RDA and FRBR – an update

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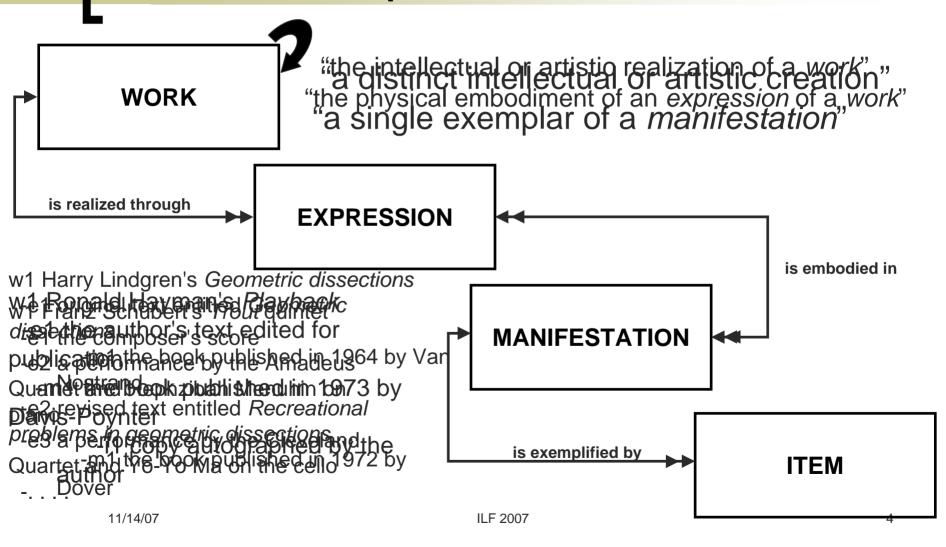
What is FRBR?

- *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*
- 1998 report from IFLA
- *Conceptual model* describing the entities and relationships underlying bibliographic information
- Only recently gaining real traction

FRBR user tasks

- Bibliographic records exist to help users:
  - Find
  - Identify
  - Select
  - Obtain

FRBR Group 1 entities

WORK

"a distinct intellectual or artistic creation"

EXPRESSION

"the intellectual or artistic realization of a *work*"

MANIFESTATION

"the physical embodiment of an *expression* of a *work*"

ITEM

"a single exemplar of a *manifestation*"

is realized through

is embodied in

is exemplified by

w1 Harry Lindgren's *Geometric dissections*
w1 Ronald Hayman's *Playback*
w1 Franz Schubert's *Trout quintet*
- e1 original text entitled *Geometric dissections*
- e1 the author's text edited for publication
- e1 the composer's score
- m1 the book published in 1964 by Van Nostrand
- m1 the book published in 1973 by Davis-Poynter
- e2 a performance by the Amadeus Quartet and the book published in 1973 by Davis-Poynter
- e2 revised text entitled *Recreational problems in geometric dissections*
- m1 copy autographed by the author
- e3 a performance by the Cleveland Quartet and Yo-Yo Ma on the cello
- m1 the book published in 1972 by Dover
-. . .

Other FRBR entities

- Group 2 (those responsible for Group 1 entities)
  - Person
  - Corporate body

- Group 3 (subjects of Works)
  - Concept
  - Object
  - Event
  - Place

Current FRBR activity

- Open WorldCat is semi-FRBRized
- Conceptual model behind RDA (more later…)
- Some review groups exist, but most are only minimally active

What is FRAD?

- *Functional Requirements for Authority Data*
- Follow-on report to FRBR
- 2nd draft released April 2007
  - Like FRBR, uses entity-relationship modeling
  - Clarifies the focus is authority *data*, not authority *records*

Entities covered by FRAD

- Person
- Family
- Corporate body

- Work
- Expression
- Manifestation
- Item

- Concept
- Object
- Event
- Place

- Name
- Identifier
- Controlled Access Point
- Rules

So, why should I care?

RDA is coming.

A new cataloging code: RDA

- *Resource Description and Access*
- "…designed for the digital world"
- "…comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions on resource description and access covering all types of content and media"
- Formerly known as AACR3; name change signifies a fundamental change in approach

Joint Steering Committee

- American Library Association (ALA)
- Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC)
- British Library (BL)
- Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC)
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
- Library of Congress (LC)

Why a new cataloging code?

- AACR2 originally released in 1978
- A new code can take advantage of
  - current discovery and display technologies
  - FRBR/FRAD modeling work
- Need an overhaul to support
  - separation of data from presentation
  - usability outside of the library community

Major changes in RDA

- Principle-based, rather than rule-based
  - No longer organized by type of resource
- Greater focus on authority control
- Intended for utility in many metadata communities
- Will be available as an online product

Will I have to re-catalog everything?

