



Report on the FRBR Review Group's Meeting Buenos Aires, August 27 2004

The FRBR Review Group had one meeting on the occasion of the IFLA Conference in Buenos Aires, on August 27th. It was attended by 16 participants from 10 countries (see Annex A).

The meeting began with an announcement: Karen Letarte and Jacqueline Samples, both of North Carolina State University in America, were selected to receive the 2004 ACRL Samuel Lazerow Fellowship Award for their research proposal entitled "Looking at FRBR Through Users' Eyes: Toward Improved Catalog Displays for Electronic Serials." (source: <<http://www.ncsu.edu/news/dailyclips/0304/031004.htm>>, and <<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/administration/publications/focusonline/ada/Vol.25.1.articles/lazerow.html>>).

1. Activity Reports

1.1. Activity Report of the FRBR Review Group (P. Le Boëuf)

In my opinion, the term 2003-2004 was not very fruitful. None of the FRBR Review Group's terms of reference can be said to have been fulfilled: "Provide a guideline to apply the FRBR conceptual model to the activity of cataloguing, Expand the FRBR Website to promote the model and encourage its use, Develop a revision to the FRBR model". On the other hand, the FRBR bibliography is regularly updated, although not on the Review Group's Web site hosted by IFLANET, but at <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/d_read/frbr/FRBR_bibliography.rtf>. The discussion list, rather quiet at the moment, counts about 400 subscribers. On the ISBD Review Group's initiative, and with ICABS's financial support, a FRBR/ISBD mapping by Tom Delsey was achieved and posted on the Cataloguing Section's Web site (<<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/ISBD-FRBR-mappingFinal.pdf>>).

1.2. Activity Reports of the FRBR Working Groups

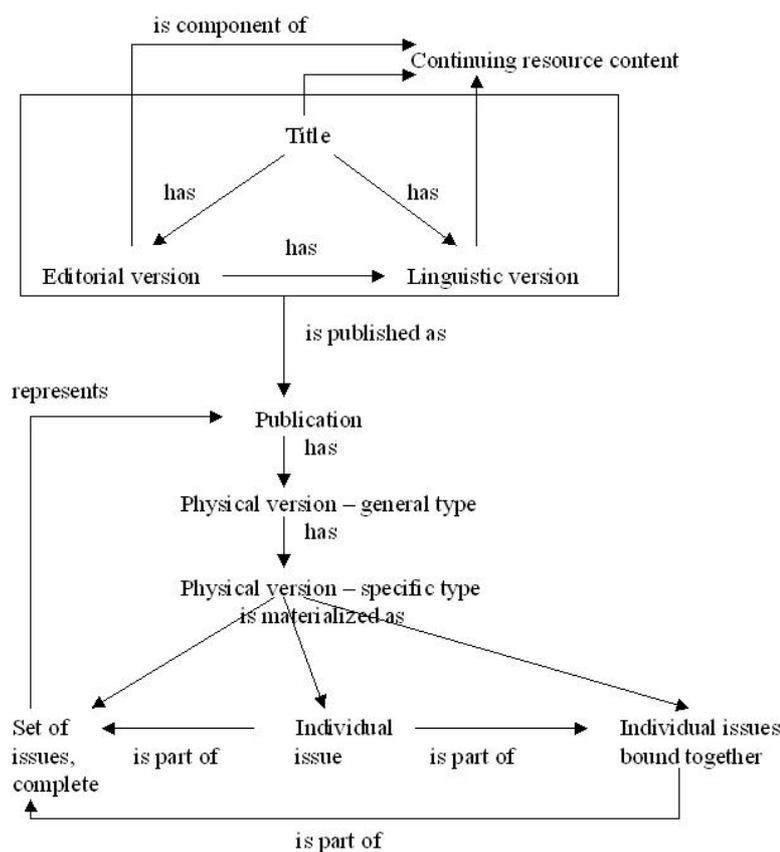
1.2.1. WG on Continuing Resources (J. Gatenby & J. Kuhagen)

Janifer Gatenby was not present at the Buenos Aires meeting, but she sent a report on the work done by the WG on Continuing Resources in 2003-2004: "The IFLA Working Group on FRBR and Continuing Resources commenced work in September 2003. The group has had two meetings, one in Paris in January 2004 and a follow up phone meeting in June 2004. It will meet again in Buenos Aires, with Judith Kuhagen of the Library of Congress as acting convener. Work is primarily done via email with a web page and document register available at: <<http://www.oclc.org/?id=1401&ln=uk#ag>> (password required). The group has defined its working brief and methodology. Some particular requirements for continuing resources have been identified including new aggregate classes and the need for thresholds of change for determining when a new manifestation should be established. The group is aiming to report by November 2004 in order to be able to be in a position to input into the ISO revision process for the ISSN standard if considered necessary. The feasibility of this deadline will become clearer after the meeting in Buenos Aires."

