

FRBR: FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS

By Dr. Pamela Thomas,
CMC Metadata Cataloger for IHLS
RAILS Webinar, August 14, 2018

FRBR: DEFINITION

- **Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR /'fɜːrbər/)** “is a conceptual [entity–relationship model](#) developed by the [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](#) (IFLA) that relates user tasks of retrieval and access in online library catalogues and bibliographic databases from a user’s perspective. It represents a more holistic approach to retrieval and access as the relationships between the entities provide links to navigate through the hierarchy of relationships. The model is significant because it is separate from specific cataloguing standards such as [Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules](#) (AACR) or [International Standard Bibliographic Description](#) (ISBD).”

(Source: Wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_Requirements_for_Bibliographic_Records)

A close-up photograph of a man with long, straight brown hair and a light beard. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark blue jacket. The background is a chain-link fence, and through it, some blurred greenery and a white structure are visible.

Hey Girl,

**If I tell you I love you in a note,
is it an item that is a manifestation
of my expression of love for you?
It's all so confusing...**

GROUPS OF ENTITIES

FRBR conceptualizes three groups of entities:

- Group 1 consists of the products of intellectual or artistic endeavor (e.g., publications).
- Group 2 comprises those entities responsible for intellectual or artistic content (a person or corporate body).
- Group 3 includes the entities that serve as subjects of intellectual or artistic endeavor (concept, object, event, and place). (Source: LISWiki, <https://liswiki.org/wiki/FRBR>)

GROUP ONE ENTITIES

- The internal subdivision of Group One entities is important as well. FRBR specifies that intellectual or artistic products include the following types of entities:
- the **work**, a distinct intellectual or artistic creation
- the **expression**, the intellectual or artistic realization of a work
- the **manifestation**, the physical embodiment of an expression of a work
- the **item**, a single exemplar of a manifestation (Source: LISWiki, <https://liswiki.org/wiki/FRBR>)

RELATIONSHIPS OF GROUP ONE ENTITIES

FRBR also specifies particular relationships between classes of Group One entities:

- a work is realized through one or more expressions
- each of which is embodied in one or more manifestations
- each of which is exemplified by one or more items (Source: LISWiki, <https://liswiki.org/wiki/FRBR>)

**FISON (FIND,
IDENTIFY,
SELECT,
OBTAIN,
NAVIGATE)**

- “FRBR’s entities are the basis of cataloging records, it says, and catalogs exist so that users can perform five basic tasks: find, identify, select, obtain, and navigate (i.e., the unofficial fifth FRBR task, relate).” (Source: Denton, 2007, p. 52).

