FRSAR (Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records) Report of Activities

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The FRSAR group members have had several meetings through emails, conference calls, and face-to-face meetings since May 2006. Major outcomes include the definitions of user tasks, a proposal of a new model, and a plan for the final report. Details were reported at the Division IV program on Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007.

The group had three meetings during Aug. 20 and 24 at IFLA Durban conference and discussed extensively the proposed model and Group 3 entities. Major outcomes can be summarized as:

1. FRSAR confirms what FRBR has already defined: WORK has-subject THEMA. Here thema is the term used temporarily to refer to anything that can be subject of a work. Thema includes any FRBR entities.

2. FRSAR proposes the new relationship: THEMA has appellation NOMEN. Again, nomen is a term used temporarily to refer to any alpha numeric, sound, visual etc. symbol or combination of symbols by which a thema is known, referred to or addressed.

3. This THEMA-NOMEN relationship is consistent with what FRAD has proposed in its draft report, to separate what a thing is (the concept) from what it is known, referred to or addressed (its name, label).

4. FRSAR group plans to have a draft final report ready for group discussions by the end of 2007. A revised version will be distributed for a world-wide review in Spring of 2008.

The WG defined user tasks in 2006 based on the discussions of the WG and a survey conducted world-wide, between June and August 2006.
- Find: to find a subject entity or set of entities corresponding to stated criteria
- Identify: to identify a subject entity based on certain attributes / characteristics
- Select: to select a subject entity
- Obtain: to obtain additional information about the subject entity and/or to obtain bibliographic records or resources about this subject entity
- Explore: to explore relationships between subject entities, correlations to other subject vocabularies and structure of a subject domain