4th IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code
Seoul, 16-18 August 2006

Brave New FRBR World

Patrick Le Bœuf, Bibliothèque nationale de France
• what it is and what it is not
• what it does and what it does not do
• how it relates to our major topics
What FRBR is

• a model developed for IFLA
  – aim:
    • “to produce a framework
    • that would provide a (...) commonly shared understanding of:
      – what it is that the bibliographic record aims to provide information about,
      – and what it is that we expect the record to achieve in terms of answering user needs”
• a reference model
  – a framework for commonly shared understanding
  – to have the same structure in mind and to refer to the same concepts under the same appellations
  – to compare differently structured data
What FRBR is

• an E-R model
  – defines “entities”, their “attributes”, their “relationships”
  – 3 groups of entities; **Group 1 =**
I have lost my Hong lou meng (i.e., a physical copy)

Which version of Hong lou meng is this? (i.e., a text)

I have to order Hong lou meng (i.e., a publication)

I have lost my Hong lou meng (i.e., a physical copy)

The family in Hong lou meng is like the author Cao Xueqin's family (in whichever “version”)

The word book has at least four distinct meanings…
2 of entities:

Who made it???

- Person
- Corporate Body
3 of entities:

What is it about???

Group 1

Group 2

Concept

Object

Event

Place
• “Attributes” characterise instances of entities
• For instance:
  – A given Manifestation is characterised by its “Date of Publication” attribute
  – A given Person is characterised by its “Name” attribute, etc.
“Subject” relationships within Group 3 / Work

“Structural” relationships within Group 1

“Responsibility” relationships
Group 2 / Group 1

Concept
Object
Event
Place
Person
Corporate Body

Work
Expression
Manifestation
Item
What FRBR is *not*

- a data model
  - attributes *too generic* to allow for an implementation of the model such as it stands
  - e.g., FRBR does not account for different kinds of titles
What FRBR is not

- an ISBD
  - FRBR does not state *how to structure* data elements
  - nor *how to display* them
  - FRBR is *broader* and *more abstract* than ISBDs
What FRBR is *not*

- a cataloguing code
  - FRBR is *not* prescriptive
  - FRBR does not say *how to create* bibliographic records
  - FRBR is at a merely *conceptual* level
Some examples of implementation

- AustLit Gateway
- Virtua
- OCLC
- RLG
Implementation

• AustLit Gateway
  – applies to an exclusively literary corpus of Australian texts
  – *not* a catalogue
  – work-centred; displays for each work all of its expressions and manifestations on a single Web page (example on next slide)
This work has appeared in at least 3 different versions:

   ISBN: 0868614939
   Extent: 211p.

2. Notes: The second (revised) edition includes textual changes and 12 extra pages. Changes were suggested by Grenville's American editor. Publications of this version include the following 3:
   - New York (City), New York (State), United States of America (USA) : Viking Penguin, 1986.
     ISBN: 0670809292
     ISBN: 1863730230 (pbk.)
     ISBN: 1864482842 (pbk.)
     Notes: Paperback ed. with new cover - t.p. verso

3. Alternative title: La storia di Lilian
   Language: Italian
   Translator: Pugno, Laura
   • Rome, Italy and Naples, Italy : Theoria, 1998.

Credits to:
AustLit Gateway & Carol Hetherington
Implementation

- **Virtua**
  - 2002: VTLS Inc. releases Virtua 41.0
  - MARC records can be “split” into 4 levels
  - “Flat records” and “FRBR records” live side-by-side
  - uses Tom Delsey’s mapping of MARC21 to FRBR
  - cataloguing paradigm is still based on ISBDs
### Bibliographic Details

**Title**: The thousand and one nights (Alf Layla wa-Layla): from the earliest known sources / Arabic text ed. with intr. and notes by Muhsin Mahdi

**Publisher**: Leiden : Brill, 1984-1994

**Collation**: 3 v.

**Secondary Entry**: Mahdi, Muhsin

**Contents Notes**:
1. Arabic text
2. Introduction and indexes
3. Critical apparatus; description of manuscripts
Implementation

