



3rd IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code
 الإجتماع الثالث لإفلا للخبراء في قواعد الفهرسة الدولية.
 December 12-14, 2005 in Cairo, Egypt

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 Cairo, 12-14 December 2005

Brave New FRBR World

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- what it is and what it is *not*
- what it does and what it does *not*
- how it relates to our major topics



What FRBR is

- a model developed for IFLA
 - 1992-1997
 - aim:
 - “to produce a *framework*
 - that would provide a (...) *commonly shared understanding* of:
 - what it is that the bibliographic record *aims to provide information about*,
 - and what it is that we expect the record to achieve in terms of *answering user needs*”



What FRBR is

- a reference model
 - a *framework for commonly shared understanding*
 - to have the **same structure** in mind and to refer to the **same concepts** under the **same appellations**
 - to compare differently structured data

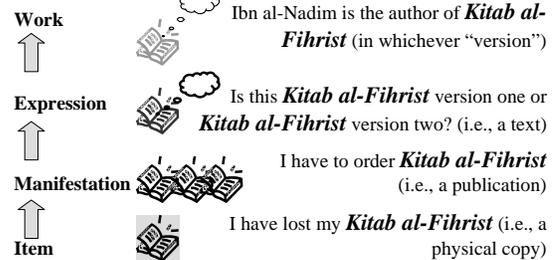


What FRBR is

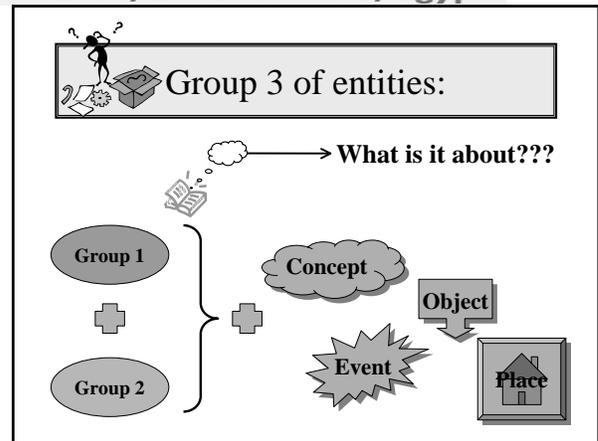
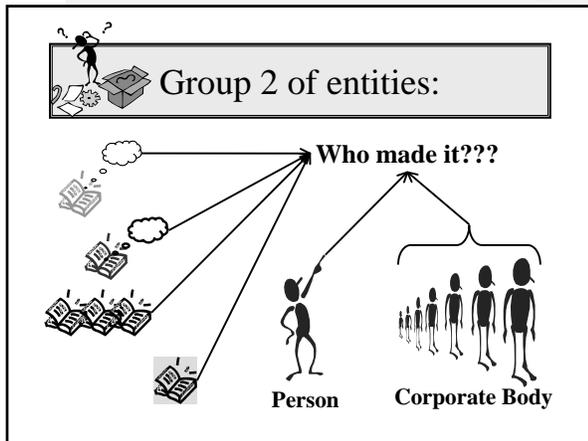
- an E-R model
 - defines “entities”, their “attributes”, their “relationships”
 - 3 groups of entities; **Group 1 =**



FRBR’s core = Group 1 of Entities:

