Some Possible RDA Implementation Scenarios

The three scenarios shown on the following pages are illustrations of just three of the possibilities -- present and future -- of implementing RDA.

Scenario 3: "Flat file" database structure (no links)
This scenario represents the card catalog approach.

Scenario 2: Linked bibliographic and authority records
This scenario represents some current databases. The bibliographic records describe manifestations but include elements for attributes of works and expressions as well; the holdings records contain item information. The authority records for relationships (both related resources and related persons/families/corporate bodies) are linked to the bibliographic records. The strings representing those authorized access points do not reside in the bibliographic records but are displayed with the bibliographic records; when the form of an authorized access point in the authority record is revised, the revised form then is displayed with the bibliographic records. No "file maintenance" is needed for the bibliographic records when the authorized access points are revised.

Scenario 1: Relational/object-oriented database structure
This scenario represents one possibility of a linked-data implementation. Separate "records" exist for works, expressions, manifestations, and items (the four FRBR Group 1 entities) and for persons, families, and corporate bodies (the three FRBR/FRAD Group 2 entities) related to the Group 1 entities. These "records" may not be records as we think of them today but rather "packages of data" manipulated by the program to display information requested by the user. Catalogers would not create all those separate "records" but would identify and record attributes of the entities once and the information would be organized and displayed as needed. The primary relationships (RDA chapter 17) appear for the first time in this scenario.

What is LC's current implementation scenario for RDA? We're between Scenario 3 and Scenario 2: a Scenario 2+ implementation. We have a database rather than a card catalog but our bibliographic and authority records are not linked as in Scenario 2.

[The illustrations are from Tom Delsey's 2009 document "RDA Database Implementation Scenarios" (5JSC/Editor/2/Rev).]

Scenario 3: 'Flat file' database structure (no links)

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

Authorized access point representing the expression*
Title proper*
Statement of responsibility
Edition statement
Publication statement
Carrier type
Extent
Nature of the content
...
Item-specific carrier characteristic
Custodial history of item
Restrictions on access
...
Variant title*
Authorized access point representing person associated with the work*
  Relationship designator
Authorized access point representing person associated with the expression*
  Relationship designator
Authorized access point representing related work*

NAME AUTHORITY RECORD

Authorized access point representing the person*
x Variant access point representing the person*
xx Authorized access point representing related person*
...

NAME-TITLE AUTHORITY RECORD

Authorized access point representing the expression*
xx Authorized access point representing related work*
...

NAME AUTHORITY RECORD

Authorized access point representing the person*
x Variant access point representing the person*
xx Authorized access point representing related person*
...

