



IFLA Cataloguing Section FRBR Review Group

Report of activities 2014-2015

Consolidation of the IFLA Conceptual Models

The Consolidation Editorial Group (CEG) made significant progress on the definition of the consolidated model, to the extent that the Group judged it was ready to begin sharing information about the consolidation with a paper prepared for the Cataloguing Section Open Programme during WLIC 2015 (Thursday August 20th, 10:45-12:45).

The CEG held two meetings in 2014/2015. The first meeting was held Sept. 29th to Oct. 3rd and timed to coincide with the meetings of the ICOM CIDOC CRM Special interest Group in Heraklion, Greece. The CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group meeting also includes the FRBR-CIDOC CRM Harmonization Meeting. By holding the CEG meeting at this time and place, CEG members were able to advance the consolidation work while also representing IFLA, and specifically the FRBR Review Group, at the CIDOC CRM meetings. FORTH, the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas, kindly provided meeting space for the CEG. During the October CEG meetings, the members reviewed issues raised during the all-day meeting held at the end of WLIC 2014, August 22nd, 2014, Lyon, France. In light of the decision that the consolidated model should be a high-level entity-relationship model, the CEG returned to work that had been done earlier to reassess that the attributes of group 1 entities were handled with a consistent level of granularity for all entities.

Between the meetings, CEG members worked on the tables that contain the definition of the model. The user tasks, entities, attributes, and relationships for the consolidated model were identified during the past face-to-face meetings, but needed to be fleshed out with consistent definitions and examples. Much of this work was done by the members via e-mail.

The second meeting was in Paris, April 22-24, 2015. The Bibliothèque nationale de France kindly provided meeting space for the April meetings. The purpose of the meeting was to review the detailed model definition tables (entities, attributes, relationships) and the user tasks for completeness and consistency. During the all-day meeting in Lyon, two new entities were added: Place and Time-span. It was particularly important to ensure that these new entities were defined and properly integrated.

During the Lyon meeting, there had been some discussion of what to call the consolidated model. Maintaining the “FRBR” brand was deemed to be important. The current working title is FRBR-LRM, where the LRM stands for Library Reference Model.

The consolidation project received funding from IFLA to support the consolidation of the models by allowing the two face-to-face meetings that were crucial for key decision-making during the modelling process.

World Wide Review of FRBRoo and PRESSoo

During the 2014 business meeting in Lyon, the RG unanimously supported two statements endorsing the validity of the relationship of FRBRoo ver.2.0 and PRESSoo with the FRBR family of conceptual models. During the meeting, a suggestion was also made to take this support one step further and bring the two object-oriented models through the IFLA standards approval process so that they can be recognized as belonging to the group of IFLA standards. PRESSoo was in a completed state, but there were some new changes proposed for FRBRoo, necessitating consultation with the partner body, the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group. The changes resulted in version 2.1 and then 2.2 of FRBRoo. The decision was made not to do the world-wide review of FRBRoo until version 2.2 was completed. Since PRESSoo is an extension of FRBRoo, it made no sense to review one at a different time from the other. The two standards were posted on the IFLA website and a call for world-wide review was sent on March 8th, 2015. Some organizations saw the call and decided that they did not have the expertise to offer comments. The comments that were received were very supportive, calling the modelling “elegant,” “impressive”, and “valuable.” Comments were received from significant institutions/organizations: the British Library, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, and the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA. The comments are being reviewed and incorporated before the standards move to the next stage of the approval process.

JSC Protocol

During the 2014 business meeting, the RG discussed the proposal from the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for the Development of RDA to establish a protocol between the two groups in order to establish formal communication channels. Up until now, communication has been maintained informally, mainly through the fortuitous accident of overlapping memberships. The JSC prepared a preliminary document. The Review Group suggested revisions to some of the text. The JSC accepted the revisions and the protocol is in effect since March 31st, 2015.

<http://www.rda-jsc.org/archivedsite/docs/6JSC-Chair-21.pdf>

<http://www.rda-jsc.org/archivedsite/docs/6JSC-Chair-21-Shared-documents.pdf>

Though not included in the protocol, the JSC has also invited the Chair of the FRBR RG to attend this year's JSC meetings in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Involvement in Cataloguing Section Open programme

The FRBR RG was involved at several levels with preparations for the Cataloguing Section's Open Programme during WLIC 2015 in Cape Town. When the Standing Committee chose the theme *Modeling Bibliographic Information for a Web of Data*, the plan was to have one invited speaker give an introduction to FRBRoo, followed by three papers selected by the usual submission process. The FRBR RG was asked to recommend who should be the invited speaker. Patrick Le Boeuf was the unanimous

choice. The Chair of the RG was also a member of the planning group who chose the other three papers from 18 submissions.

FRBRoo OMR

In 2012, namespaces were registered for FRBRer, FRAD, and FRSAD in the Open Metadata Registry (OMR). The plan since 2013 has been to complete the registration for the FR family of models by also registering the namespace for FRBRoo 2.0. The intellectual work had been completed prior to the business meeting in 2014, but there were issues with scheduling the upload to the OMR. Gordon Dunsire successfully completed the upload before the end of 2014. Now all the current FRBR element sets and value vocabularies are available at: <http://iflastandards.info/ns/fr/>

A fuller description of this initiative can be found in Gordon Dunsire's article, "FRBRoo for linked data", published in the December 2014 issue of SCAT News.

<http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/scatn/scat-news-42.pdf>

Invitation to Committee on Standards meetings

The Committee on Standards has been undergoing significant changes in the past year. One of the areas of change is membership. As of August 2015, in addition to the elected members, the Chair or a representative of the FRBR Review Group is formally invited to attend the Committee on Standards meetings. The Review Groups are explicitly included. Membership is ex officio and non-voting, but the role of the Review Groups in standards development is given visible recognition.

<http://www.ifla.org/node/9429>

Translations: no new translations.

Distribution List

The frbr@infoserv.inist.fr list currently has 760 subscribers, a decrease from last year's number (791). Since 2011/2012, there has been a decline in the number of subscribers, not a devastating decline, but 90 subscribers over roughly four years. There was a peak of 850 subscribers in 2011. The current number of 760 is midway between the numbers for 2008 and 2009. Many of the messages are relayed on several lists so there has not been a large amount of unique content. Another factor may be the imminent release of the consolidated model. It will be interesting to see if the world-wide review of the consolidated model increases the volume of discussion on the list. The automated list archive starting in December 2010 is accessible from <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/arc/frbr>.

Chris Oliver
Chair of the FRBR Review Group
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