BIBFRAME Role Proposal

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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 a revised model for BIBFRAME roles.

Current BIBFRAME Approach

BIBFRAME has built-in properties bf:creator and bf:contributor. These are the only built-in roles; any other role must be expressed either as an external property or as a Relator resource. So currently, there are three methods to express a role:

1. Via built-in property

   ```
   http://xyz    bf:creator        < some agent resource >
   or
   http://xyz    bf:contributor    < some agent resource >
   ```

2. Via external property, e.g.

   ```
   http://xyz    relators: ill     < some agent resource >
   ```

3. In this example the prefix 'relators:' represents the namespace URI **http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/relators**, and so relators:ill becomes **http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/relators/ill** which is the *id.loc.gov* code for the term 'Illustrator'.

4. Via a bf:relator role construct: e.g.

   ```
   http://xyz   a  bf:Work ;
           bf:relator  [   a   bf:Relator ;
                               bf:relatorRole   "Writer of preface" ;
                               bf:agent         <some agent resource>

                       ] .
   ```

This third approach currently is used only when there is no vocabulary term available to express the role as a property.

Proposal

- Eliminate property **bf:creator** (see *Example 1* for how to express the role "creator").
- Generalize property **bf:contributor** (described below).
- Methods 1 and 2 above would *no longer* be used to express a role.
  Method 3 (or a variant form), with the following changes, would *always* be used to express a role.
  - Replace:
    - Property **bf:relator** with **bf:contributor**.
    - Class **bf:Relator** with **bf:Contributor**. It is the range of property **bf:contributor**.
    - Property **bf:relatorRole** (object is a literal) to **bf:role** (object is a resource).
  - Define class **bf: Role**. It is the range of property **bf:role**.

BIBFRAME Contributor

A BIBFRAME contributor would take this general form.

```
bf:contributor  [
        a            bf:Contributor ;
        bf:role     <some role resource> ;
        bf:agent    <some agent resource>  ].
```

Both the role resource and the agent resource may be expanded as follows:

```
bf:contributor  [
           a                bf:Contributor ;
           bf:role  [
                   a                  bf:Role ;
                   rdfs:label         "some role" ;
                   bf:identifiedBy    <URI for a role> ] ;
           bf:agent [
                   a                  bf:Agent;
                   rdfs:label         "some Agent" ;
                   bf:identifiedBy    <URI for Agent>  ] .
```

Example 1

```
bf:contributor  [
    a            bf:Contributor ;
    bf:role  [
            a              bf:Role ;
            rdfs:label      "creator" ;
            bf:identifiedBy <http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/relators/cre>  ] ;
    bf:agent [
            a              bf:Person;
            rdfs:label     "Rineer, A. Hunter (Amos Hunter), -1985" ;
            bf:identifiedBy <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO> ] .
```

If there is no URI for the role, then the role is expressed by the label alone:

Example 2

```
bf:contributor   [
    a            bf:Contributor ;
    bf:role  [
            a              bf:Role ;
            rdfs:label      "creator"  ] ;
    bf:agent [
            a              bf:Person;
            rdfs:label     "Rineer, A. Hunter (Amos Hunter), -1985" ;
            bf:identifiedBy <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO> ] .
```

If the intent is to express the role as "contributor", without any more-specific role, then bf:role may be omitted.

Example 3

```
bf:contributor   [
  a            bf:Contributor ;
  bf:agent  [
            a              bf:Person;
            rdfs:label      "Rineer, A. Hunter (Amos Hunter), -1985" ;
            bf:identifiedBy <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO> ] .
```

If there is no label for the agent, the preceding example may collapse to the "direct" form:

Example 4

```
bf:contributor   <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO>
```