



**IFLA Cataloguing Section  
FRBR Review Group**

## **Meeting Report Quebec City, August 11 and 13, 2008**

The FRBR Review Group had two meetings on the occasion of the World Library and Information Congress in Quebec City, Monday, August 11th and Wednesday August 13th, 2008. Attendance: 6 members, with 20 and 12 other participants respectively (see Appendix A).

### **1) Welcome and Announcements**

Alan Danskin sent regrets as he was unable to attend IFLA this year. Barbara Tillett was prevented from attending the Review Group meetings.

The WG on Aggregates meeting is to be Thursday August 14th, 10:45-12:45.

### **2) Chair's report**

i) FRBR translations: The Chinese translation was completed this year. It was the first translation to include the expression amendment in the text. The translators identified an additional error which was added to the posted errata sheet. The German translation was made available in a new file updated by the expression amendment and errata. The Japanese translators issued separate files with translations of the errata and expression amendment. A separate file with the translation of expression amendment was issued for Swedish. No updates have been received on in-progress translations for Vietnamese, Russian, and Portuguese. The chair had an initial email about an Albanian translation.

ii) Expression amendment follow up: Sent to the Cataloguing Section for a vote in October 2007. All votes in favour, so it was approved Nov. 9, 2007, allowing the WG on the Expression Entity to be formally disbanded. The amendment (1998-1) was published on the website, both separately, and in a complete current file (March 2008) of the full FRBR text. All errata to the 1998 report known at that time were compiled and also posted as a separate file and included in the updated report. Many thanks to John Hostage for handling this so well.

iii) In April, the FRBR RG joined the ISBD RG's initiative to respond to the RDA list of required elements, comparing the FRBR essential elements and the ISBD mandatory elements with the required (now called core) elements in RDA.

iv) FRBR talks: There are now so many being given in conjunction with RDA preliminary training that it is impossible to keep track of them all. The JSC website has a listing of RDA related talks done by JSC and RDA Outreach Group members (and includes many presentations by FRBR RG member Barbara Tillett). Pat has done four talks on FRBR/FRAD basics in Canada since January (2 English, 2 French).

The FRBR/CRM harmonisation work has also been the focus of several talks. Patrick LeBoeuf and Martin Doerr prepared *Linking CIDOC CRM and FRBR* for the conference *Intelligent Access to Digital Heritage*, October 18-19, 2007, Tallinn, Estonia. Pat, Martin and Maja prepared *FRBRoo: enabling a common view of information from memory institutions* for the Cataloguing Section Open Program, August 14th.

v) FRBR Review Group publications:

*International Cataloguing & Bibliographic Control* 36(4) (Oct./Dec. 2007): Patrick Le Boeuf and Martin Doerr “Harmonising CIDOC CRM and FRBR”

*ICBC* 37(1) (January/March 2008): Pat Riva and Anders Cato “Modifications to the FRBR Entity 'Expression' ”

*SCATNews* number 28 (Dec. 2007): Pat Riva and Anders Cato “What's New with the FRBR Entity Expression”; Pat Riva: Review Group Membership update

vi) FRBR Bibliography: Was updated in Sept. and again in July. David Miller completed a major round of link checking this year, there were 150 broken links most of which were found again (however some only on the Internet Archive). Patrick again reminds us that he cannot actively work on updating the bibliography by searching for relevant citations, nor can he issue updates as frequently as required, thus it is not as comprehensive as formerly. Gordon Dunsire volunteered to investigate the possibility of converting the bibliography to a web-based citation database format. This would have the advantage that RG members could submit additional citations directly into the database, which should reduce the editorial work required in maintaining it.

**ACTION:** Gordon will report by December on feasibility.

vii) FRBR discussion list: Consensus is that it is appropriate for Review Group members to regularly respond to questions posted on the list and to enter into discussions. All members should feel free to contribute and actively encourage discussion on the list.

### 3) Reports from Working Groups

#### 3.1) WG on Aggregates (E. O'Neill)

Discussion to date, which has centred around the discussion paper *Modeling Aggregates*, indicates that the three interpretations of aggregates are sufficiently incompatible that they cannot be implemented simultaneously. An aggregate can be defined as a bibliographic unit comprising multiple works. The definition of work in FRBR leaves quite a bit of latitude in interpreting boundaries. The adoption of the expression amendment had the direct result of adding a new sub-category of aggregates for the WG's consideration, namely augmented expressions.

#### 3.2) WG on FRBR/CRM dialogue

The WG held two meetings in conjunction with the CIDOC CRM SIG. The Dec. 4-7, 2007 meeting in Nuremberg was attended by Patrick, Pat and Maja. At this meeting all outstanding

issues required to prepare a version of FRBRoo suitable for wider consultation were resolved. The resulting version 0.9 was posted in January 2008 and invitations to comment were distributed widely. The May 12-15, 2008 meeting in Heraklion was attended by Patrick, Pat gave a brief report by phone. The comments received by that date were discussed.