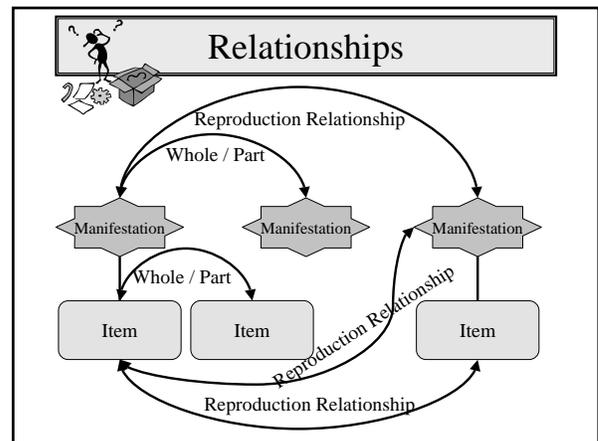
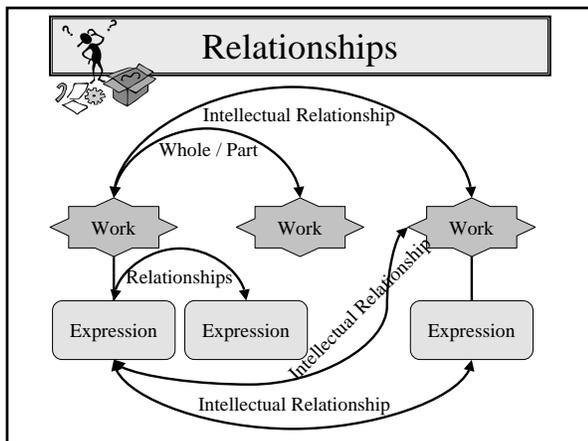
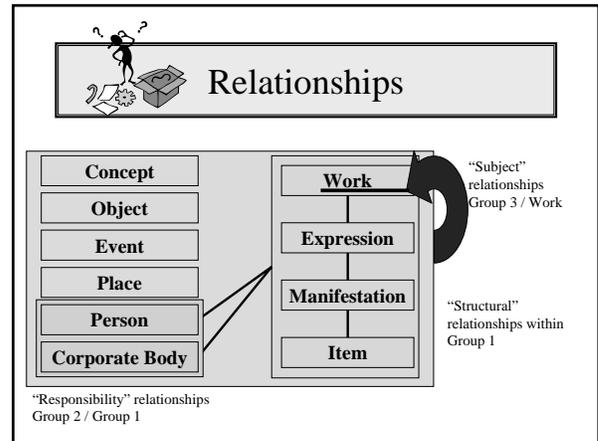


The word **kitab** has at least four distinct meanings...



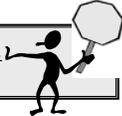
Attributes

- “Attributes” characterise instances of entities
- For instance:
 - A given Manifestation is characterised by its “Date of Publication” attribute
 - A given Person is characterised by its “Name” attribute, etc.

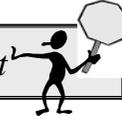




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What FRBR is *not* 

- a data model
 - attributes **too generic** to allow for an implementation of the model such as it stands
 - e.g., FRBR does not account for different kinds of titles

What FRBR is *not* 

- an ISBD
 - FRBR does not state **how to structure** data elements
 - nor **how to display** them
 - FRBR is **broader** and **more abstract** than ISBDs

What FRBR is *not* 

- a cataloguing code
 - FRBR is **not prescriptive**
 - FRBR does not say **how to create** bibliographic records
 - FRBR is at a merely **conceptual** level

Some examples of implementation 

- AustLit Gateway
 - Virtua
 - OCLC
 - RLG

Implementation 

- AustLit Gateway
 - applies to an exclusively literary corpus of Australian texts
 - **not** a catalogue
 - work-centred; displays for each work all of its expressions and manifestations on a single Web page (example on next slide)

Lilian's Story 

This work has appeared in at least 3 different versions

Expressions

- Sydney, New South Wales : Allen and Unwin, 1985
 ISBN: 0668614939
 Extent: 211p.
- Notes: The second (green-6) edition includes textual changes and 12 extra pages; changes were suggested by Gertrude's American editor.
 Publications of this version include the following 3:
 - New York (City), New York (State), United States of America (USA) : Viking Program, 1986
 ISBN: 0670899292
 Extent: 227p.
 Edition Info: 2nd rev. ed.
 - North Sydney, New South Wales : Allen and Unwin, 1991
 ISBN: 1963730230 (pbk.)
 Extent: 227p.
 Edition Info: Rev. ed.
 - St Leonards, New South Wales : Allen and Unwin, 1997
 ISBN: 1864482842 (pbk.)
 Extent: 280p.
 Edition Info: Rev. ed.
 Notes: • Paperback ed. with new cover - 1 p. verso
- Alternative title: La storia di Lilian
 Language: Italian
 Translator: Pugno, Laura
 • Rome, Italy and Naples, Italy : Treves, 1992

Credits to:
AustLit Gateway & Carol Hetherington



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Implementation

- Virtua
 - 2002: VTLS Inc. releases Virtua 41.0
 - MARC records can be “split” into 4 levels
 - “Flat records” and “FRBR records” live side-by-side
 - uses Tom Delsey’s mapping of MARC21 to FRBR
 - cataloguing paradigm is still based on ISBDs

