
De-Mystifying FRBR: A Whirlwind Introduction

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Agenda

- Introduction to FRBR
- LC proposals for fitting FRBR into existing record structures
- Why you should care

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- **Introduction to FRBR**
- LC proposals for fitting FRBR into existing record structures
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What is FRBR?

- Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
- Either F-R-B-R or “Ferber”
- Outlined in a 1997/1998 report from IFLA
- A “conceptual model”
 - entities
 - attributes
 - relationships

Contents of FRBR Report

- Introduction
- Objectives, Scope, and Methodology
- Entities
- Attributes
- Relationships
- User Tasks
- Basic Requirements for National Bibliographic Records

User Tasks

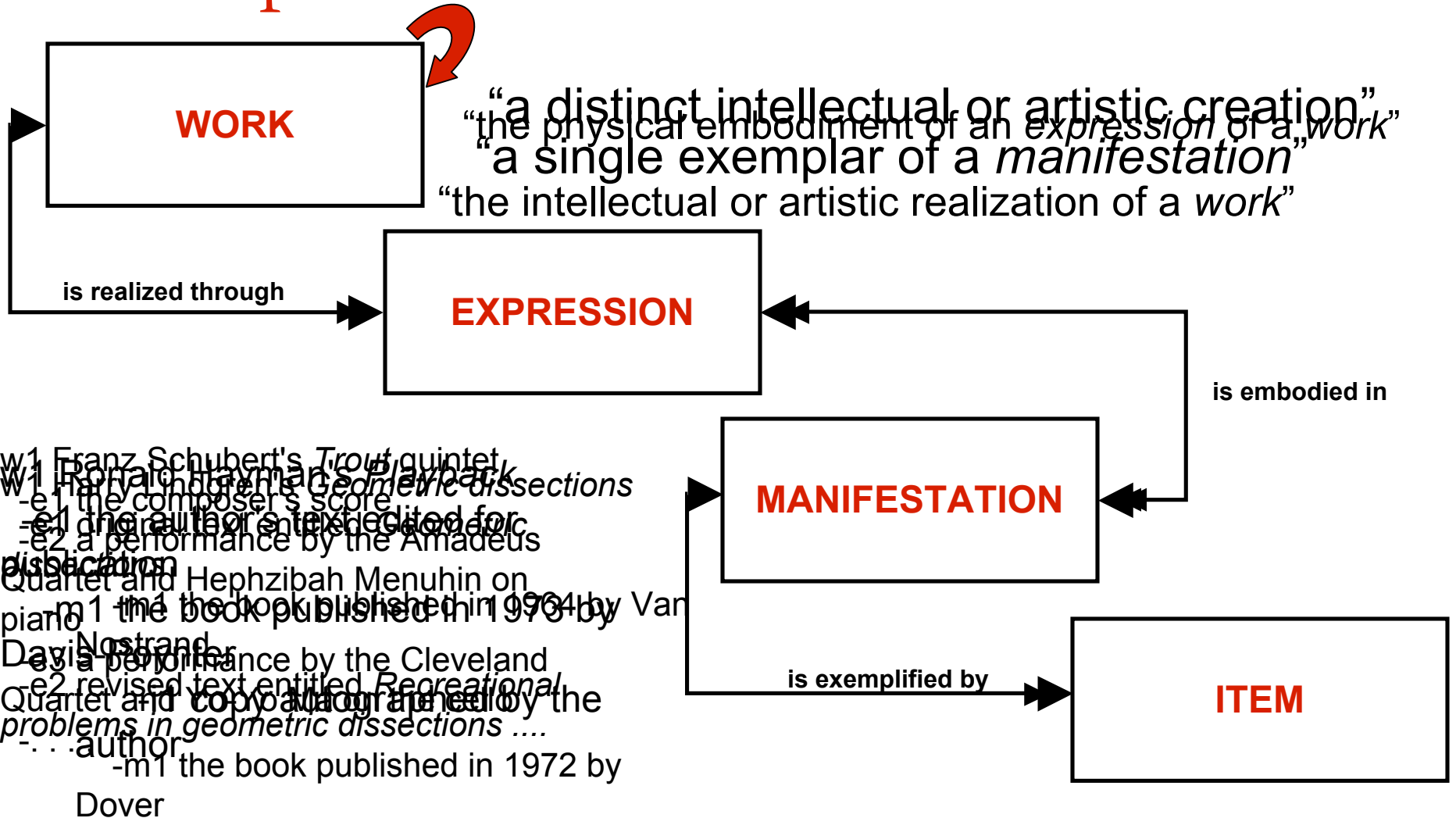
■ FRBR

- Find
- Identify
- Select
- Obtain

■ Cutter

- To enable a person to find a book of which either
 - the author
 - the title
 - the subject...is known
- To show what the library has
 - by a given author
 - on a given subject
 - in a given kind of literature
- To assist in the choice of a book
 - as to its edition (bibliographically)
 - as to its character (literary or topical)

Group 1 Entities



