Publication event / Place, name, and/or date information relating to the publication, printing, distribution, issue, release, or production instance.	Instance

There are two distinct interfaces to the BIBFRAME vocabulary, and there is seemingly no crossover between them. The Model View begins on a distinct page, but once you select on of the classes, you go to the same interface as the Category View. The trade-off is that the category view generally contains much more information than the list view, but can be a bit overwhelming if you are new to the vocabulary. I think of the list view as a good starting point to get a general idea where a term fits into the vocabulary, and then move onto the category view to get a more detailed view.

## Vocabulary Walkthrough

- Starting with an RDF graph, locating a BIBFRAME term is easy; just look for any URI beginning with <http://bibframe.org/vocab/>
  - In this case, we can look for the providerStatement *property* in the BIBFRAME vocabulary and see how what we see in the graph corresponds to what we see in the vocabulary



## Walkthrough Continued

- To find the `providerStatement` *property* in the List View, simply select it from the Complete List of Properties at the top of the page
  - From here, we can see that a triple using this *property* as the predicate should have the form: `bf:Instance -> bf:providerStatement -> literal`

Complete List of Properties		
Select a property name below and jump to a panel describing that property and its usage below.		
<a href="#">immediateAcquisition</a>	<a href="#">providerRole</a>	<a href="#">upc</a>
<a href="#">index</a>	<a href="#">providerStatement</a>	<a href="#">uri</a>
<a href="#">instanceOf</a>	<a href="#">publication</a>	<a href="#">um</a>

providerStatement
<b>bf:providerStatement</b>
Transcribed provider statement
<b>Label:</b> Provider statement
<b>Type:</b> <a href="#">rdf:Property</a>
<b>Domain:</b> <a href="#">bf:Instance</a>
<b>Range:</b> <a href="#">rdfs:Literal</a>

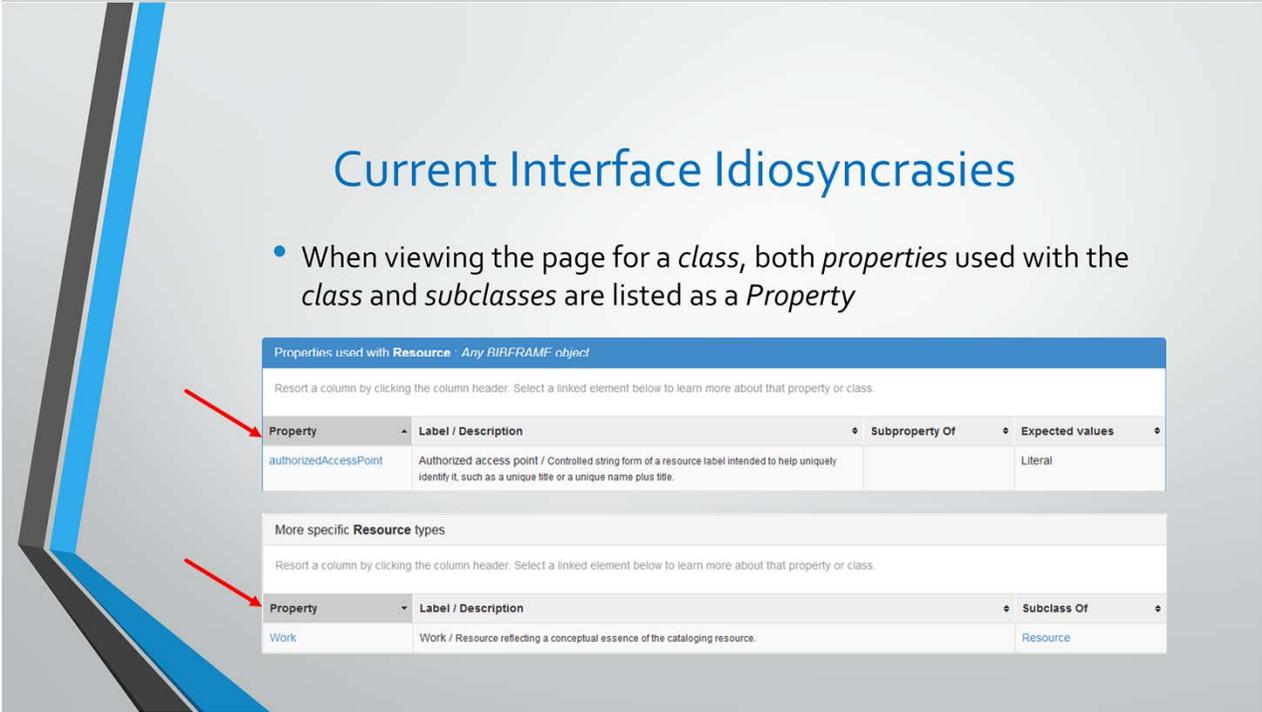
## Vocabulary Walkthrough Concluded

- Looking back at the graph, we can see that the subject of the triple is an instance, and the object is a literal corresponding to the text string of the publication statement for this title



## Current Interface Idiosyncrasies

- When viewing the page for a *class*, both *properties* used with the *class* and *subclasses* are listed as a *Property*



Properties used with **Resource** - Any RIBFRAME object

Resort a column by clicking the column header. Select a linked element below to learn more about that property or class.

Property	Label / Description	Subproperty Of	Expected values
<a href="#">authorizedAccessPoint</a>	Authorized access point / Controlled string form of a resource label intended to help uniquely identify it, such as a unique title or a unique name plus title.		Literal

More specific **Resource** types

Resort a column by clicking the column header. Select a linked element below to learn more about that property or class.

Property	Label / Description	Subclass Of
<a href="#">Work</a>	Work / Resource reflecting a conceptual essence of the cataloging resource.	<a href="#">Resource</a>

## Idiosyncrasies Continued

- Some *properties* do not list a *domain* and/or *range*

Title information				
Resort a column by clicking the column header. Select a linked element below to learn more about that property or class.				
Property	Subproperty of	Label / Description	Used With	Expected Value
<a href="#">titleVariation</a>		Title variation / Title associated with the resource that is different from the main title.		<a href="#">Title</a>

Though not too frequent, some properties do not list a domain and/or range. This means that the domain or range of the property are applicable to more than one but not all classes. For example, in the case above, the domain for the property `titleVariation` can be used with Instances and Works, but not other *classes*.

## Idiosyncrasies Concluded

- If you come across a *property* through the Model View or Category View, it will not be presented using the established naming convention

Model or Category view:

Continued by - Property
Work whose content continues an earlier work under a new title.
Modification history • 2014-04-10 (updated subproperty)
<b>Continued by</b>
Work whose content continues an earlier work under a new title.
Property: Continued by

List view:

continuedBy
<b>bf:continuedBy</b>
Work whose content continues an earlier work under a new title.

## BIBFRAME Vocabulary Links

- Homepage: <http://bibframe.org/vocab/>
- Vocabulary Description document: <http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/docs/vocab-category.html>
- Terminology and Conventions document: <http://www.loc.gov/bibframe/docs/vocab-conventions.html>
- BIBFRAME Vocabulary List View: <http://bibframe.org/vocab-list/>