- FRBR at OCLC:
  - xISBN service
    (<http://www.oclc.org/research/researchworks/xisbn/default.htm>)
  - FRBRized Open WorldCat
    (<http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm>) and “Find in a library” interface
  - “FictionFinder” prototype
    (<http://fictionfinder.oclc.org>)
a worldwide library cooperative

Learn more about xISBN


Try it out

Enter the following URL into your browser window:


(substituting an actual ISBN for [ISBN]. For example, try:

http://labs.oclc.org/xisbn/0441172717

(0441172717 is the ISBN for Dune, by Frank Herbert.)

OCLC's xISBN service is intended to be used by machines, rather than people.

A nice example of xISBN in action is OCLC Research's "Find It@Your Local Library" Bookmarklet. You'll try that as well.

The bookmarklet approach is one possibility for using the service, but any application that can get and send a URL could be used with the xISBN web service. Additional uses for using xISBN include:

- A user viewing a description of a book at an online bookseller wants to know if the work is available from his/her library
- A library wants to confirm that no alternative versions of a work are available in their collection before sending an ILL or purchase request

OCLC: xISBN
OCLC: “FictionFinder” prototype
Implementation

- RLG (Research Libraries Group)
  - RLG’s “RedLightGreen” OPAC was Googlized
  - New display of hit lists, partially based on FRBR (cannot be labelled a “FRBRisation”, though)
  - Available on line at <http://www.redlightgreen.com>
RedLightGreen helps you locate the most important books and other research materials in your area of interest, and find out whether what you need is available at your favorite library. Sign in, and you can format and send citations any way you want: MLA, APA, Chicago, Harvard, Turabian. Just click - and it's done.

Search Box Tips
- Use your own words or phrases: rouge, noir, subjective reality, "hip hop" not rabbits
- Combine authors and titles: tillich eternal, paglia sexual personae, china spence
- Search by ISBN for a specific edition: 0676970958

More Search Tips
1. Dream Of The Red Chamber, by Xueqin Ca Cao
   - 5 editions published between 1958 and 1959 in English.
   - Primary Subject: China - History - Qing Dynasty 1644-1912 - Fiction

2. Archetype And Allegory In The Dream Of The Red Chamber, by Andrew H Plaks
   - 2 editions published in 1976 in English.
   - Primary Subject: Allegory

3. On The Red Chamber Dream A Critical Study Of Two Annotated Manuscripts Of The Xviiiith Century, by Shihcheng A Wu
   - 1 edition in English.
   - Primary Subject: Tsao Hsuehchin Ca 1717-1763 Hung Lou Meng

4. Rereading The Stone Desire And The Making Of Fiction In Dream Of The Red Chamber, by Anthony C Yu
   - 1 edition published in 1997 in English.
   - Primary Subject: Chinese Fiction - History And Criticism

5. Dream Of The Red Chamber Hung Lou Meng A Chinese Novel Of The Early Ching Period, by Xueqin Ca Cao
   - 3 editions published in 1958 in English.
   - Primary Subject: China - History - Ching Dynasty 1644-1912 - Fiction

6. Dream Of The Red Chamber A Critical Study, by Jeanne Knaerle
   - 1 edition published in 1972 in English.
   - Primary Subject: Tsao Hsuehchin Ca 1717-1763 Hung Lou Meng

7. New Interpretations Of The Dream Of The Red Chamber, by Klaus Peter Koepping
   - 1 edition published in 1973 in English.
   - Primary Subject: Tsao Hsuehchin Ca 1717-1763 Hung Lou Meng

8. Hung Lou Meng Or The Dream Of The Red Chamber A Chinese Novel, by Xueqin Ca Cao
   - 1 edition published in 1893 in English.
   - Primary Subject: Chinese Literature - Fiction

9. Masks Of Fiction In Dream Of The Red Chamber Myth Mimesis And Persona, by Lucien Miller
   - 2 editions published in 1975 in English.
   - Primary Subject: Tsao Hsuehchin Ca 1717-1763 Hung Lou Meng

10. Beginning And Ending Of The Dream Of The Red Chamber, by Richard Alan Kunst
    - 2 editions published in 1969 in English.