The chair investigated IFLA's approval requirements prior to publication of a "final" 1.0 version via an email exchange with Sjoerd Koopman in fall. There are no specific IFLA-wide requirements regarding nature or form of consultations prior to publication of a document, this seems to be at the discretion of the sponsoring section. Publication may be paper or electronic, depending on format most useful to potential users. Further discussion with the chair of the Cataloguing Section reached agreement on a process whereby the FRBR Review Group would approve the document, and then the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee would also do so. In parallel, the CRM SIG and CIDOC Board would also need to approve the document. At this point, a version 1.0 would be posted (published) on the FRBR website within IFLANET, and also on the CIDOC CRM site. There is a great deal of interest from several projects in having an approved version as soon as possible, as they hesitate to build an implementation around a draft. As the CIDOC CRM SIG continues to meet several times a year and continuously improves the CIDOC CRM, these meetings remain the ideal venue for updating FRBRoo (incorporating improvements to CRM for instance).

Pat Riva will attend the CIDOC 2008 conference Sept. 14-18, 2008 in Athens to participate in the panel "Museums, Archives and Libraries: Digital Interconnections". The possibility of expanding the harmonisation of modeling to include archives will be discussed during the CRM SIG meetings scheduled to take place during the CIDOC conference. The FRBR Review Group members expressed interest in participating in any such additional expansion of the conceptual model. Also to be presented at CIDOC 2008: "FRBRoo, a conceptual model for performing arts" prepared by Martin Doerr, Chryssoula Bekari and Patrick LeBoeuf.

#### **4) Namespace for FRBR entities/relationships in RDF**

Discussion on Aug. 11 focussed on the six recommendations in the report "Declaring FRBR entities and relationships in RDF" (July 25, 2008) prepared by Gordon Dunsire and circulated prior to the meeting.

Recommendation 1) The Review Group agreed on the desirability of creating a suitably "branded" namespace domain that would highlight both IFLA and FRBR in the name. The Review Group preferred to establish an extensible pattern to the resulting URLs, so that any namespaces desired in the future for FRAD, FRSAR, ISBD, UNIMARC and any other IFLA standards, could be accommodated on equal footing within the same structure. Options for handling this to be determined in consultation with the IFLA webmaster and Sjoerd Koopman.

Recommendation 2) The FRBR Review Group accepts the responsibility of ensuring that the content of the FRBR vocabulary is accurate, complete and up-to-date. IFLA headquarters would need to accept responsibility for the technical administration of the domain, and for ensuring its stability.

Scope of the vocabularies: The entities will include the entity *family* in group 2 even though this is an addition from FRAD, as this entity is already applied in RDA. The user tasks will not, however, include the FRAD tasks *Contextualise* and *Justify* or the FRSAR task *Relate*.

Recommendation 3) Initial setup and testing will be continued with the NDSL tools, including the "sandbox". Gordon will continue to work with this on behalf of the Review Group. Review

Group members will examine the entities, relationships and user tasks sections currently posted at:  
[http://dublincore.org/dcmirdataskgroup/namespace\\_20for\\_20FRBR\\_20entities\\_20elements\\_20in\\_20RDF](http://dublincore.org/dcmirdataskgroup/namespace_20for_20FRBR_20entities_20elements_20in_20RDF)

and report any concerns or issues to Gordon **at the latest by Nov. 15, 2008.**

**ACTION: By all Review Group members.**

Recommendations 4 and 5) Work towards putting the FRBR(ER) declarations into production will be a priority. Followup consultations will be continued in the fall with the aim of reporting at the Professional Committee's December meeting if appropriate. Any expansion relating to FRBRoo will take place in a subsequent phase, and after the FRBRoo document is finalised.

Recommendation 6) Official contact with known existing users of FRBR vocabularies (such as Davis and Newman, and the DCMI Scholarly Communications Community) will follow.

Continuation on Aug. 13: The Review Group was delighted and encouraged by the speedy positive response from Fiona Bradley (then IFLA webmaster) to the proposal to establish a namespace for FRBR etc. under the IFLA umbrella. The rapid expressions of interest in the potential for establishing namespaces by other Division IV groups (FRANAR, FRSAR, ISBD RG, and PUC) was also reported.

**ACTION:** Pat Riva, Gordon Dunsire, Anders Cato, along with Patrice Landry as chair of Division IV, will continue to communicate with IFLA Headquarters to determine the most suitable technical configuration for establishing the FRBR namespace.

## **5) Priorities for 2008-2009**

Consensus that projects which are already well advanced are priorities for completion:

- a) FRBRoo, complete and publish version 1.0.
- b) Namespace for FRBR entities, relationships, user tasks.

## **6) FRBRoo**

Discussion of the FRBRoo 0.9 draft (January 2008). All members had looked at the responses prepared by Patrick with the Harmonisation Group to the four sets of comments received and were in agreement.

