

**FRBR:
What It Is,
Where It's At, and
Why You Should Care**

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IFLA

**International Federation of
Library Associations and
Institutions**

FRBR
Functional Requirements
for Bibliographic Records

**FIS Involvement:
Nancy Williamson,
Lynne Howarth**

**User Tasks:
Find, Identify,
Select, Obtain**

Find

“To find materials that correspond to the user’s stated search criteria.”

Identify

“To identify an entity” (make sure it’s what the user is looking for).

Select

“To select an entity that is appropriate to the user’s needs” (in the right language, in the right medium, etc.).

Obtain

“To acquire or obtain access to the entity required” (to buy it or borrow it or use it).

**User Tasks:
Find, Identify,
Select, Obtain**

**Work, Expression,
Manifestation, Item**

Work

“[A] distinct intellectual or artistic work of creation.”

A work is abstract.

Work Examples

Georgette Heyer's *The Grand Sophy* (novel).

Ross Thomas's *Briarpatch* (novel)

Homer's *The Odyssey* (poem).

John Boorman's *Point Blank* (film).

Richard Stark's *The Hunter* (novel).

Expression

“[T]he intellectual or artistic realization of a *work* in the form of alpha-numeric, musical, or choreographic notation, sound, image, object, movement, etc., or any combination of such forms.”

An expression is abstract.

Expression

“*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 notes, phrasing, etc. resulting from the realization of a musical *work*.... [This] exclude[s] aspects of physical form, such as typeface and page layout.”

Expression

A work is *realized* through an expression.

Expression Examples

- W_1 : **Georgette Heyer's *The Grand Sophy***
(book)
- E_1 : original English text

Expression Examples

- W_1 : **Ross Thomas's *Briarpatch*** (book)
 - E_1 : original English text

Expression Examples

- W_1 : **Homer's *The Odyssey*** (poem)
 - E_1 : English translation by Robert Fagles
 - E_1 : English translation by E.V. Rieu

Expression Examples

- W_1 : **Richard Stark's *The Hunter*** (book)
- E_1 : original English text

Expression Examples

- W_1 : **John Boorman's *Point Blank*** (film)
 - E_1 : original theatrical release

Manifestation

“[T]he physical embodiment of the *expression* of
a *work*.”

A manifestation is physical.

Manifestation

“The entity defined as *manifestation* encompasses a wide range of materials, including manuscripts, books, periodicals, maps, posters, sound recordings, films, video recordings, CD-ROMs, multimedia kits, etc. As an entity, *manifestation* represents all the physical objects that bear the same characteristics, in respect to both intellectual content and physical form.”

Manifestation

A work is *realized* through an expression.
An expression is *embodied* in a manifestation.

Manifestation Examples

- W_1 : **Georgette Heyer's *The Grand Sophy***
(book)
- E_1 : original English text
→ M_1 : 2003 Harlequin paperback

Manifestation Examples

- W_1 : **Ross Thomas's *Briarpatch*** (book)
 - E_1 : original English text
 - M_1 : 1985 Penguin paperback
 - M_2 : 2003 St. Martin's Minotaur paperback

Manifestation Examples

- W_1 : **Homer's *The Odyssey*** (poem)
 - E_1 : English translation by Robert Fagles
 - M_1 : 1996 Viking hardcover
 - M_2 : 1997 Penguin paperback
 - E_2 : English translation by E.V. Rieu
 - M_1 : 1946 Penguin Classics
 - $M_{2...30}$: [reprints]
 - M_{31} : 1975 Penguin Classics (31st impression)

Manifestation Examples

- W_1 : **Richard Stark's *The Hunter*** (book)
 - E_1 : original English text
 - M_1 : 1962 Pocket Books paperback
 - M_2 : 1982 Avon paperback

Manifestation Examples

- W_1 : **John Boorman's *Point Blank*** (film)
 - E_1 : original theatrical release
 - M_1 : 1967 film release (9 reels)
 - M_2 : 2005 DVD release

Item

“[A] single exemplar of *manifestation*.... a copy of a one-volume monograph, a single audio cassette, ... a recording issued on three separate compact discs, etc.”

An *item* is physical.

Item

A work is *realized* through an expression.
An expression is *embodied* in a manifestation.
A manifestation is *exemplified* in an item.