Not always clear where a real-world situation falls

- New preface
- New illustrations
- Braille
- Screenplay
- Serials
- Aggregations

Expression entity uncertainty

- FRBR report, p. 19:
 - “Strictly speaking, any change in intellectual or artistic content constitutes a change in *expression*. Thus, if a text is revised or modified, the resulting *expression* is considered to be a new *expression*, **no matter how minor the modification may be.**”
 - “On a practical level, the degree to which bibliographic distinctions are made between variant expressions of a work will depend to some extent on the nature of the work itself, and on the anticipated needs of users.”
- Expression entity working group now formed

Group 2 Entities

- “...responsible for the intellectual or artistic content, the physical production and dissemination, or the custodianship of the entities...” in Group 1
 - Person
 - Corporate body
 - [Family]

Group 3 Entities

- Subjects of Works
 - Groups 1 & 2 entities
 - Concept
 - Object
 - Event
 - Place

FRANAR

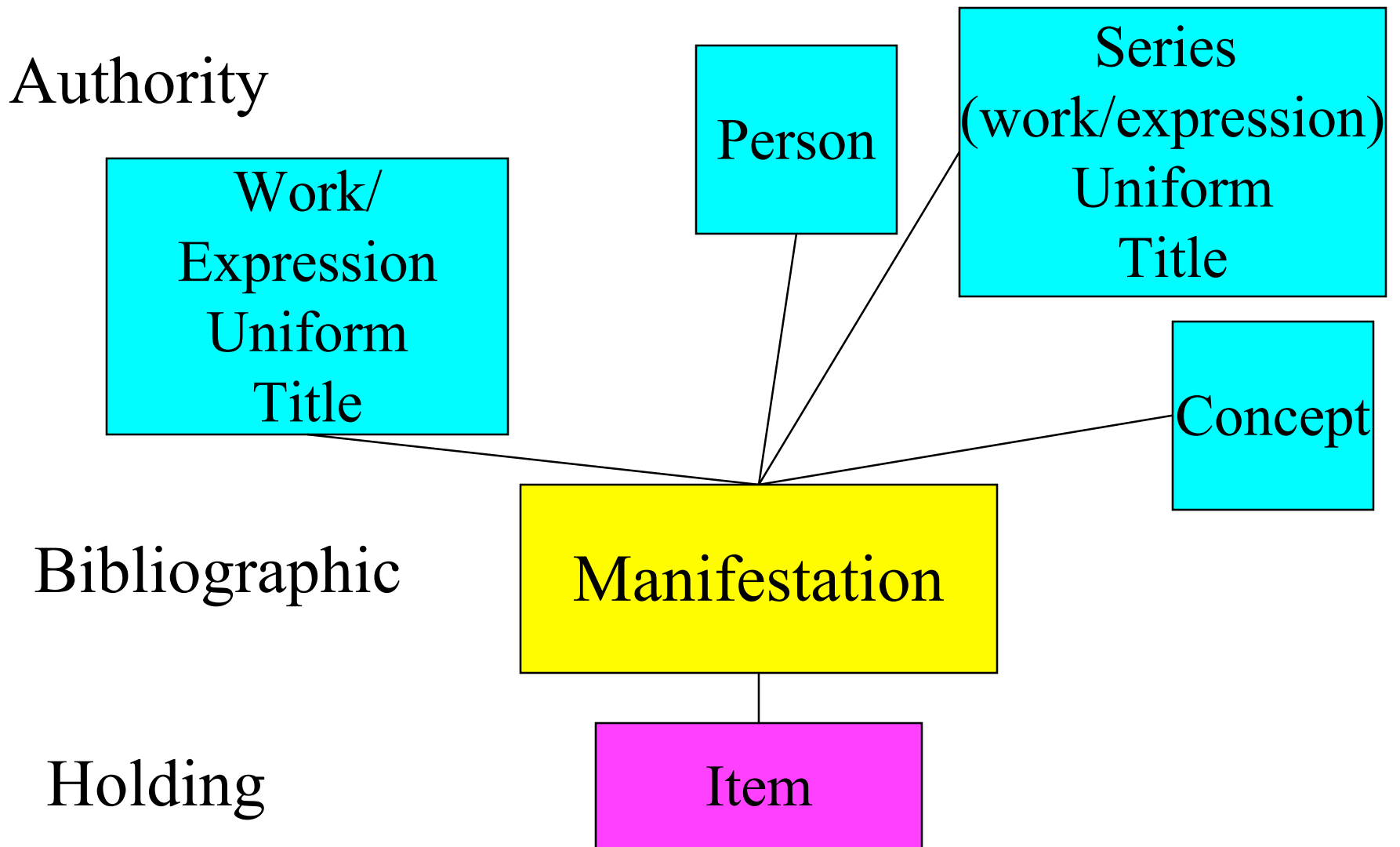
- Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records IFLA Working Group
- Released [FRAR report](#) in 2005
- Companion document to FRBR
- Discusses cataloging process more than entity-relationship analysis