To complete the text for publication, four issues were identified by members:

- 1) Some figures in section 1 have little or no explanatory text. Some text should be added to highlight the significant features of figures 1, 3 and 5 in particular.
- 2) The text is not quite self-sufficient in explaining the conventions used. Some members had needed to go to the CRM text to get all the information needed. Sections 2.5 and 2.6 that explain the class and property declarations are too brief. One topic that definitely needs more explanation is quantification.
- 3) Françoise had had some queries about section 2.4.2, the FRBRoo class hierarchy aligned with CIDOC CRM. The main point is that some of the alignments proposed can't be followed by going back to the documents.
- 4) The only issue involving the declarations is about F11 Corporate Body. This is presently declared as equal to E74 Group in CRM, but in fact this does not seem to be quite exact. Our

proposal is that F11 be declared as a subclass of E74 instead. The reasoning behind this is that in library cataloguing those groups that become corporate bodies must (i) act as a unit, (ii) be named and (iii) be capable of authorship or other creative contribution to a document/resource. It is the third of these elements that is not a characteristic of E74, but it seems to be an important difference, which would be significant in aligning authority files for instance. That would mean that the example "Italian Americans" would not be a valid F11.

The discussion of this point revealed that the 3rd paragraph of section 3.2.6 of FRBR (definition of Corporate Body) is open to an unintended interpretation (corporate bodies are treated as entities only to the extent that they are involved in the creation or realisation of a work (...) or are the subject of a work) that merely being capable of being a subject is enough to qualify as a corporate body. Section 3.2.5 on the entity person contains the same text. This should be the object of a small editorial revision to FRBR.

**ACTION:** Pat will bring these four items to one of the CRM SIG meetings at CIDOC 2008.

## 7) Other business

a) The chart of suggestions for reviewing FRBR (updated to August 3, 2008 and circulated prior to the meeting) includes three new issues derived from Robert Maxwell's 2008 book *FRBR: a guide for the perplexed*, and a reminder/update from Miriam Säfström regarding the issue initially highlighted by Gunilla Jonsson relating to the foliation attribute. In fact, many of the pending issues relate to attributes of the group 1 entities and it seems desirable to handle this in a global fashion.

There was a general recognition that a new methodology is needed to make progress on areas for review and potential amendment to FRBR. The existing chart does track the sources of the suggestions and their outcomes, but is a cumbersome tool for actually working through and evaluating changes to the text of FRBR. The ISBD Review Group has had a positive experience this past year in working with a wiki, and it seems likely that such a tool would have potential for FRBR. As several FRBR RG members are also on the ISBD RG, the FRBR RG will create a section on the same system as ISBD (pbwiki). This will allow a transfer of existing expertise with the tool.

The first sections to be worked through in the wiki format are all the attributes of the group 1 entities.

**ACTION:** Pat Riva will give the setup a try, with the assistance of John Hostage.

b) Initial discussion of the potential impact of the reorganisation of the IFLA division structure on groups reporting to former Division IV. The FRBR Review Group reports to the Cataloguing section, however FRANAR and FRSAR are Division IV working groups. The completion of FRAD and FRSAR will have an eventual structural impact on the FRBR RG.

# Appendix A

## List of participants

Name	Institution	Country	Status	Meeting
Angjeli, Anila	Bibliothèque nationale de France	France	observer	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Cato, Anders	National Library of Sweden	Sweden	member, member of the WG on Aggregates, chair of the Cataloguing Section	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Denton, William	York University	Canada	observer	Aug. 11
Dunsire, Gordon	Strathclyde University	UK	consultant on FRBR namespace initiative	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Escolano, Elena	National Library	Spain	observer, chair of ISBD RG	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Galvao, Rosa	National Library of Portugal	Portugal	observer	Aug. 11
Gustavsson, Bodil	Stockholm University Library	Sweden	observer	Aug. 11
Hostage, John	Harvard Law School	USA	ex-officio, liaison between Cataloguing Section and CC:DA	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Kiorgaard, Deirdre	National Library of Australia	Australia	observer	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Kuhagen, Judith	Library of Congress	USA	observer, member of the WG on Aggregates	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Layne, Sara Shatford	UCLA	USA	observer	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Leresche, Françoise	Bibliothèque nationale de France	France	member	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Magliano, Cristina	ICCU	Italy	observer	Aug. 11

Murtomaa, Eeva	National Library of Finland	Finland	member, member of the WG on Aggregates	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
O'Neill, Ed	OCLC	USA	chair of the WG on Aggregates	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Oliver, Chris	McGill University	Canada	observer	Aug. 11
Paradis, Daniel	Université de Montréal	Canada	observer	Aug. 11
Patton, Glenn	OCLC	USA	member, chair of FRANAR	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Riva, Pat	Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec	Canada	Chair of FRBR RG	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Roe, Sandy	Cataloging and Classification Quarterly	USA	observer	Aug. 11
Säfström, Miriam	BTJ	Sweden	observer	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Thurston, Patricia	Yale University	USA	observer, member of the WG on Aggregates	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Todd, Chris	National Library of New Zealand	New Zealand	observer	Aug. 13
Weitz, Jay	OCLC	USA	observer	Aug. 11
Westlind, Marcus	The Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille	Sweden	observer	Aug. 11 Aug. 13
Zagorskaya, Elena	National Library of Russia	Russia	observer, member of the WG on Aggregates	Aug. 11
Žumer, Maja	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia	member, member of the WG on Aggregates and WG on FRBR/CRM Harmonisation, co-chair of FRSAR	Aug. 11 Aug. 13