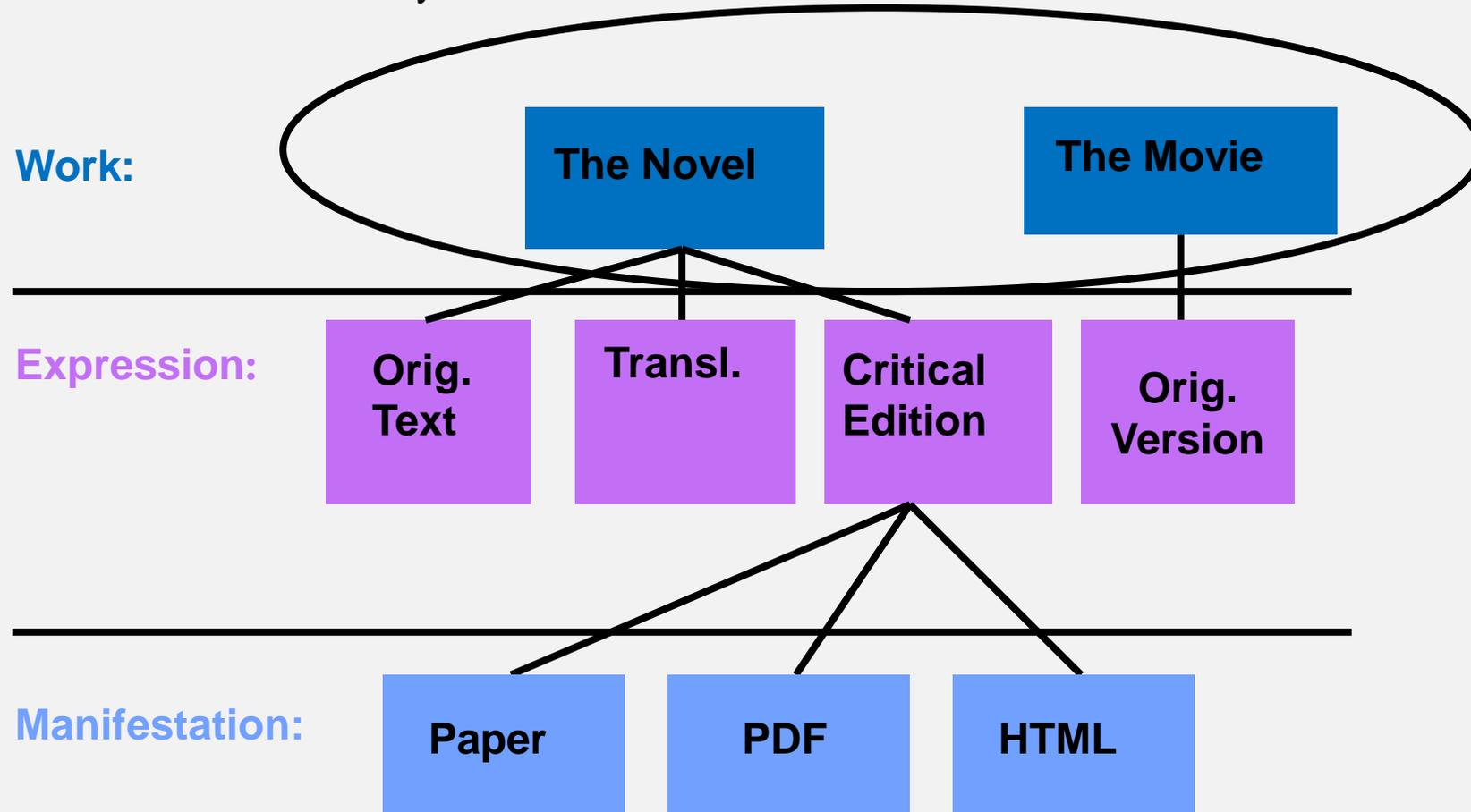


**WHAT DO YOU
MEAN**

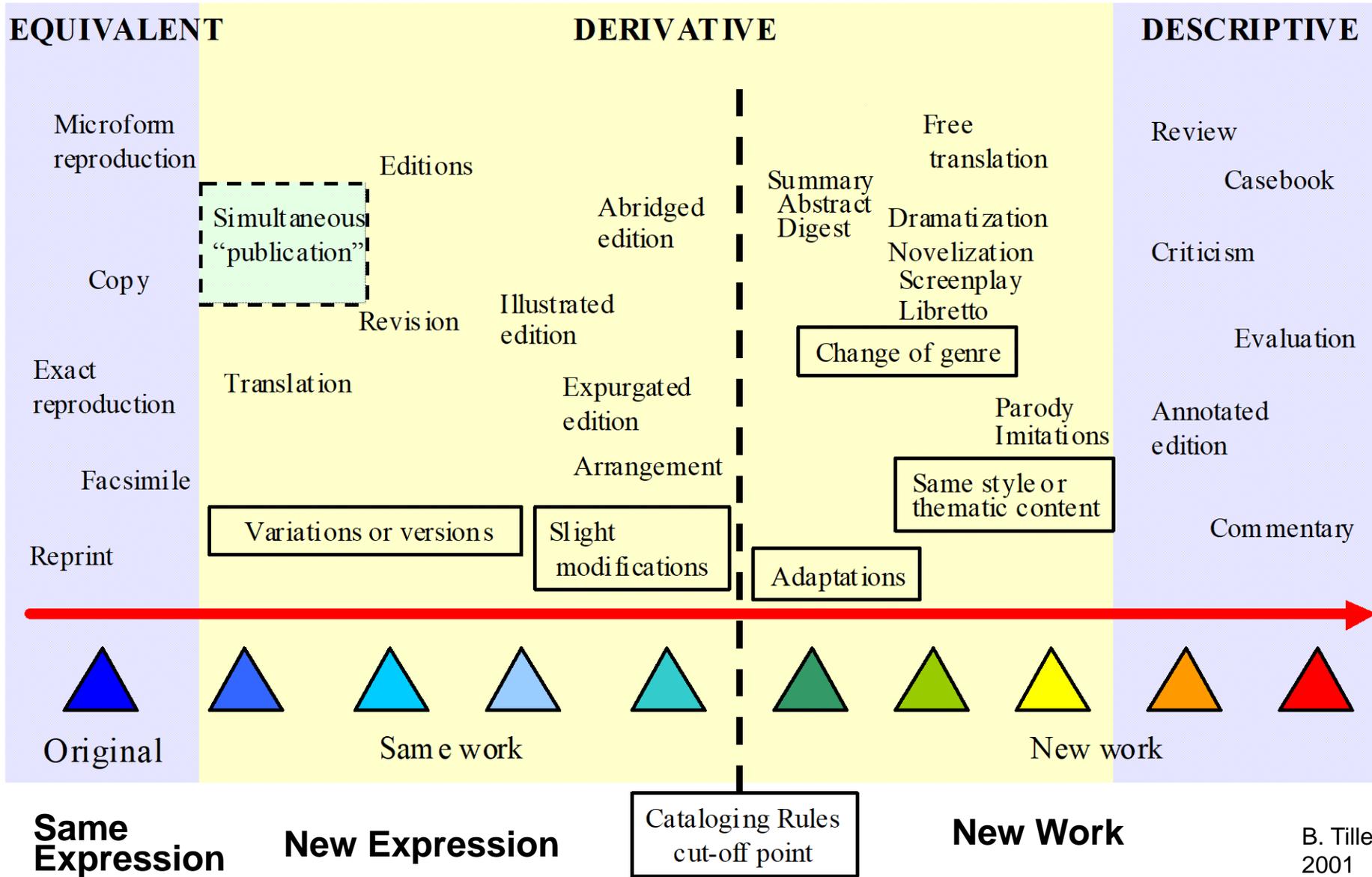
**YOU WANT TO CALL ME
FRBR?**

FRBR Entity Levels

Family of works



Work



RELATIONSHIPS

- FRBR is built upon relationships between and among entities.
 - Equivalence
 - Derivative
 - Descriptive

(Source: Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_Requirements_for_Bibliographic_Records)

EQUIVALENCE RELATIONSHIPS

- “Equivalence relationships exist between exact copies of the same manifestation of a work or between an original item and reproductions of it, so long as the intellectual content and authorship are preserved. Examples include reproductions such as copies, issues, facsimiles and reprints, photocopies, and microfilms.” (Source: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_Requirements_for_Bibliographic_Records)

DERIVATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- Derivative relationships exist between a bibliographic work and a modification based on the work. Examples include:
- Editions, versions, translations, summaries, abstracts, and digests
- Adaptations that become new works but are based on old works
- Genre changes
- New works based on the style or thematic content of the work (Source: Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_Requirements_for_Bibliographic_Records)

DESCRIPTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- “Descriptive relationships exist between a bibliographic entity and a description, criticism, evaluation, or review of that entity, such as between a work and a book review describing it. Descriptive relationships also include annotated editions, casebooks, commentaries, and critiques of an existing work.” (Source: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_Requirements_for_Bibliographic_Records)

WORK

- “A work is an abstract entity; there is no single material object one can point to as the work. We recognize the work through individual realizations or expressions of the work, but the work itself exists only in the commonality of content between and among the various expressions of the work. When we speak of Homer’s Iliad as a work, our point of reference is not a particular recitation or text of the work, but the intellectual creation that lies behind all the various expressions of the work.”

