

BIBFRAME Authority Proposal

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Library of Congress

This is one of a group of change proposals for the BIBFRAME Vocabulary. In early 2014 the vocabulary was stabilized with the intent to keep it stable for a year for experimentation, with discussion invited. This proposal is based on that discussion as well as suggestions from experts and the community during the year. Comments are invited. Please post comments to bibframe@listserv.loc.gov

This proposal recommends generalization of the BIBFRAME Authority concept.

Currently, a BIBFRAME Authority is as illustrated in this example:

```
bf:contributor [  
  a                bf:Person ; bf:Authority ;  
  bf:authorizedAccessPoint "Knape, Joachim." ;  
  bf:hasAuthority      <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n80103961> ;  
  bf:hasReferenceAuthority <https://viaf.org/viaf/268367832/#Knape,_Joachim>  
] .
```

This structure would be replaced by:

```
bf:contributor [  
  a                bf:Person ;  
  rdfs:label       "Joachim Knape" ;  
  bf:identifiedBy  <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n80103961#RWO> ;  
  bf:identifiedBy  <https://viaf.org/viaf/268367832/#Knape,_Joachim>  
] .
```

(See the companion *Identifier Proposal* which introduces the predicate **bf:identifiedBy**. Also, see the companion *Role Proposal* which redefined the predicate **bf:contributor**.)

The label could be repeated in order to represent the name in different languages.

For example:

```
rdfs:label          "Joachim Knape"@de-DE,  
                   "Joachim Knape"@en,  
                   "Knape"@fr-FR ;
```

Current subclasses of **bf:Authority** would become subclasses of **bf:Resource**:

- **bf:Agent**
- **bf:Topic**
- **bf:Temporal**
- **bf:Place**

Current subclasses of **bf:Agent** would remain so: **bf:Person**, **bf:Family**, **bf:Organization**, **bf:Jurisdiction** and **bf:Meeting**.

bf:contributor, currently defined to have range **bf:Authority**, would have range **bf:Contributor** (introduced in the Role proposal).

bf:subject would have expected value of **bf:Agent**, **bf:Topic**, **bf:Temporal**, **bf:Place**, **bf:Work**, etc.

Properties **bf:hasAuthority** and **bf:hasReferenceAuthority**, and the class **bf:Authority**, would no longer be necessary.