- Goal is to ensure backwards compatibility
- "The reworking of instructions derived from AACR … will be guided by recognition of the equally important need to minimize the need for retrospective adjustments when integrating data produced using RDA into existing files"
- Unclear how "new approach" and "backwards compatibility" will both be supported

New (!) RDA organization (1)

- **Two parts, 10 sections, many subordinate chapters**
- **Recording attributes**
  - Section 1 – Recording attributes of manifestation and item
  - Section 2 – Recording attributes of work and expression
  - Section 3 – Recording attributes of person, family, and corporate body
  - Section 4 – Recording attributes of concept, object, event, and place

New (!) RDA organization (2)

- **Recording relationships**
  - Section 5 – Recording primary relationships between work, expression, manifestation, and item
  - Section 6 – Recording relationships to persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with a resource
  - Section 7 – Recording relationships to concepts, objects, events, and places associated with a work
  - Section 8 – Recording relationships between works, expressions, manifestations and items
  - Section 9 – Recording relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies
  - Section 10 – Recording relationships between concepts, objects, events, and places

RDA organization (3)

- Appendix A: Capitalization
- Appendix B: Abbreviations
- Appendix C: Initial articles
- *Appendix D: Record syntaxes for descriptive data*
- *Appendix E: Record syntaxes for access control data*
- Glossary
- Index

Rationale for new organization

- The closer alignment with the FRBR and FRAD models and direct reference to the FRBR entities and user tasks will make it easier for cataloguers to learn and understand RDA concepts and for system designers to create powerful applications to support resource discovery.

- The new organization is not tied to any specific record structure. As a result it will be more easily understood by communities using a range of database structures.

- The new organization will be more adaptable and extensible; it will provide a better framework for RDA to move into a future increasingly defined by object-oriented models and relational structures.

Draft chapters available

- December 2005
  - General guidelines on resource description
  - Resource identification
  - Acquisition and access
- March 2007
  - Carrier (revised)
- June 2007
  - Persons, families, and corporate bodies associated with a resource (revised)
  - Related resources (revised)

Upcoming milestones

- December 2007: release of remaining chapters

- December 2007-March 2008: review of final released chapters

- July 2008: release of complete full draft

- July-September 2008: review of complete draft of RDA

- 2009: official release of RDA

Some interesting details

- According to current drafts
  - Statement of responsibility will be optional
  - "Rule of three" will be optional
  - Reduced use of abbreviations and non-English terms
    - No more [S.l.] : [s.n.]
  - Main entry is now "primary access point"

RDA to FRBR mapping

- "Mapping" is an unfortunate word here
- Official document describes a correspondence between RDA guidelines and attributes/relationships defined in FRBR
- No FRAD mapping done to date
  - Presumably would be based on Part B
  - But no official word as to whether to expect this

RDA and ONIX

- Early effort to harmonize RDA with other metadata standards
- April 2006: announcement from RDA and ONIX to "develop a common framework for resource categorization"
- August 2006: framework version 1.0 released
- January 2007: article describing the effort in D-Lib Magazine
- Unclear if this work has influenced GMDs or other features of RDA

RDA and DCMI

- Will jointly develop an RDA Application Profile, including:
  - development of an RDA *Element Vocabulary*
  - development of an RDA DC Application Profile based on FRBR and FRAD
  - disclosure of RDA *Value Vocabularies* using RDF/RDFS/SKOS

- Treats classes of data covered in RDA guidelines as "elements" ("properties" according to DCMI)

- Work has influenced the language in the *RDA Scope and Structure* document

Reaction to RDA drafts (1)

- Rhetoric is at times heated
- Mostly taking place on email lists and the blogosphere, rather than in the published literature
- Falls into two camps:
  - Too extreme
  - Not extreme enough
- Both sides have some valid points; both miss the point entirely at times

Reaction to RDA drafts (2)

- The "too extreme" argument goes something like:
  - Abandonment of ISBD as a guiding structure is a step backwards
  - Current plan dumbs down resource description too much
  - Planned changes don't give enough benefit to warrant the costs of implementation
- See Gorman paper for an example

Reaction to RDA drafts (3)

- The "not extreme enough" argument goes:
  - Too much data relegated to notes
  - Length and specificity make it unlikely to be applied outside of libraries
  - Plans to remain backwards-compatible prohibit needed fundamental changes
  - FRBR integration unsuccessful
- See Coyle/Hillmann paper for an example

Implementation plans

- October 2007 [announcement](#) of plans for adoption by
  - British Library
  - Library and Archives Canada
  - Library of Congress
  - National Library of Australia
- Goal is to implement by the end of 2009

Thank you!

- jenlrile@indiana.edu
- Presentation slides and handout: <http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/presentations/ilf2007/>
- Many more resources on the handout