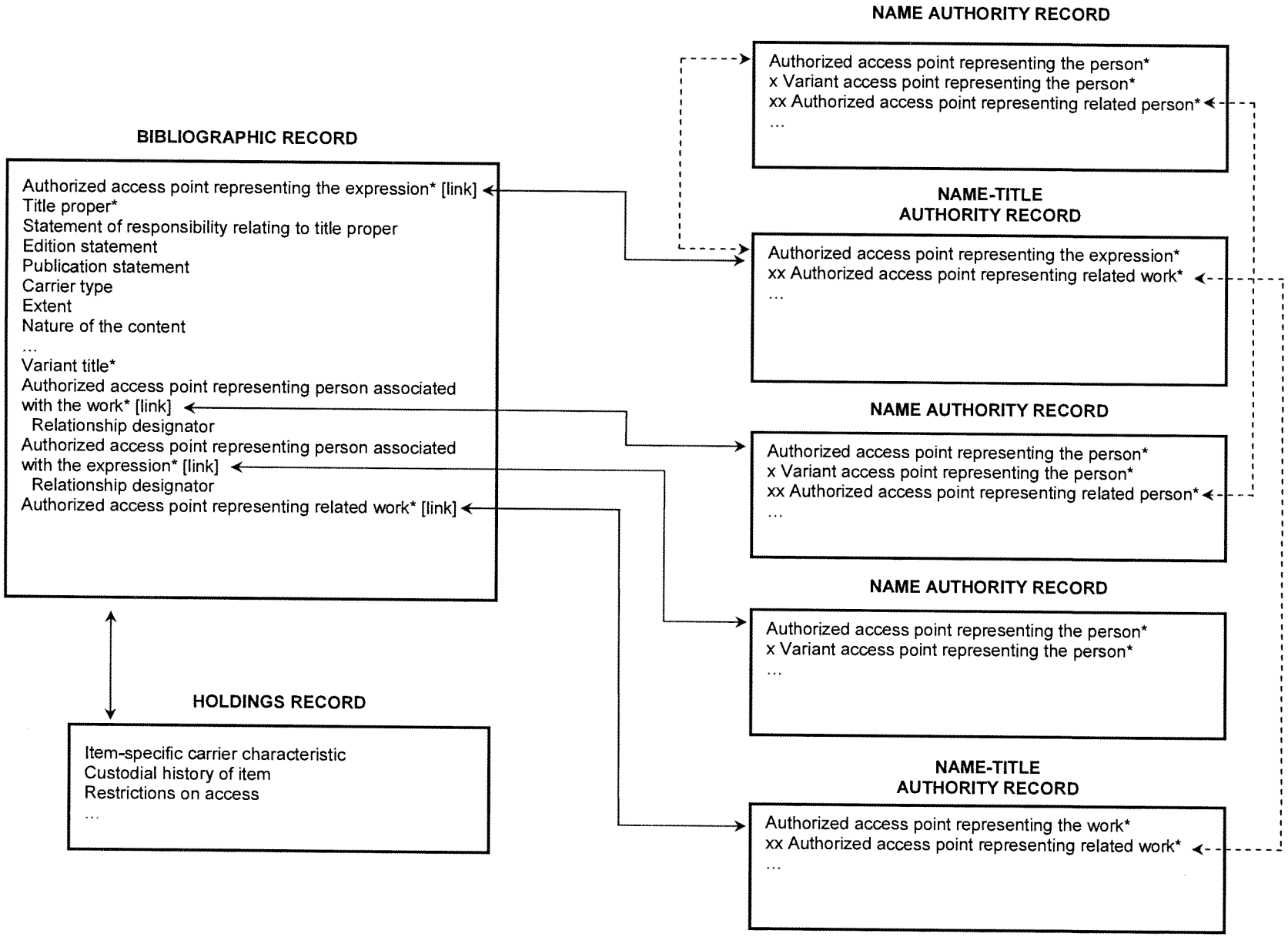
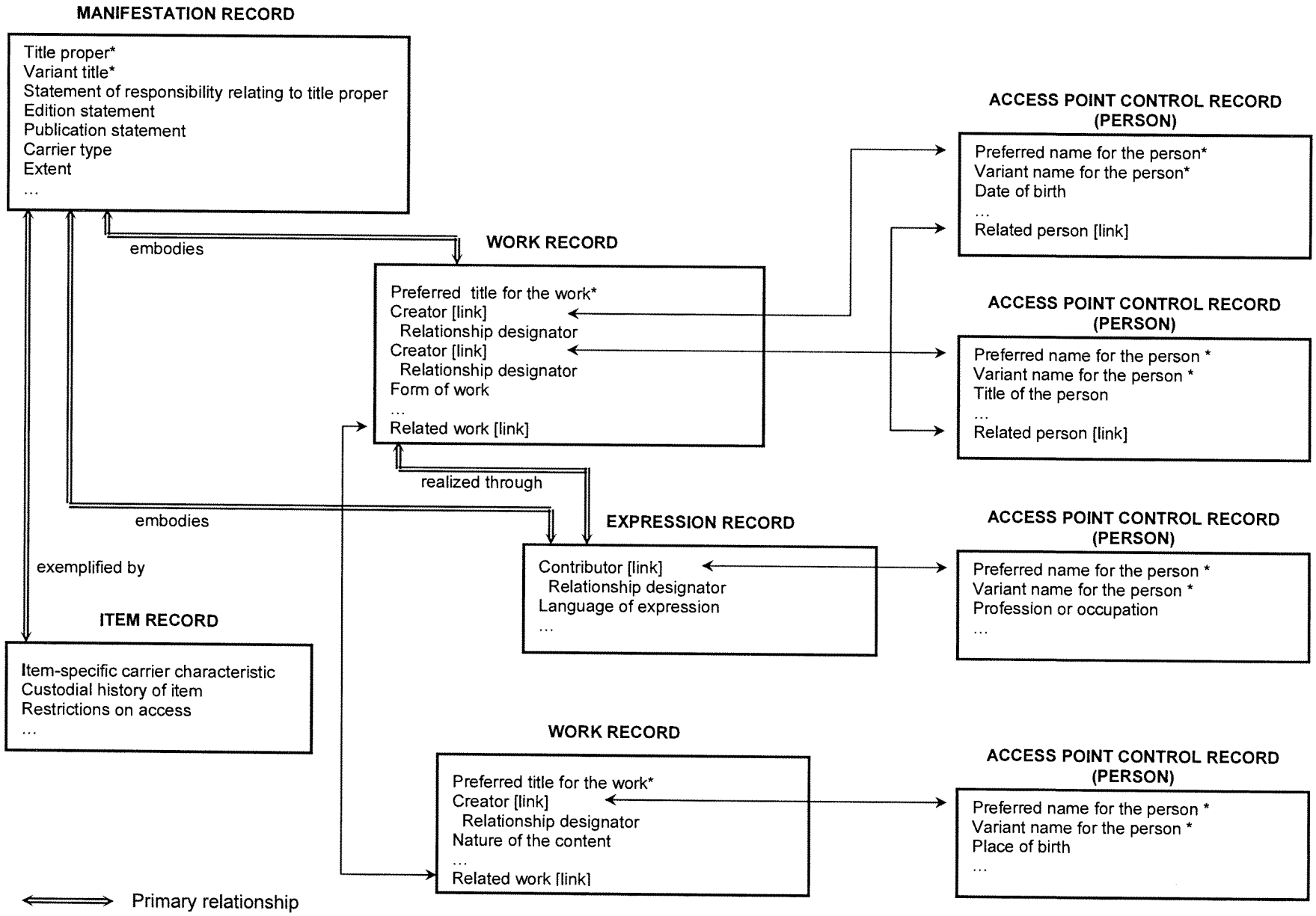
NAME AUTHORITY RECORD

Authorized access point representing the person*
x Variant access point representing the person*
...

NAME-TITLE AUTHORITY RECORD

Authorized access point representing the work*
xx Authorized access point representing related work*
...

Scenario 2: Linked bibliographic and authority records



Scenario 1: Relational / object-oriented database structure