

ALA Conference 2009 – FRBR, RDA, MARC and AACR2

I attended an all-day session titled *RDA, FRBR, and FRAD: Making the Connection* and a half-day session titled *Look Before You Leap: Taking RDA for a test drive*. Presenters for the first session were Barbara Tillett, Robert Maxwell, Glenn Patton, and Tom Delsey. Presenters for the second session were Tom Delsey, Nannette Naught, Christine Oliver, Sally McCallum, John Espley, and Barbara Bushman.

Overview and benefits of FRBR

Barbara Tillett, Chief of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, Library of Congress, began by introducing the history, terminology and concepts of the Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records (FRBR). She stressed that FRBR is a conceptual model rather than a cataloging code. Its goal is to better identify things (entities), their characteristics (attributes or elements), and their relationships with other entities. It also distinguishes between the intellectual content and physical nature of things. Works (ideas) are realized through their Expression (an abstraction). The Expression is embodied in a Manifestation (the physical) and is exemplified by an Item (the copy in your possession).

Barbara went on to discuss the various Entities outlined in FRBR. Group 1 entities are the bibliographic resources described in a catalog. Group 2 entities are the parties responsible: persons, corporate bodies, and family. Group 3 entities are the subjects of a “work”: concepts, objects, events, or places. These are both our present subject headings and name-title added entries.

She concluded with an explanation of why FRBR was necessary. She contends that a FRBR catalog does a better job of collocation, organizing, offers more display options, better access to records, and simplifies cataloging by enabling more linking and the ability to reuse various levels of description.

One interesting comment she made was that cataloging usually works backwards from the FRBR model. It starts with the item, describes the manifestation, and creates authority records. FRBR would start with the works and people. It would then link them and (hopefully) add copies to existing manifestation and expression found in networked catalog systems.

The entity-relationship model

Robert Maxwell, Special Collections Cataloger & Metadata Section Head at BYU’s Harold B. Lee Library, talked about the design of computerized catalogs. He began by saying that most catalog systems and the MARC records are products of the 1970’s and based on flat file databases. Modern practice is to use relational databases which FRBR fits very nicely. He went

on at length talking about the various kinds of linking possible defining relationships and their roles. He then walked us through an exercise he had created of a database model following the FRBR principles.

Bob had prepared binders with partially completed pages in sections titled: Concepts, Corporate bodies, Expressions, Items, Manifestations, Persons, and Work. He had identified the records of a short story that had been originally published in a magazine, then published as a book, then translated into another language, and finally printed as a graphic novel. The exercise consisted of making the proper links between domains and records for the authors, translators, editions, and format.

FRAD attributes and relationships

Glenn Patton, Director of the WorldCat Quality Management Division at OCLC, presented the highlights of the soon to be published *Functional Requirements for Authority Data*. The goal is to extend the FRBR model into authority data to document decisions, control forms of access, and help link bibliographic and authority files. Authority records should not only identify entities so they can be found, but also contextualize them and justify the form of use.

FRBR entities include persons, families, corporate bodies, works, manifestations, items, and concepts, objects, events, and places (traditional subjects). FRAD defines names or identifiers so they can be used as controlled access points as defined by rules or agencies.

Attributes of persons are fairly traditional: dates, title, place of birth, language, field of activity, etc. Family is a new entity and its attributes are: type of family, dates, the place associated with family, field of activity, history of the family, etc. Corporate body attributes are: place, language, address, history, field of activity, etc.

Entities and attributes are combined when making relationships. Persons would could include type of name, scope of usage, dates of usage, language of the name, script of the name, translation scheme of the name, etc.

Glenn didn't see a big change in what we are now doing for authority work.

The missing part is the Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR). This group has only just begun their work.

FRBR and FRAD as implemented in RDA

Tom Delsey, Director General of Corporate Policy and Communications at the National Library of Canada, has been the editor of RDA until very recently. He concentrated on the organization of

the rules and noted that they are not yet complete. There are several chapters that are placeholders for material that will come later.

RDA is divided into two main sections. Part 1 deals with the FRBR/FRAD attributes: 1) manifestation and item, 2) work and expression, 3) person or family or corporate body, and 4) concept or object or event or place. Part 2 deals with the FRBR/FRAD relationships: 5) primary relationships; 6) relationships of persons etc. with a resource; 7) subject relationships; 8) relationships between Works, Expressions, Manifestations, and Items; 9) relationships between persons, families, and corporate bodies; 10) relationships between the various subject elements of concept, object, event, and place.

Publication of RDA is planned for late 2009. A pricing scheme has not yet been developed.

Comparing RDA and AACR2

Tom Delsey, editor of RDA made a second presentation titled *Comparing RDA and AACR2* where he tried to outline some of the details but ran out of time before he finished. The content wasn't really much different than his first presentation.

MARC in RDA

Sally McCallum, Chief of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office at the Library of Congress, made a detailed presentation of how MARC is able to transmit FRBR/RDA records without significant changes. RDA has more detail in the physical description area for example, but LC is looking at adding tags or ways of mapping the extra data. The MARC leader/06, 007, tags 336 and 337, and the general material designation will need the most work.

