

FRSAR Update

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and Marcia Zeng

1

Established: April 2005

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- Maja Zumer, Slovenia, Co-Chair
- Athena Salaba, USA, Co-Chair, secretary
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2

Advisory Group (AG)

- Dorothy McGarry
- Ed O'Neill, (Liaison to OCLC FRBR)
- Päivi Pekkarinen
- David Miller (Liaison to ALA SAC (Subject Analysis Committee))
- Hemalata Iyer
- Jonathan Furner
- Victoria Francu

3

Terms of Reference

- to build a conceptual model of Group 3 entities within the FRBR framework as they relate to the *aboutness* of works,
- to provide a clearly defined, structured frame of reference for relating the data that are recorded in subject authority records to the needs of the users of those records, and
- to assist in an assessment of the potential for international sharing and use of subject authority data both within the library sector and beyond.

4

FRSAR Activities

- User surveys on the Use of Subject Authority Data
- Investigation of user tasks
- Entites

5

Use of subject authority data

- a. Pilot with Non Library & Information Professionals
- b. Library & Information Professionals

6

World-wide survey (June-September 2006, 798 participants)

Question 2: In what ways do you use controlled vocabulary information?

- 2a. In cataloging and metadata creation (87%) à
- 2b. In subject authority work (77%)
- 2c. In searching or helping others search bibliographic information (81%)

7

2a. In cataloging and metadata creation

2. Question 2

1. 2. In what ways do you use controlled vocabulary information (from print or online thesauri, subject headings lists, etc., or from subject authority records)? (Please, check all that apply)
A. In cataloging and metadata creation

	Response Percent	Response Total
to select and verify appropriate terms for cataloging and indexing	95%	643
to explore relationships (equivalent, hierarchical, and associative) among terms	69.3%	469
to verify and understand terms and their relationships	72.5%	491
View Other (please specify)	3.8%	26
Total Respondents		677
(skipped this question)		103

July 27, 2006 data

8

2b. In subject authority work

2. B. In subject authority work

	Response Percent	Response Total
to normalize and standardize controlled vocabulary terms	87.2%	525
to modify subject authority data when needed	62.3%	375
to maintain subject authority data for future use	57.6%	347
to establish and update term relationships	52.7%	317
View Other (please specify)	3.5%	21
Total Respondents		602
(skipped this question)		178

9

2C. In searching or helping others search bibliographic information

3. C. In searching or helping others search bibliographic information

	Response Percent	Response Total
to select and/or verify appropriate search terms for retrieval	86.4%	545
to explore relationships (equivalent, hierarchical, and associative) among terms	61.8%	390
to understand terms and their relationships	59.3%	374
to find and identify relevant documents/resources on a specified topic	76.9%	485
to navigate and/or browse bibliographic and metadata records using equivalent, hierarchical, and associative terms	63.9%	403
to modify searching through synonymous (equivalent) terms	60.9%	384
to modify searching through broader and narrower (hierarchical) terms and related (associative) terms	65.8%	415
View Other (please specify)	2.4%	15
Total Respondents		631
(skipped this question)		149

0

User Tasks

FRBR (1998): Find entities of Group 1 that have entities from Group 1, 2, 3 as their subject Identify Select Obtain	FRAD (2007): Find one entity or entities Identify an entity Contextualize , place in context, explore relationships Justify the form of an access point	FRSAR (2006, 2007): Find one subject entity or entities Identify Select Obtain Additional information about the subject entity Bibliographic records or resources about this subject entity Explore
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FRBR Group 3 entities....

This part of the model has been criticized, because it does not include time and does not cover well activities and processes (e.g., Heaney, 1997; Delsey, T. 2005.)