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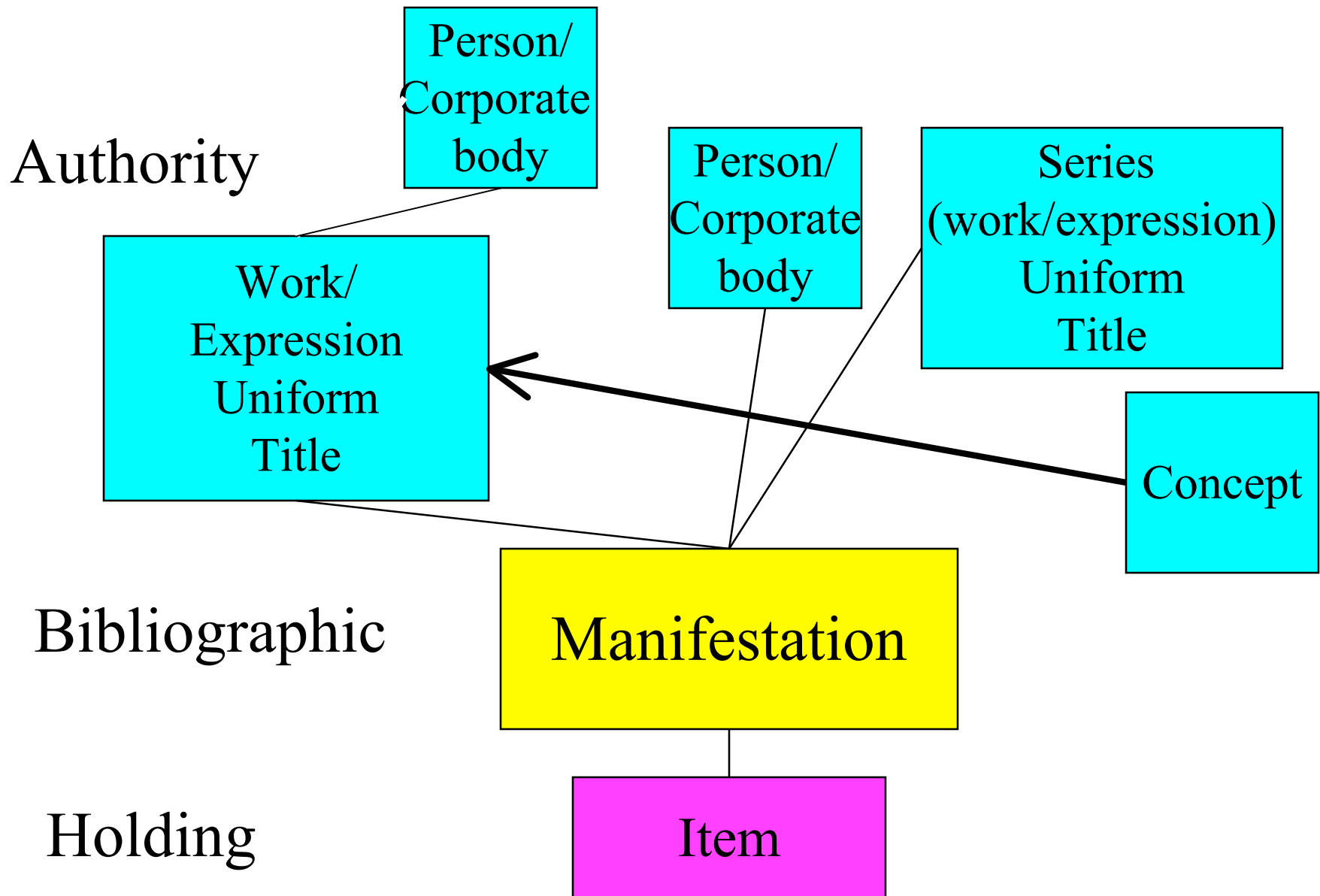
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Possible FRBR applications