Implementation

- FRBR at OCLC:
 - xISBN service (<http://www.oclc.org/research/researchworks/xisbn/default.htm>)
 - FRBRized Open WorldCat (<http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm>) and “Find in a library” interface
 - “FictionFinder” prototype (<http://fictionfinder.oclc.org>)

OCLC: xISBN

OCLC: Open WorldCat

OCLC: Open WorldCat



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OCLC: "FictionFinder" prototype

Implementation

- RLG (Research Libraries Group)
 - RLG's "RedLightGreen" OPAC was *Googled*
 - New display of hit lists, partially based on FRBR (cannot be labelled a "FRBRisation", though)
 - Available on line at <<http://www.redlightgreen.com>>

RLG: "RedLightGreen" OPAC

Publisher	Date	Language	Edition	Contents	ISBN
Omnia	2002	Arabic	al-Tab'ah 1		
Wahneema Lubiano	1988	Arabic	v.		
Wahneema Lubiano	1987	Arabic	v. 2-4		3515031863 (jwrC 4)
Wahneema Lubiano	1972	Arabic			
Wahneema Lubiano	1972	Arabic			336 p.

Current evolution of FRBR

- FRAR
- FR SAR
- FRBR Review Group



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Current evolution 

- FRAR
 - 1999: FRANAR Working Group
 - Goal: to model **authority records**

Current evolution 

- FRSAR
 - FRSAR Study Group formed in 2005
 - Goal: to model **“subject relationships” (classification and indexing)**
 - FRBR+FRAR+FRSAR = complete model for the “Bibliographic Universe”

Current evolution 

- FRBR Review Group
 - Formed 2003
 - 2005: Working Group on Aggregates (will deal with collections & anthologies, multi-volume monographs, continuing resources, Web sites...)

FRBR
and the Meeting’s 5 “Focus Topics”
(that happen to be 6...)



- “Appellations”
- “Types”
- “Aggregates”

“Appellations”

- Names of personal authors
 - FRBR could have defined just one attribute: **“heading”**
 - FRAR: Person entity = real-life person? No; **“Bibliographic Identity”** notion (as in AACR2)
 - undifferentiated names cannot be controlled; to what extent is that **lack of control tolerable?**

“Appellations”

- FRBR and names of corporate bodies
 - FRBR could have defined just one attribute: **“heading”**
 - FRAR: Corporate Body entity = real-life corporate body? No; **“Bibliographic Identity”** notion



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“Appellations”

- Uniform titles
 - Title attribute:
at *Work*, *Expression*, and *Manifestation* level
 - title of a *Work* = uniform title or title proper
 - no prescription as to what constitutes the title of an *Expression*
 - title of an *Expression* = title of the *Work*, plus...
which information elements?

“Types”

- GMDs (General Material Designators)
 - GMDs: **not mentioned** in FRBR
 - define “**type**” attributes for *Work*, *Expression*, *Manifestation*? Combine them into GMDs?
 - e.g.:

textual work – expressed as sound – on physical carrier
textual work – expressed as written word – on manuscript
textual work – expressed as written word – on microform
musical work – expressed as notation – on printed material
musical work – expressed as sound – in an electronic resource on line

cartographic work – in an electronic resource on line
motion picture – on physical carrier
multimedia work – on physical carrier(s)

“Aggregates”

- Seriality issues of when to create a new record
 - title change => New *Work*?
 - deal with continuing resources in *authority records* rather than bibliographic records?

“Aggregates”

- Multipart structures
 - More than one *Work* in one *Manifestation*:
what is the smallest bibliographic unit, the *Work* or the *Manifestation*?
 - This echoes the older debate between “literary unit” and “bibliographic unit”
 - Computer systems possibilities can help us solve the problem...
 - ... provided we we make consistent recommendations in such cases as:



“Récits en noir et blanc” as a whole = a *Work* by F. Zabbal?



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Possible policies include:

- **Ignore** the 5 short stories: they are more than 3
- Mention them in “**other title information**”
- Mention them in a **contents note**
- Make 5 additional **author/title access points**
- Create **analytical records**

Conclusion

- FRBR does not solve all theoretical problems...
- ... But FRBR provides a useful conceptual framework, with clear distinctions between “physical” and “abstract” aspects of the holdings we describe
- Such distinctions should be reflected in an International Cataloguing Code

