

Content Standards in Libraries

March 8th, 2022

Content Standards in Libraries

- Conceptual model behind most pervasive standard used in English-speaking library and academic institutions
 - It's a doozy!

Agenda:

- Cataloguing & metadata recap
- Looking at FRBR as a conceptual model for contemporary content standards

Cataloguing and Metadata

- Key questions:
 - What aspects of the resource need to be represented?
 - What about the resource can only be understood by interacting with resource itself or experts
 - What about it can we extract, transcribe, or interpret about the catalogue record
 - What are the constraints placed on those representations?
 - Enforcing consistency and reducing subjectivity to make the catalogue more usable

Central concepts

- Title
- Creator
- Revisions
 - Particularly difficult for digital resources

Catalogue records

- Two components:
 - Content
 - Where did all info come from?
 - How accurate is it to information itself?
 - How do you know what the right thing is to write here?
 - Format
 - Deciding how it is to encode, write, or record information so it can be searched, indexed, or sorted in different ways
- We are still in content phase mostly for this week

FRBR

- A contextual entity-relationship model
- "Functional Rules for Bibliographic Relationships"

FRBR and RDA

- FRBR is the conceptual basis responsible for major changes in library standards
 - Greatly informed development of RDA

FRBR's "Mission"

- An attempt to resolve relationships in the universe of books and other information-bearing objects
 - Relationships within bibliographic entities
 - What is in author's head vs what actually got printed, plus the relationship between these two things
 - Relevant to users at different times for different reasons
1. Among bibliographic entities: FRBR Group 1
 1. **Primary relationships among the abstract intellectual work, its various versions, and their physical manifestations in items (MAIN FOCUS THIS WEEK)**
 2. Equivalence, derivation, and part-whole relationships
 2. Responsibility relationships: FRBR Group 2
 3. Subject relationships: FRBR Group 3

Group 1 Entities

- Focus on Works ---> Items
- Entity relationship diagram:
 - **Work** is realized through an **Expression** (text, play, novel)
 - But we cannot get access to these things without a **Manifestation**
 - Is exemplified by an **Item**
 - 1 arrow = one path; 2 arrows = many paths
 - E.g., one Work can be realized through many different Expressions
 - Intellectual/artistic (Work --> Expression) | Physical (Manifestation --> Item)

Work

- A distinct intellectual or artistic creation
 - Has:
 - Creator
 - Uniform title
 - Subject headings
 - Work is about things; embodies, exemplifies things

Expression

- The realization of a work
 - Has:
 - Uniform title
 - Illustrators

- Translators
- Performers
- Language
- Edition Statement
- Content Type (RDA)
- (Approx.) Word Count
- Duration

Manifestation

- The physical embodiment of intellectual/artistic content
 - Has:
 - Title
 - Place and date of publication
 - Publisher
 - Physical characteristics
 - Media type (RDA)
 - Carrier type (RDA)

Item

- Exemplar of a manifestation
 - Has:
 - Call Number
 - Condition
 - Provenance
 - Location

FRBR - KEY POINT

- Some of most important attributes of an item might be intellectual content, or properties of its physical manifestations
 - One intellectual creation can have many different expressions, spawn many different manifestations
 - Some things only need to be described once about it, while other things need more care to be described multiple times (e.g., call number, location)
 - These distinctions help to better organize items

Examples of relationship types

- basis for libretto
- choreography
- digest of

- analysis of
 - commentary on
 - critique of
 - index to
 - supplement to
 - prequel to
 - sequel to
 - supersedes
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In-Class Session

FRBR ---> RDA

- RDA is 10-ish years old
- FRBR is the conceptual, RDA is us attempting to put this into practice

Group 1 Entities

- What is an Expression?
 - E.g., Hamlet: The Tragedy of the Prince of Denmark
 - Folio 1; Folio 2; Vancouver Theatre Company's performance of Hamlet
 - Work done between Hamlet, as it exists, and different iterations of performance
 - Different types of intellectual work have gone into creating these iterations (Expressions)
 - Work is an abstract concept of creative and intellectual labour
 - One step towards materializing this work through a manifestation, then an item

FRBR is very conceptual, very subjective

- Scary for librarians
- Dealing with people's intellectual and creative work

Essays about Primary Works

- E.g., essays about Hamlet --> would be considered its own Work

Expressions vs. Manifestations

- Some translations are treated as expressions, some treated as new works
- New intellectual work introduced to the work (edits, not just a reprint), are Expressions
- Hardcover vs. paperback with no intellectual changes --> different Manifestations
- Cover art --> grey zone
 - Is it intellectual work?