Testing RDA

Barbara Bushman, National Library of Medicine, made the most interesting presentation of the half-day session. She announced that the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, and National Agricultural Library would be doing a formal test of RDA in conjunction with ten academic libraries, two public libraries, a school library, four special libraries, three vendors, and three consortia. Brigham Young University, Harold B. Lee Library (Robert Maxwell) and Backstage Library Works (Karen Anderson) are among the test sites. There will be a three month training period, three month testing period, and three month evaluation.

RDA in an ILS

John Espley of VTLS made a presentation of how they were implementing what was known of RDA at this time. He mentioned that all the data could be carried in a MARC record.

AACR Record with MARC tags

Bibliographic Record

100 \$a Preferred name for the person \$d Date of birth
240 \$a Preferred title for the work \$l Language of expression
245 \$a Title proper \$c Statement of responsibility relating to title proper
250 \$a Designation of edition
260 \$a Place of publication \$b Publisher's name \$c Date of publication
300 \$a Extent
338 \$a Carrier type
500 \$a Nature of the content
...
700 \$a Preferred name for the person \$c Title of the person \$e Relationship designator
700 \$a Preferred name for the person \$c Profession or occupation \$e Relationship designator
730 \$a Preferred title for the work \$d Date of work
740 \$a Variant title

Name Authority Record

100 \$a Preferred name for the person \$c Title of the person
400 \$a Variant name for the person
500 \$a Preferred name for the person \$d Date of birth \$0 Identifier for the person

Name-Title Authority Record

100 \$a Preferred name for the person \$d Date of birth
 \$t Preferred title for the work \$l Language of expression
530 \$a Preferred title for the work \$d Date of work \$0 Identifier for the work

FRBR RDA Record

Work

100 \$t Preferred title for the work

500 \$a Nature of the content

...

100 \$0 Person associated with the work \$e Relationship designator

700 \$0 Person associated with the work \$e Relationship designator

530 \$0 Related work

Expression

100 \$l Language of expression

...

700 \$0 Person associated with the expression \$e Relationship designator

Manifestation

245 \$a Title proper

740 \$a Variant title

245 \$c Statement of responsibility relating to title proper

250 \$a Designation of edition

260 \$a Place of publication

260 \$b Publisher's name

260 \$c Date of publication

338 \$a Carrier type

300 \$a Extent

Item

561 \$a Custodial history of item

562 \$a Item-specific carrier characteristic

506 \$a Restrictions on access

Related Person (linked to the work or expression)

100 \$a Preferred name for the person

400 \$a Variant name for the person

100 \$d Date of birth

...

500 \$0 Related person

AACR2 and RDA Compared

| AACR2 | RDA |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ISBD elements – classes of material – mode of issuance – type of description | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attributes of FRBR entities – types of content and carrier – mode of issuance – type of description |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – choice of access points – form of headings – references | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FRBR relationships – attributes of FRAD entities – FRAD relationships subject relationships |

AACR2 Structure

| Part I – Description | Part II – Headings, Uniform Titles, and References |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Rules for Description 2. Books, Pamphlets, and Printed Sheets 3. Cartographic Materials 4. Manuscripts 5. Music 6. Sound Recordings 7. Motion Pictures and Videorecordings 8. Graphic Materials 9. Electronic Resources 10. Three-Dimensional Artefacts and Realia 11. Microforms 12. Continuing Resources 13. Analysis | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Choice of Access Points 22. Headings for Persons 23. Geographic Names 24. Headings for Corporate Bodies 25. Uniform Titles 26. References |

RDA Structure

| FRBR/FRAD Attributes | FRBR/FRAD Relationships |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attributes of Manifestation and Item 2. Attributes of Work and Expression 3. Attributes of Person, Family, and Corporate Body 4. Attributes of Concept*, Object*, Event*, and Place | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Primary Relationships 6. Relationships to Persons, Families, and Corporate Bodies Associated with a Resource 7. Subject Relationships* 8. Relationships between Works, Expressions, Manifestations, and Items 9. Relationships between Persons, Families, and Corporate Bodies 10. Relationships between Concepts*, Objects*, Events*, and Places* |

General Material designations

| AACR2 | RDA / FRBR |
|---|---|
| electronic resource microform sound recording videorecording | Media type audio computer microform video |
| filmstrip motion picture slide transparency | Carrier type film reel filmstrip overhead transparency slide |
| cartographic material music text | Content type cartographic ... notated music text |

Abbreviations

| AACR2 | RDA / FRBR |
|---|---|
| AACR allows abbreviations to be used in certain transcribed elements (e.g., edition statement, numbering, place of publication, distribution, etc., series) | RDA permits abbreviations in transcribed elements only if the data appears in an abbreviated form in the source |

New title record requirements

| AACR2 | RDA / FRBR |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major change in title proper of a serial • change in responsibility affecting main entry for a serial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major change in title proper of a serial • change in responsibility requiring a change in identification of a serial as a work • change in mode of issuance • change in media type • change in edition statement of a serial or integrating resource • re-basing of an integrating resource |