Item Examples

- W_1 : **Georgette Heyer's *The Grand Sophy***
(book)
 - E_1 : original English text
 - M_1 : 1950 Heineman hardcover
 - M_2 : 2003 Harlequin paperback
 - I_1 : my unaltered copy
 - I_2 : my copy with my name written in it

Item Examples

- W_1 : **Ross Thomas's *Briarpatch*** (book)
 - E_1 : original English text
 - M_1 : 1985 Penguin paperback
 - I_1 : my copy
 - M_2 : 2003 St. Martin's Minotaur paperback
 - I_2 : my copy

Item Examples

- W_1 : **Homer's *The Odyssey*** (poem)
 - E_1 : English translation by Robert Fagles
 - M_1 : 1996 Viking hardcover
 - I_1 : my copy
 - M_2 : 1997 Penguin paperback

Item Examples

- W_1 : **Homer's *The Odyssey*** (poem)
- E_2 : English translation by E.V. Rieu
 - M_1 : 1946 Penguin Classics
 - $M_{2...30}$: [reprints]
 - M_{31} : 1975 Penguin Classics (31st impression)
 - I_2 : my copy

Item Examples

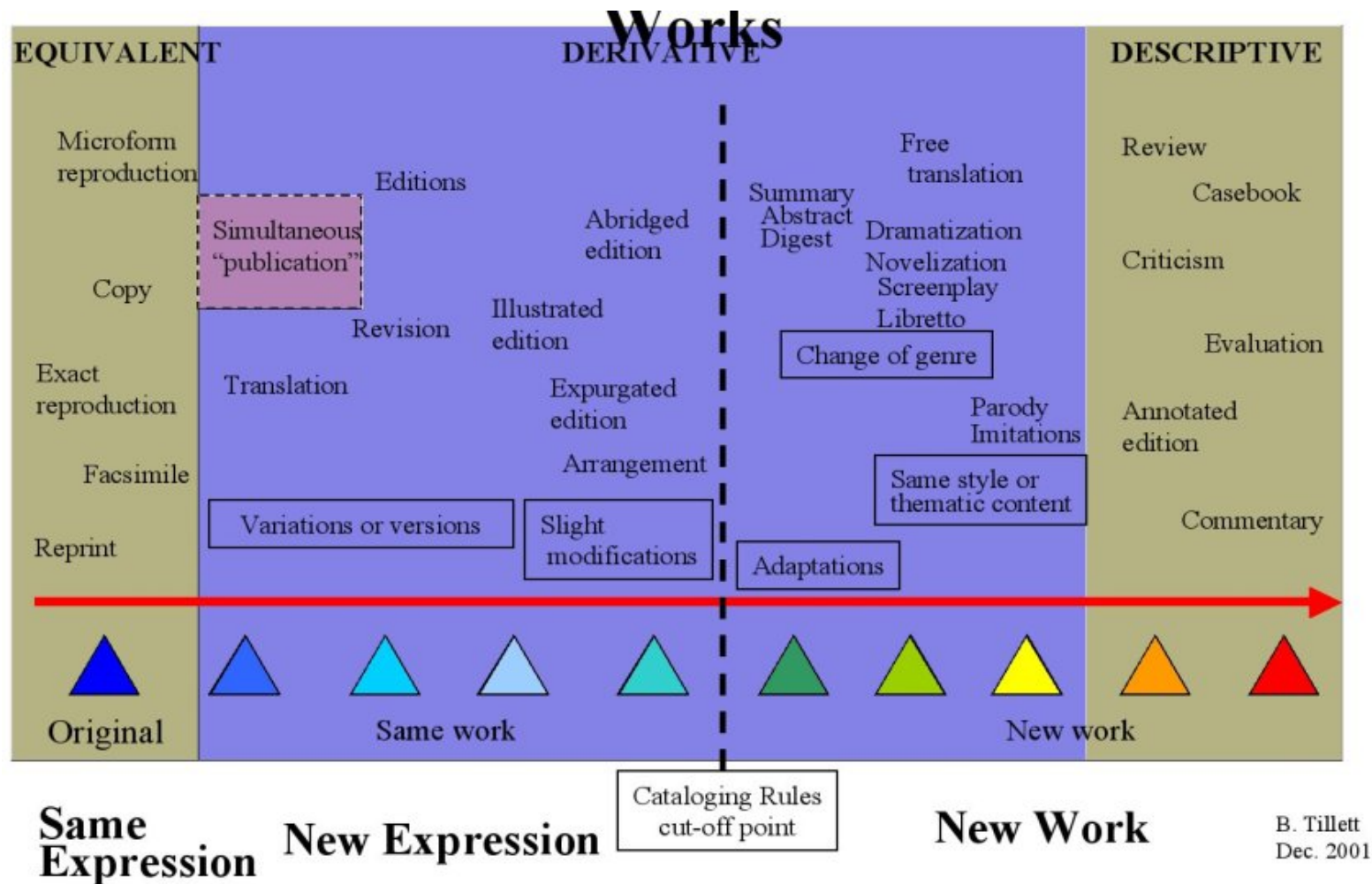
- W_1 : **Richard Stark's *The Hunter*** (book)
 - E_1 : original English text
 - M_1 : 1962 Pocket Books paperback
 - M_2 : 1984 Avon paperback
 - I_1 : my copy

Item Examples

- W_1 : **John Boorman's *Point Blank*** (film)
 - E_1 : original theatrical release
 - M_1 : 1967 film release (9 reels)
 - M_2 : 2005 DVD release
 - I_1 : my copy