Judith Kuhagen reported on the meeting that occurred on August 26, 2004, during the IFLA Conference: “In its final report, the WG will be recommending the following to the FRBR Review Group:

- the recognition of a fourth mode of issuance: *streaming resources*;
- the addition of missing *aggregate classes*;
- the modification of the attributes of a manifestation to acknowledge the seriality of serials, integrating resources, and even multipart monographs; data elements do change over time: change in title proper, change in addition/deletion of a parallel title, change in publisher or manufacturer, change in or addition/deletion of a series, fluctuation in language of content, etc. Only attention now in the FRBR model is to different title, publisher, series, etc. in *concurrent* resources as signals of *different* manifestations; recognition of changes in *consecutive* units of a *single* manifestation should be added.

Although the three previous recommendations are important, the most significant recommendation from the WG is to disband the WG and create a new group to look at continuing resources *outside the FRBR framework* and then determine the analogies to/in FRBR. That new group should include members with expertise in serials, integrating resources, and/or modeling techniques. The Section on Serials and other continuing resources should be contacted about its interest in participating. The diagram below is an initial attempt at an alternative model. (This different approach will be used during 2004 discussions of the ISO TC46 Group on ISSN revision).”



[Patrick Le Bœuf 25aug04]

1.2.2. WG on the FRBR/CRM dialogue (P. Le Bœuf)

I distributed the following activity report on the FRBR/CIDOC CRM Dialogue WG for 2003-2004: “CIDOC CRM is the object-oriented model developed by the International Council of Museums’ International Center for Documentation (ICOM CIDOC) for cultural heritage information produced by museums. [...] The Working Group on FRBR/CRM dialogue has a very peculiar status: it is not supposed to have meetings of its own, but only to work in cooperation with members of the CI

DOC CRM Special Interest Group ([CRM-SIG](#)). Together, both groups make up the FRBR-CRM Harmonization Group, chaired by Martin Doerr (assisted by Patrick Le Bœuf).

During the term 2003-2004, there were 2 Meetings on FRBR-CRM Harmonization [...]. Meeting #1 resulted in a better knowledge of each other's conceptual model and the development of a 'common culture', so to say, but it did not provide yet the opportunity to actually 'merge' or 'harmonize' both models. The objectives of the entire initiative were more clearly stated: 'to contribute to the solution of the problem of semantic interoperability (...) so that: all equivalent information can be retrieved under the same notions; all related information can be retrieved regardless of its distribution over individual data sources; knowledge encoded for a specific application can be re-purposed for other studies; recall and precision in systems employed by both communities can be improved.'

All the attributes of the *Work* and *Expression* entities were examined during the 2nd Meeting – i.e.: the underlying semantic value of each attribute was painstakingly explicated, and any kind of 'implicitness' relying on librarians' tacit 'know-how' was explicitly modeled. The notion of *Event* was introduced at the core of FRBR, just like in CRM: a *date* attribute barely makes sense unless it is associated with an *event*. As a result, all attributes were transformed into properties (i.e., relationships), and many additional entities were created as targets for those properties. The effort towards 'zero implicitness' also resulted in FRBR original entities' being 'split' into distinct entities in the draft object-oriented model, such as 'Complex Work', 'Self-Contained Expression', or 'Manifestation – Singleton'. The *Event* notion subsumes aspects of production processes ('Carrier Production Event') and of the cataloging activity itself ('Uniform Title Assignment', 'Qualifier Creation', 'Representative Product Type Manifestation Assignment', etc.). The 'item being described' had to be produced at some time in order to be present on the cataloger's desk; and the bibliographic record that describes it had to be produced according to determined procedures: those two obvious facts are also accounted for in the object-oriented version of FRBR. It could be argued that these are refinements we do not need in a conceptual model, and that they might be more confusing than helpful for catalogers who are not acquainted with all the subtleties of model development. In a way it is true, and the entity-relationship version of FRBR can still be regarded as valuable for a first approach of the concepts, particularly within the catalogers' community, among people who already share the aforementioned 'tacit know-how'. But at a higher, even more abstract level, the 'hidden' semantics of our data has to be explicated, and our 'tacit know-how' has to be formalized as a kind of 'knowledge representation'. Object-oriented FRBR will not model just what a catalog looks like, but also how it was produced; it will not model bibliographic information only, but some aspects of catalogers' expertise as well. Martin Doerr has formalized the results of this 2nd meeting in a draft document with the same layout as the CRM definition, which will eventually make it easier to compare both models, and perhaps to merge them. Our work is far from being completed, and it could be therefore misleading to disseminate our draft schemas widely at this early stage."