Scenario A - Now

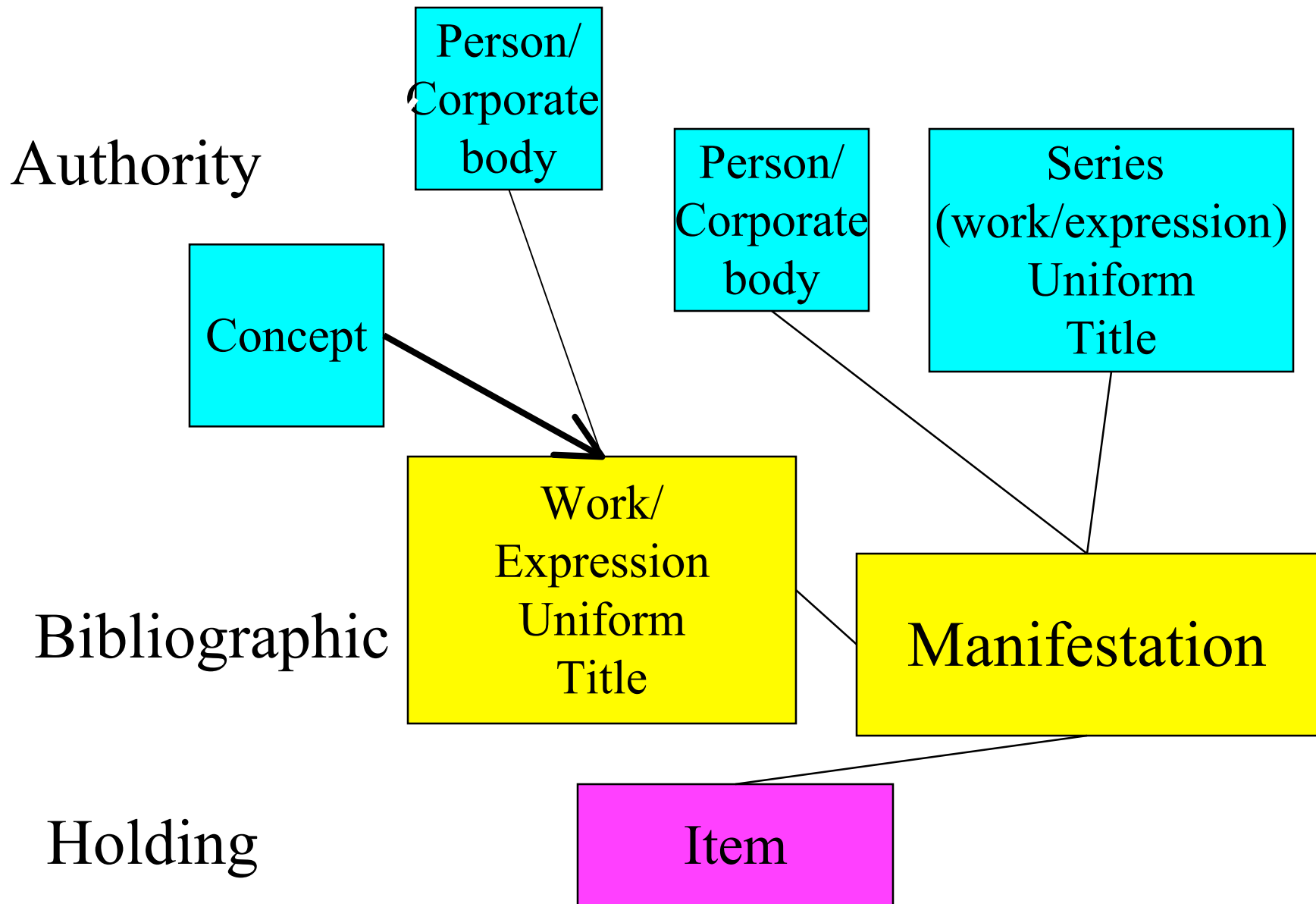


Scenario B



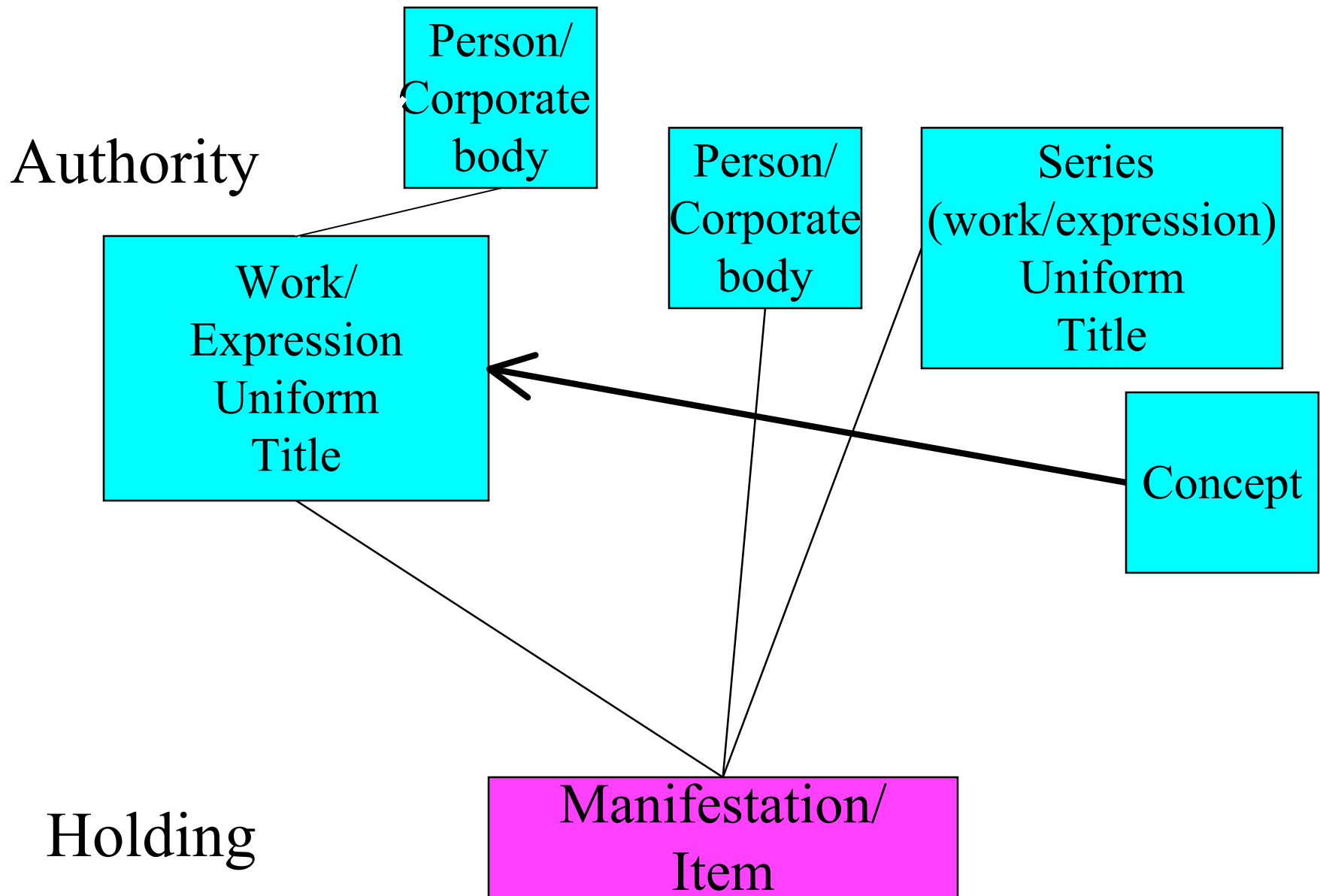
*FRBR record structure slides are from Barbara Tillett's May 2005 [presentation](#) at the OCLC FRBR Workshop