11. Shou Jie Guo Ji Hong Lou Meng Yan Tao Hui Lun Wen Ji Chinese Papers From The First International Conference On The Dream Of The Red Chamber Edited By Chow Tsetsung, by International Conference On The Dream Of The Red Chamber List
    - Primary Subject: Hongloumeng - Congresses

12. Authorship Of The Dream Of The Red Chamber Based On A Computerized Statistical Study Of Its Vocabulary, by Bing Cho Chan
    - 1 edition published in 1986 in English.
    - Primary Subject: Tsao Hsuehchin Ca 1717-1763 - Authorship

13. Hong Lou Meng Da Guan Guo Ji Hong Lou Meng Yan Tao Hui Lun Wen Xuan, by International Conference On The Dream Of The Red Chamber
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edition List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dream Of The Red Chamber</strong>, by Xueqin Ca Cao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current evolution of FRBR

- FRAR
- FRSAR
- FRBR Review Group
Current evolution

- FRAR
  - 1999: FRANAR Working Group
  - Goal: to model authority records
Current evolution

• FRSAR
  – FRSAR Study Group formed in 2005
  – Goal: to model “subject relationships” (classification and indexing)
  – FRBR+FRAR+FRSAR = complete model for the “Bibliographic Universe”
Current evolution

- FRBR Review Group
  - Formed 2003
  - 2005: Working Group on Aggregates (will deal with collections & anthologies, multi-volume monographs, continuing resources, Web sites...)

FRBR
and the Meeting’s 5 “Focus Topics”
(that happen to be 6…)

• “Appellations”
  • “Types”
  • “Aggregates”
“Appellations”

- Names of personal authors
  - FRBR could have defined just one attribute: “heading”
  - FRAR: Person entity = real-life person? No; “Bibliographic Identity” notion (as in AACR2)
  - undifferentiated names cannot be controlled; to what extent is that lack of control tolerable?
“Appellations”

• FRBR and names of corporate bodies
  – FRBR could have defined just one attribute: “heading”
  – FRAR: Corporate Body entity = real-life corporate body? No; “Bibliographic Identity” notion
“Appellations”

- Uniform titles
  - Title attribute:
    at Work, Expression, and Manifestation level
  - title of a Work = uniform title or title proper
  - no prescription as to what constitutes the title of an Expression
  - title of an Expression = title of the Work, plus… which information elements?
“Types”

• GMDs (General Material Designators)
  – GMDs: not mentioned in FRBR
  – define “type” attributes for Work, Expression, Manifestation? Combine them into GMDs?
  – e.g.:
textual work – expressed as sound – on physical carrier

textual work – expressed as written word – in manuscript

textual work – expressed as written word – on microform

musical work – expressed as notation – on printed material

musical work – expressed as sound – in an electronic resource on line

cartographic work – in an electronic resource on line

motion picture – on physical carrier

multimedia work – on physical carrier(s)
“Aggregates”

- Seriality issues of when to create a new record
  - title change => New *Work*?
  - deal with continuing resources in *authority records* rather than bibliographic records?
“Aggregates”

• Multipart structures
  – More than one Work in one Manifestation: what is the smallest bibliographic unit, the Work or the Manifestation?
  – This echoes the older debate between “literary unit” and “bibliographic unit”
  – Computer system possibilities can help us solve the problem…
  – … provided we make consistent recommendations in such cases as:
“加拿大短篇小说选” as a whole = a Work by 蓝仁哲？
Possible policies include:

- **Ignore** the short stories: they are more than 3
- Mention them in “other title information”
- Mention them in a **contents note**
- Make additional **author/title access points**
- Create **analytical records**
Conclusion

• FRBR does not solve all theoretical problems…
• … But FRBR provides a useful conceptual framework, with clear distinctions between the “physical” and “abstract” aspects of the holdings we describe
• Such distinctions should be reflected in an International Cataloguing Code

Thank you