(Source: IFLA (2008). Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (p. 17). https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr/frbr_2008.pdf)

- “The intellectual or artistic content of a distinct creation. A work is an abstract entity that permits the grouping of expressions that are considered functional equivalents or near equivalents. A work is a conceptual object, no single material object can be identified as the work.”

(Source: IFLA (2017). IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information (p. 21). <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr-lrm/ifla-lrm-august-2017.pdf>)

EXPRESSION

- “An expression is the specific intellectual or artistic form that a work takes each time it is “realized.” Expression encompasses, for example, the specific words, sentences, paragraphs, etc. that result from the realization of a work in the form of a text, or the particular sounds, phrasing, etc. resulting from the realization of a musical work. The boundaries of the entity expression are defined, however, so as to exclude aspects of physical form, such as typeface and page layout, that are not integral to the intellectual or artistic realization of the work as such.”

(Source: IFLA (2008). Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (p. 19). https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr/frbr_2008.pdf)

- “A distinct combination of signs conveying intellectual or artistic content. An expression is the specific intellectual or artistic form that a work takes each time it is “realized.” Expression encompasses, for example, the specific words, sentences, paragraphs, etc. that result from the realization of a work in the form of a text, or the particular sounds, phrasing, etc. resulting from the realization of a musical work. The boundaries of the entity expression are defined, however, so as to exclude incidental aspects of physical form, such as typeface and page layout for a text, unless, due to the nature of the work, these are integral to the intellectual or artistic realization of the work as such.”