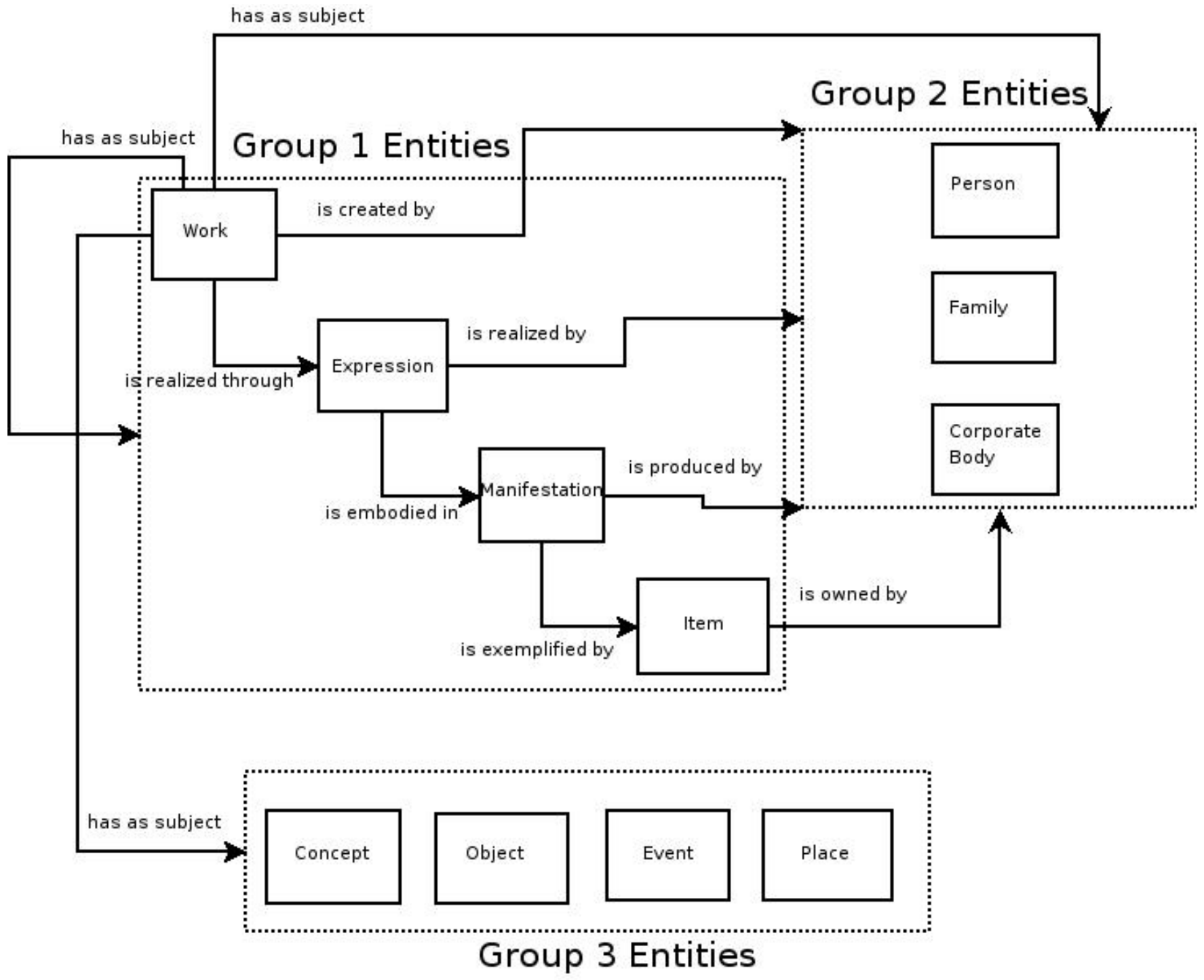
**Group 1 Entities:
Work, Expression,
Manifestation, Item**

Tillett's Family of Works



**Group 2 Entities:
Person, Family,
Corporate Body**

**Group 3 Entities:
Concept, Object,
Event, Place**



What will FRBRized catalogues look like?

OCLC:
fictionfinder.oclc.org

AustLit:
www.austlit.edu.au

Music

Serials

**When will we achieve
universal FRBRosity?**

AACR3

RDA
Resource Description and
Access

What's IFLA doing?

- Pat Riva (at McGill) chairs FRBR Review Group
- Working Group on the Expression Entity
- Working Group on Aggregates
- Working Group on Teaching and Training
- Working Group on FRBR/CRM Dialogue

What's IFLA doing?

- FRAR: Functional Requirements for Authority Records
- FRSAR: Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records

What's happening elsewhere?

- Research at large catalogues: OCLC and RLG
- Vendors working on adding it to products
- Non-librarians getting interested; Semantic Web
- Research, experimentation, thinking, planning, small implementations; no very large implementations yet

Why should you care?

Questions?