1.2.3. WG on the Expression entity (A. Cato)

Anders Cato reported on the meeting that occurred on August 24th, 2004, which was actually the first meeting ever for the WG on the Expression entity. He emphasized that Gunilla Jonsson's paper on hand press materials in the FRBR model shows that a strict interpretation of the Expression notion can make that notion impracticable. Many examples were proposed and debated, but no definitive conclusion was attained. Can the Expression notion have a compositional aspect, or is an instance of the Expression entity just a given *set of signs*? Is the combination of a text and a foreword and/or illustrations a new Expression of the Work realized in the text? If so, what is the status of the foreword and/or of the illustrations? How specific should cataloguers be in distinguishing between Expressions of a Work? When are differences between Expressions significant enough so as to deserve to be reflected in catalogues? Are collections of Works Works on their own? Is the presence of a collective title a relevant criterion for determining that a collection is a Work? When a collection available in two distinct formats comprises N Works in one format and N+1 Works in another format, should we say that these are two Expressions of the same Work, or two distinct Works? Does that really matter? When a text is published along with annotations, is the combination of the text and the annotations just an Expression of the Work conveyed by the text? And when, in another Manifestation, the annotations are published alone, should we then regard the annotations as an autonomous comment, therefore a

distinct Work, which results in the annotations being just a part of an Expression in one Manifestation and a distinct Work in another Manifestation?

The WG will continue its work through e-mail during winter, and perhaps through a phone call meeting in spring. In the meantime, all participants are invited to provide examples and texts for clarification.

1.2.4. WG on Teaching & Training (M. Žumer)

Maja Žumer explained why this WG has not been successful so far: it does not have enough members, it was created very late, it has no specific terms of reference. However, she maintained – and the Review Group agreed with her – that the idea of having such a WG should not be given up. Its scope should even be expanded beyond cataloguing, and teachers in the field of information retrieval and reference librarians should also be targeted as a possible audience. Maja will make proposals for more specific terms of reference for this group, and for a list of new members (8 sounds as a good number). Perhaps the first thing to do then would be to provide a list of recommended readings for library schools and national libraries associations.

2. Status of the FRBR Review Group

Gunilla Jonsson's proposed draft procedures for the creation of new Review Groups are accepted by the members of the FRBR Review Group. They think however that the text should make it explicit that those members who will be elected for an initial 2-year term will be allowed to be candidates again for a further 4 years. The principle of having the Review Group chair appointed by the chair(s) of the section(s) concerned also is accepted, but the members of the FRBR Review Group ask for the possibility for members of review groups to make recommendations. [All those changes were subsequently made in the final draft during the Cataloguing Section's SCII meeting.]

3. Projects

3.1. Study Group on subject relationships

Barbara Tillett announced that the decision to form a Study Group on subject relationships modeling already had been made by the Classification & Indexing Section. She will serve as a contact point between the FRBR Review Group and the future Study Group on modeling subject cataloguing. Funding will be provided by ICABS.

3.2. Future directions for the FRBR Review Group

3.2.1. Terms of Reference: should we revise them?

& 3.2.2. How to better achieve our goals? (particularly our 3rd Term of Reference: "develop a revision to the FRBR model", in synergy with the WG on FRBR/CRM dialogue)

Maja Žumer thinks that our terms of reference are good such as they stand, but that the Review Group should be more active and should consider actually *reviewing* the FRBR model. Barbara Tillett thinks that proposals in that direction will come from the FRANAR WG and the FRANAR model itself. Lynne Howarth's opinion is that we should have "mechanisms" that would allow us to respond to future questions about applications and teaching. As to proposals from the WG on FRBR/CRM dialogue, Barbara Tillett thinks that they are only one track, and suggestions will come from other parts as well. Lynne Howarth opines that our third term of reference should be reworded as follows: "develop *revisions* to the FRBR model" instead of "develop *a revision* to the FRBR model", as our reviewing activity should become a constant stream. The Review Group agrees upon that new formulation. The FRBR model will turn to a constantly updated resource, all changes of which will be made available on the Web – in other words, the *FRBR "Final" Report* will be an integrating electronic resource.