Scenario C



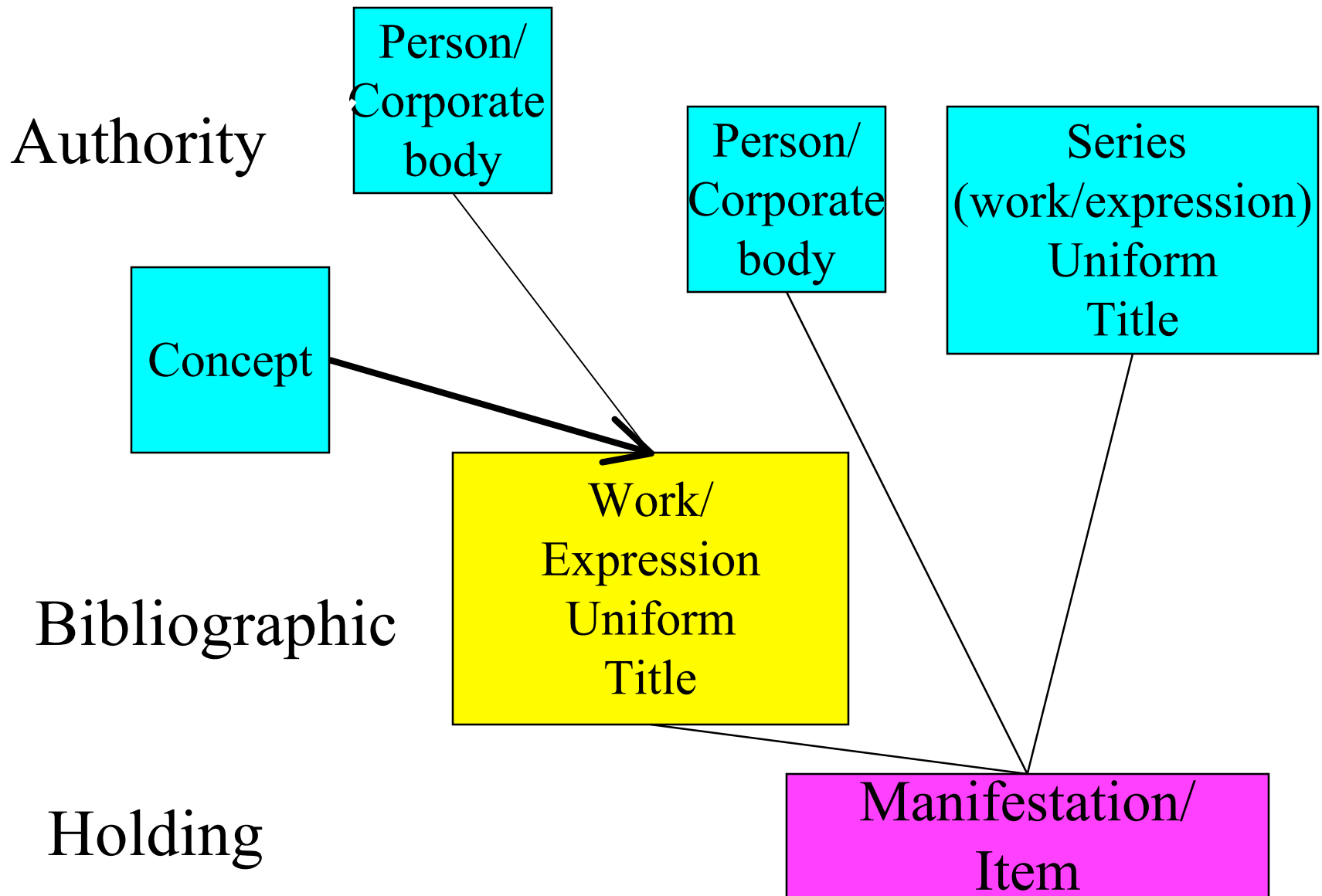
*FRBR record structure slides are from Barbara Tillett's May 2005 [presentation](#) at the OCLC FRBR Workshop

