2008 FRSAR News Report to IFLA

The FRSAR group members have had several meetings through emails, conference calls, and face-to-face meetings since August 2007.   Major outcomes are:

1. **User tasks** were defined and revised to include:
    ▪   *Find*: to find an entity (thema or nomen) or set of entities corresponding to stated criteria
    ▪   *Identify*: to identify an entity (thema or nomen) based on certain attributes / characteristics
    ▪   *Select*: to select an entity (thema or nomen)
    ▪   *Explore*: to explore relationships between entities (thema or nomen), correlations to other subject vocabularies and structure of a subject domain

These were also supported by the findings of a worldwide survey conducted during June and August 2006.

2. A new **conceptual model** was proposed.
    ▪   FRSAR confirms what FRBR has already defined: WORK has-subject THEMA. Here thema is the term used to refer to anything that can be subject of a work. Thema includes any FRBR entities.
    ▪   FRSAR proposes the new relationship: THEMA has appellation NOMEN. Again, nomen is a term used to refer to any alpha numeric, sound, visual etc. symbol or combination of symbols by which a thema is known, referred to or addressed.
    ▪   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).

2. A plan for the **final report**.
    ▪   Drafts of several sections of the report have been reviewed; suggestions for revisions and deadlines for these revisions have been set
    ▪   FRSAR Report: the current structure of the draft document includes the following chapters.
        o   Chapter one: Introduction
        o   Chapter two: Scope
        o   Chapter three: User Tasks
        o   Chapter four: Methodology
        o   Chapter five: Entities
        o   Chapter six: Attributes
        o   Chapter seven: Relationships
        o   Chapter eight: Model Implementation
        o   Chapter nine: Subject Authority Systems Implementation
    ▪   FRSAR group plans to have a draft final report ready for review by the members of the FRSAR Working and Advisory Groups by January of 2009.
    ▪   A revised version will be distributed for worldwide review in Spring of 2009.
    ▪   Based on the experience of FRAD, we expect to have the second round of worldwide review during or after IFLA 2009 conference.

Members of the FRSAR Working Group, Subgroups, and FRSAR Advisory Group met during ISKO 2008 and the 74th IFLA Conference to discuss User Tasks, Subject Entities, the draft report, and plan for future FRSAR activities. Meetings were led by Marcia Zeng, chair of the FRSAR Working Group. The FRSAR website is at: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/wgfrsar.htm.