3.2.3. What deliverables are expected from us? Should we have deadlines for such deliverables?

Two kinds of deliverables are envisioned:

- constant updates and revisions to the FRBR model,
- and a new page to be added to the FRBR Review Group's Web site, so that people who have FRBR projects (such as the project that was granted the ACRL Samuel Lazerow Fellowship Award) might make them known. That page should have hotlinks to sites where such projects would be described.

4. Relations with other entities

4.1. Relations with ICABS

4.2. Assessment of our financial needs

Caroline Brazier explained that, for technical reasons, it might prove difficult, or even impossible, for the British Library to fund travels and to pay wages to consultants.

Lynne Howarth suggested that royalties on publications might be used to that purpose. Barbara Tillett replied she would address the topic with the Publication Committee within the IFLA Governing Board, although with little hope.

4.3. OCLC's Project of a FRBR Workshop in Spring 2005 in USA, co-funded by OCLC and ICABS (Ed O'Neill)

Ed O'Neill exposed that he thought time had come for an international workshop on FRBR, with financial support from ICABS. OCLC is willing to provide the space in Dublin, Ohio. But the project does not fit with the ICABS model, so other funding possibilities are required. Each participant will have to be funded by his/her own institution.

The FRBR Review Group was appointed as such as Planning Committee for that workshop. It is scheduled at some time in spring 2005 [After the Buenos Aires Conference, it was decided that the workshop would take place on May 2-4, 2005, in Dublin, Ohio].

4.2. Relations with the ISBD Review Group

4.2.1. What recommendations should we make to them?

None for the time being...

4.3. Relations with JSC for revision of AACR

4.3.1. Should we support future AACR3 as a possible international cataloguing code that will embody both the Frankfurt Principles and the FRBR concepts?

& 4.3.2. If yes, should we take part in the revision process and ask to be consulted on how to incorporate FRBR into AACR3?

Barbara Tillett opined that it is important for the FRBR Review Group to be informed of JSC activities, but she is unsure it is appropriate to strive to exert any kind of influence over the JSC. She will keep the FRBR Review Group informed of the progress made towards AACR3.

5. Other Topics

5.1. Report on the ALCTS "Back to the Future" Preconference on FRBR in Orlando, June 24-25 (<<http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alctscoted/alctsccevents/alctspreconf/backfutureunderstanding.htm>>) (Barbara Tillett)

Barbara Tillett reported on the ALCTS "Back to the Future" Preconference on FRBR. It began with a presentation by Allyson Carlyle that was particularly valuable in that it clearly showed what *cannot* be expected from a conceptual, theoretical model such as FRBR. Tom Delsey's talk also was outstanding.

[All presentations are available from: <<http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alctscoted/presentations/presentations.htm>>.]

Annex A

List of participants:

Name	Institution	Country	Statute
Brazier, Caroline	British Library	United Kingdom	observer, representative for ICABS
Cato, Anders	National Library of Sweden	Sweden	chair of a FRBR WG
Howarth, Lynne	University of Toronto	Canada	member
Kuhagen, Judith	Library of Congress	USA	observer
Le Bœuf, Patrick	National Library of France	France	member, chair of FRBR RG
Leth, Pia	National Library of Sweden	Sweden	observer
Magliano, Cristina	ICCU	Italy	observer
Murtomaa, Eeva	Helsinki University Library	Finland	observer
Nuys, Carol van	National Library of Norway	Norway	member
O'Neill, Ed	OCLC	USA	member
Patton, Glenn	OCLC	USA	member
Riesthuis, Gerhard	Amsterdam University	The Netherlands	observer
Riva, Pat	McGill University	Canada	observer
Thurston, Patricia	Yale University	USA	observer
Tillett, Barbara	Library of Congress	USA	member
Žumer, Maja	Nat. & Univ. Lib. of Ljubljana	Slovenia	member