Scenario D



*FRBR record structure slides are from Barbara Tillett's May 2005 [presentation](#) at the OCLC FRBR Workshop

Scenario E



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New record structures

- No decisions made yet about the best way to proceed within MARC
- Any changes will be phased in over time
- Any changes will represent steep challenges both to ILS vendors and to implementing libraries
- Any changes will be made with user functionality as a prime consideration

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How many records are affected?

- Average work has 1.5 manifestations
- 78% of works have a single manifestation
- ~99% of all works in WorldCat have seven manifestations or less
- ~30,000, or ~1% have more than 20 manifestations

R. Bennett et. al. (2003) "The concept of a work in WorldCat: an application of FRBR" *Library Collections Acquisitions & Technical Services* 27, 45-59.

- So *why* do we need FRBR?



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Browse Results Browsing on: "hamlet"

- 1 [HAMLET 1936](#)

- 1 [HAMLET 1938](#)

- 1 [HAMLET 1991](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A CHRISTIAN TRAGEDY](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A CONCORDANCE TO THE NOVEL](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A CONCORDANCE TO THE TEXT OF THE SECOND QUARTO OF 1604-5](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A DRAMATIC PRELUDE IN FIVE ACTS](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A GUIDE](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A GUIDE TO THE PLAY](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A NEW VERSION](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A NOVEL](#)

- 1 [HAMLET A SCENE-BY-SCENE ANALYSIS WITH CRITICAL COMMENTARY](#)

End-users

- Grouping and disambiguation of search results [[example](#)]
- Better distinction between versions
- Better support for browsing, discovery of previously unknown items
- ILL
- Holds

RDA & FRBR

- “The FRBR and FRAR models provide *RDA* with an underlying framework that has the scope needed to support comprehensive coverage of all types of content and media, the flexibility and extensibility needed to accommodate newly emerging resource characteristics, and the adaptability needed for the data produced to function within a wide range of technological environments.”

Other cataloging changes

- Non-MARC environments
 - Many already doing FRBR-like things
 - Tend to have lots of programming support
- MARC environments
 - Need more innovation from ILS vendors
 - Catalogers used to looking at 1 record (well, 2 records) showing *everything*
 - Need to provide complex relationships when necessary, hide when not
 - Supporting legacy records will be complicated

Perspectives from the 2005 ALCTS FRBR ALA Preconference

- Glenn Patton (OCLC)
 - Clearer understanding of why we do what we do
 - Better collocation and navigation
 - Clearer, more useful relationships
 - More controlled, authoritative information for productivity
- Jennifer Bowen (Rochester): “Is FRBR really coming? It’s already here!”

Some implementations & related projects

- OCLC [FictionFinder](#) and [Curioser](#)
- RLG [RedLightGreen](#)
- [AustLit Gateway](#)

- VTLS [Virtua](#) ILS system
- III [Millennium 2005](#) ILS system

- IU [Variations2](#)

So what do I do now?

Learn more!

For further information

- [FRBR report](#)
- Readings on handout
- [FRBR listserv](#)
- [FRBR blog](#)

- jenlrile@indiana.edu
- These presentation materials:
<<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/presentations/ilf2006/>>