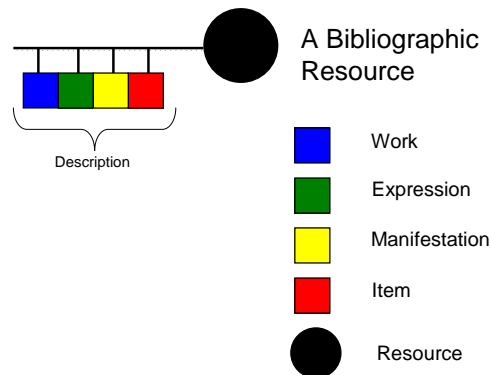


Definition of Aggregates as Works Tillett Proposal

Aggregate: a *work* of individual *works*.

The *FRBR* conceptual model gives us a way to view the bibliographic universe. It is just one view, but one that resonates with the library community and others (such as Dublin Core and Semantic Web).

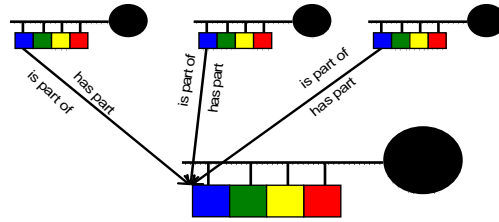


We have resources that we describe, and we find it helpful to designate the entities that make up those resources or that are related to those resources, so that we can meet certain objectives of finding and collocating information. Being able to group all the works of a creator, all the expressions of a work (e.g., to show the translations or editions available), or all the manifestations of a particular expression of a work help us fulfill specific user tasks (also laid out in *FRBR*).

When a cataloger begins the work of describing a resource, the first decision is “what am I cataloging?” – is it a single logical unit, an aggregate, or a component?

Our Working Group is asked to focus on aggregates. *FRBR* section 3.3 (p. 28) explains: “...from a logical perspective the entity *work*, for example, may represent an aggregate of individual *works* brought together” [gives some examples] “...entities at the aggregate or component level operate in the same way as entities at the integral unit level; they are defined in the same terms, they share the same characteristics, and they are related to one another in the same way as entities at the integral unit level. Sections 5.3.1.1, 5.3.2.1, 5.3.4.1, and 5.3.6.1 provide additional information on aggregate and component entities in the context of whole/part relationships.”

Aggregate: a work of works

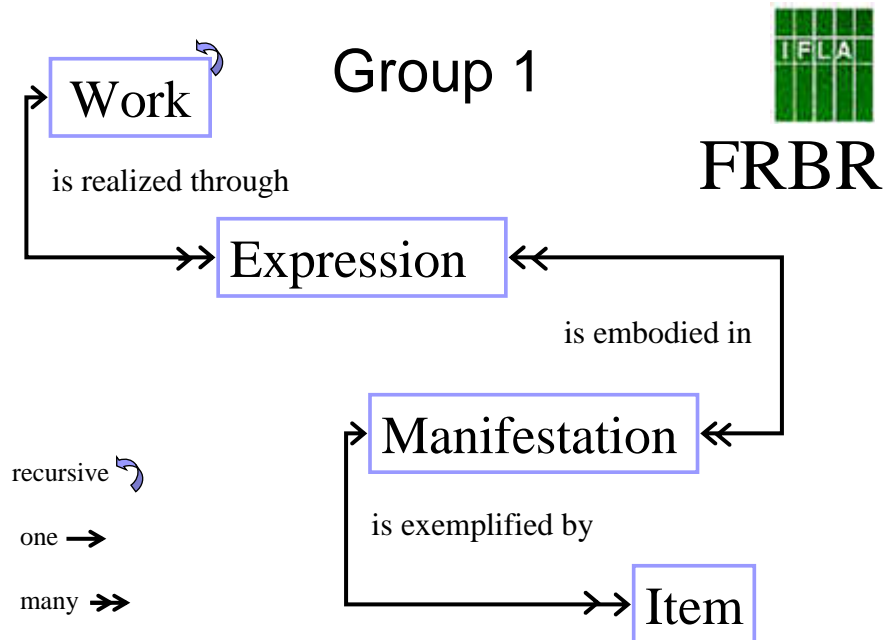


The entity *work* is recursive in *FRBR*. *This is a very important aspect that is buried.* Recursive means we can have a work of works – one work that is made of multiple works. Those are related in *FRBR* through whole/part relationships, as shown above. **Recommendation:** The recursive symbol was omitted from the final text, but since this is causing confusion, I feel it should be re-introduced and that we need to recommend that to the *FRBR* Review Group.