(Source: IFLA (2017). IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information (p. 23). <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr-irm/ifla-irm-august-2017.pdf>)

MANIFESTATION

- “As an entity, manifestation represents all the physical objects that bear the same characteristics, in respect to both intellectual content and physical form. When a work is realized, the resulting expression of the work may be physically embodied on or in a medium such as paper, audio tape, video tape, canvas, plaster, etc. That physical embodiment constitutes a manifestation of the work.”

(Source: IFLA (2008). Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (p. 21). https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr/frbr_2008.pdf)

- “A manifestation results from the capture of one or more expressions onto a carrier or set of carriers. As an entity, manifestation represents the common characteristics shared by those carriers, in respect to both intellectual or artistic content and physical form.”

(Source: IFLA (2017). IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information (p. 25).

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr-lrm/ifla-lrm-august-2017.pdf>)

ITEM

- The entity defined as item is a concrete entity. It is in many instances a single physical object (e.g., a copy of a one-volume monograph, a single audio cassette, etc.). There are instances, however, where the entity defined as item comprises more than one physical object (e.g., a monograph issued as two separately bound volumes, a recording issued on three separate compact discs, etc.).

(Source: IFLA (2008). Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (p. 24). https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr/frbr_2008.pdf)

- “In terms of intellectual or artistic content and physical form, an item exemplifying a manifestation normally reflects all the characteristics that define the manifestation itself. An item is in many instances a single physical object, but in other cases an item may consist of multiple physical pieces or objects. An item may be a part of a larger physical object, for example, when a file is stored on a disc which also contains other files, the portion of the disc holding the file is the physical carrier or item.”

(Source: IFLA (2017). IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information (p. 27). <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr-lrm/ifla-lrm-august-2017.pdf>)

MISTAKES HAVE BEEN MADE

- Karen Coyle YouTube video from SWIB15 (2015) Conference
- Coyle discusses history of cataloging, FRBR, and linked data.

(Source: Coyle, Karen (2015). Mistakes have been made. SWIB15 (Semantic Web In Libraries), Hamburg, Germany.

<https://youtu.be/d0CMuxZsAIY?list=PL7fMsenbLiQ0eKJtpz3NCv0937HPwbWqV>

RESOURCES

- Tillett, Barbara (2004). What is FRBR?: A Conceptual Model for the Bibliographic Universe. Library of Congress.
<https://www.loc.gov/cds/downloads/FRBR.PDF>
- FRBR Group 1 Quiz.
<https://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/RDA%20training%20materials/DCatRDA/frbrgr1quiz/frbrgr1quiz.htm>
- FRBR Terminology Quiz.
<https://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/RDA%20training%20materials/DCatRDA/frbrtermquiz/frbrtermquiz.htm>
- FRBR. LISWiki. <https://liswiki.org/wiki/FRBR>
- Denton, William (2007). FRBR and the History of Cataloging.
<https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10315/1250/denton-frbr-and-the-history-of-cataloging.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- Tillett, Barbara (2011). FRBR and RDA Basics. <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/Georgia-FRBR-review-12august2011.ppt>
- Tillett, Barbara (2002). The FRBR Model.
<https://www.libraries.psu.edu/tas/jca/ccda/docs/frbr-intro.ppt>

MORE RESOURCES

- Lorenz, Andrea (2009). FRBR Simplified.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPBpP0wbWTg>
- MMfilm2digitutorials (2012). Basic of Metadata.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0vc6LeVa14>
- Sipe, Vicki (2016). RDA for Copy Catalogers : The Basics.
<https://youtu.be/3z2RR6JaA7c>
- Brenndorfer, Thomas (2012). RDA in 10 Easy Steps.
https://youtu.be/D3hafSNH_3A
- Sevim, McCutcheon (2013). Resource Description & Access (RDA) Basics for Copy Catalogers. <https://youtu.be/6lUyBaDdc8c>
- Ryan Gosling meme:
<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/91/9d/33/919d334b956335878bfd31d66e8011f2.jpg>
- FRBR Relationships:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_Requirements_for_Bibliographic_Records
- IFLA (2009). Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records.
https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr/frbr_2008.pdf
- IFLA (2017). IFLA Library Reference Model: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information.
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr-lrm/ifla-lrm-august-2017.pdf>
- <http://thinkspace.csu.edu.au/librarylearningcurve/files/2016/10/meme3-1nkf57n.jpg>

QUESTIONS?

A graphic consisting of vertical stripes in a rainbow spectrum (black, blue, green, yellow, orange, red) with the text 'FRBR' in a white serif font centered over it.

FRBR