



## **IFLA Cataloguing Section's FRBR Review Group Status report of activities 2003-2004**

### ***Overall Activity***

To be fair, I must admit that 2003-2004 was not an excellent term for the FRBR Review Group as such (although some of the specific Working Groups were active, as stated below). None of the Terms of Reference can be said to have been totally and satisfactorily achieved:

- **“provide a guideline to apply FRBR to cataloguing activities”**: this guideline has not been drafted; individual members of the FRBR Review Group also are members of FRANAR and IME ICC, but there does not seem to be an actual synergy;
- **“expand the FRBR Website to promote the model and encourage its use”**: the Website has not been “expanded”, but just maintained. The updating process takes too much time, due to Sophie Felföldi’s overload of work (she is certainly not to be blamed, she objectively has too much to do). As a consequence, important documents (such as the listserv archive and the FRBR bibliography) are preferably posted and updated on the listserv Website (<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/frbr/>).
- **“develop a revision to the FRBR model”**: this task will probably be boosted next year, thanks to both the activities of the Working Group on FRBR/CRM dialogue, and Tom Delsey’s ISBD-to-FRBR mapping (see below).

### ***FRBR Bibliography***

The bibliography is updated as regularly as possible. It is now 33 pages long; new chapters include: XML documents and the FRBR analysis, Application to component parts, Application to national bibliographic databases, LibDB system, International standard identifiers; the OCLC chapter has been split into FRBRized WorldCat and XISBN. The most recently updated version (May 19th, 2004) is available from [http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/d\\_read/frbr/FRBR\\_bibliography.rtf](http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/d_read/frbr/FRBR_bibliography.rtf); the version available from IFLANET (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/bibliography.pdf>) was last updated on September 16th, 2003.

### ***Discussion list***

The [frbr@infoserv.inist.fr](mailto:frbr@infoserv.inist.fr) listserv, hosted by INIST and no longer by Bibliothèque nationale de France, currently has 370 subscribers with a valid e-mail address (20 further subscribers have bouncing addresses). The most represented country is by far USA; other countries on the American continent include Argentina, Canada, Mexico. Europe is represented by: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and UK. Asia is represented by China, India, Iran,

Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Oceania is represented by Australia and New-Zealand, and Africa by Algeria and South Africa. The listserv archive is available from [http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fegi/d\\_read/frbr/FRBR\\_Listserv\\_Archive.rtf](http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fegi/d_read/frbr/FRBR_Listserv_Archive.rtf)>. The listserv was extremely active until mid-March 2004, particularly thanks to contributions from Kevin Hemenway (aka Morbus Iff), and then, all of a sudden, it mysteriously went totally quiet. No more issues to be raised? Or no more time to address them?

### **Web site**

The Web site was updated at the end of 2003.

### **FRBR/ISBD Mapping**

At the instigation of the ISBD Review Group, the overall ISBD structure was mapped to FRBR by Tom Delsey in May-June 2004, with support from the ICABS initiative. This mapping was reviewed and approved by both the FRBR and ISBD Review Groups.

### **Working Groups**

The **Expression entity Working Group** was formally established and is chaired by Anders Cato. However, apart from a contribution by Gunilla Jonsson (to be published in the special theme issue of *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* devoted to FRBR, due later this year), the Group has not really begun its discussions – not to speak of a draft guideline on clarification of the Expression entity. The Working Brief provided by the WG's chair plans to produce a draft deliverable by the end of 2004-beginning of 2005.

The **Working Group on continuing resources**, chaired by Janifer Gatenby, had one meeting in Paris in January 2004, and will have one phone call meeting on June 14th. The application of the FRBR model to continuing resources seems to be more problematic than was initially assumed. It would be advisable to hire a consultant, acquainted with modeling techniques, for this task.

The **Working Group on FRBR/CRM dialogue**, chaired by Patrick Le Bœuf, had one meeting in Paris in November 2003 and one meeting in Heraklion in March 2004. The Heraklion meeting was extremely productive and the FRBR/CRM Harmonization Group (a merging of the IFLA Working Group on FRBR/CRM dialogue and of the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group) has begun to express FRBR as an object-oriented model, close to the methodology that was employed to develop the CIDOC CRM. The report on the Heraklion meeting was disseminated at the beginning of June, first to the members of the FRBR Review Group, then on the FRBR listserv, the CIDOC CRM listserv, and the XOBIS listserv, but it did not raise much reaction so far, as it seems. The completed object-oriented version of FRBR will presumably call for more comments, and shall have to be approved by both the FRBR Review Group and the IFLA Cataloguing Section. Even though it is a work in progress, the Heraklion meeting report should be made more widely available, if the IFLA Cataloguing Section agrees that we do so.

The **Working Group on teaching and training**, chaired by Maja Žumer, does not seem to have begun its work. It does not comprise enough members anyway, and all of them had either too many other occupations this year, or were impeded by serious health problems. The alternative for 2004-2005 is either to disband the Working Group, or to make it bigger (still with Maja as chair, if she agrees to resume that task) and provide it with precise terms of reference.

The **Working Group on subject relationships and classification** has not been formally established. I am convinced that it should be created this year, in collaboration with the IFLA Classification and Indexing Section. Tom Delsey gave a talk on that topic on the occasion of the November meeting of the Working Group on FRBR/CRM dialogue, and he later adapted that talk into an article for the special theme issue of *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* devoted to FRBR: this article is a

fascinating starting point for such an investigation, and as FRANAR now is about to be completed and approved, it seems to be a convenient time to launch such an ambitious project. It would be utmost helpful to hire Tom Delsey as a consultant for this project, and perhaps a second consultant as well, specializing in subject cataloguing.

Patrick Le Bœuf  
Chair of the FRBR Review Group  
June 10th, 2004