Recursive symbol

One work, through whole/part relationships, can consist of one or more works – it also is a one-to-many relationship – the one “whole” to its one or many “parts”.



The *FRBR* model requires then that the “whole” (in this case the aggregate) be a “one” that can have one to many expressions (Figure 3.1 in *FRBR*, p. 13). However, the *work*

may be related, through whole/part relationships, to other *works* (*FRBR's* whole/part relationships 5.3.1.1).

In *FRBR* (p. 69) **5.3.1.1 Whole/Part Relationships at the Work Level**, a distinction is made between relationships involving dependent parts, and those involving independent parts.

“Dependent parts are component parts of a *work* that are intended to be used in the context of the larger *work* and as such depend on the context provided by the larger *work* for much of their meaning. Dependent components are often difficult to identify without reference to the larger *work* as they generally do not have distinctive names/titles.”

(I prefer this term, “dependent parts,” to “augmentations” used by O’Neill and Žumer. In fact, the forwards, introductions, illustrations, notes, etc. are in *FRBR* as “segmental parts.” – see below)

“Independent parts are those that do not depend to any significant extent on the context provided by the larger *work* for their meaning. Typically, independent components have distinctive names/titles. It is assumed that in both cases, the *work* that represents the whole is an independent *work*.” (p. 69)

“The dependent category can itself be divided into two subcategories: Segmental parts; and systemic parts of the *work's* content. Segmental parts are discrete components of a *work* whose content exists as a distinct identifiable segment within a whole. Among discrete components of *works* would be included prefaces, chapters, sections, parts, and so on.” (p. 69)

“A systemic part of a *work*, on the other hand, cannot be viewed as a bounded segment of the content of the *work*. Rather, as systemic part is an integral aspect that extends across and is interwoven with the rest of the content of the *work*. Illustrations for a text or the cinematography of a film are examples of the integral aspect; they cannot be identified and discussed as intellectual or artistic parts of the whole, but do not represent separate sequential segments of the content as segmental components do.

“There often will be no reason for a dependent part of a *work* to be separately identified or described in a bibliographic record. In certain instances, however, such as when a preface or introduction has been written by a well-known author who is not the author of the main text, it may be considered useful to identify and describe the component in its own right. Because dependent parts by definition need to be placed in the context of the larger *work*, the relationship, if formally articulated, is typically done by appending an added entry for the component to the record describing the larger *work*; alternatively, the relationship can be reflected less formally through a contents note.

“Independent parts of a *work* are much more apt to be identified and described in their own right. The category includes monographs in a monographic series (where the series represents the whole); articles in a journal or issues of a journal (where the journal represents the whole); or independent intellectual components of a multipart work or kit, where that component can have value outside the

context provided by the other components of the kit. The independent category also includes commonly recognized parts of larger *works* such as books of the Bible, etc.” (p. 70)

When a *work* is “augmented” (with illustrations, a preface, introductory remarks, etc.), the result may be considered in the *FRBR* model as a new *expression* of that *work* (usually when the augmenting piece is dependent). When the components that augment a main *work* are independent (and, as *FRBR* notes, are more apt to be described in their own right), the combined aggregation is another *work* that can have its own *expression(s)*, *manifestation(s)*, and *item(s)*. This aggregate *work* is related (whole/part) to the independent component *works*.

As for the comment made by O’Neill and Žumer about the 2007 addition to the expression description in *FRBR* :

“When an expression is accompanied by augmentations, such as illustrations, notes, glosses, etc. that are not integral to the intellectual or artistic realization of the work, such augmentations are considered to be separate expressions of their own separate work(s).”¹

that change to *FRBR* dealt with those augmentations that were not considered integral to the intellectual or artistic realization of the *work*. That is, those augmentations could be viewed independently, so the combination with another *work* would result in an aggregate *work* with its own *expression(s)*, *manifestation(s)*, and *item(s)*.

I personally do not feel this is necessary to discussions of aggregates.

¹ *Functional Requirement for Bibliographic Records*. Revised Chapter 3 as approved by the Standing Committee on of the Cataloguing Section on November 9, 2007.

<http://www.ifla.org/files/cataloguing/frbr/amend-1998-1-clean.pdf> (Accessed August 12, 2009)