12

Study and Discussions

Different scenarios discussed:

- Keep FRBR Group 3 entities and only analyse attributes and relationships.
- Add *time* to the FRBR list.
- Take Ranganathan's facets as basis.
- Take <indec> as the basis.
- Make a pragmatic list of entities. One example is the one by Buizza and Guerrini
- Propose something new

13

Two small tests:

Four students and faculty members at Kent State Library school classified existing subject terms used by the NSDL (National Science Digital Library) contributors. These include 3 thousand terms assigned based on a variety of subject vocabularies and free keywords.

Professor Lois Chan classified the subject headings from LCSH she included in her books.

They classified terms into six categories: concrete stuff, abstract stuff, event, time, place, and others.

14

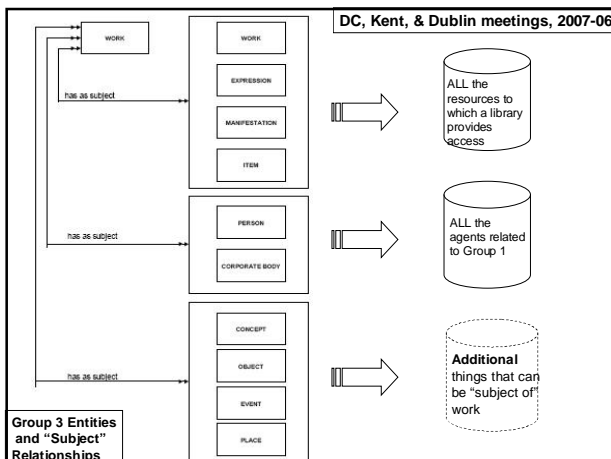
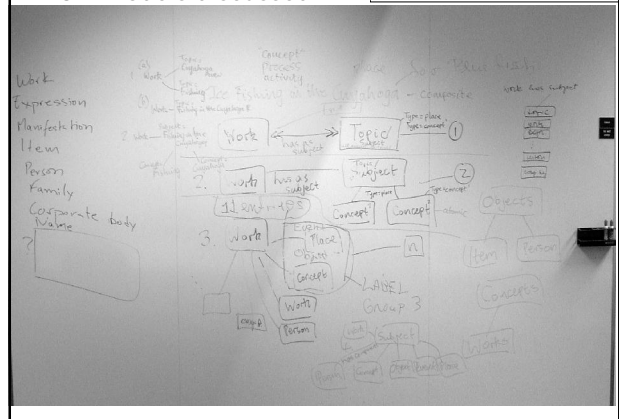
Test Results

- Blurred distinction between concrete and abstract
- Confusion about named stuff
- Lots of terms are put into 'others' category.
- It will be difficult for any user (end users, librarians (cataloguers and other library professionals), and vocabulary developers) to conduct such a job when using subject authority data;
- Differentiating and categorizing do not seem helpful or necessary to the end users.

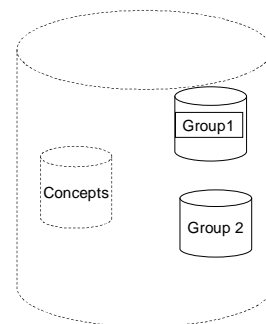
15

3.2 Models discussed

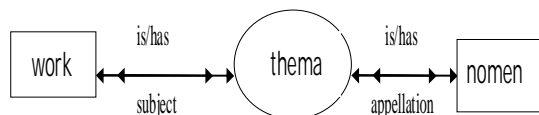
Kent & Dublin meetings, 2006-12



Thema is all the things that could be "subject of" work, including Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3 (=Concepts)



3.3 Proposal



(a) Choice of terms

- Different and overlapping meaning of 'subject', 'topic', 'concept'
- Different views on granularity
- 'Name' was understood as 'proper name'

Therefore:

- Terms from Latin that do not have to be translated and are not loaded with other meanings

20

(b) Thema

thema: anything that can be subject of a *work*

work HAS SUBJECT *thema*

Any *thema* may have components (parts) which are *thema*.

21

Types of thema

Depending on the implementation, thema can have types

Type is the only general attribute, other attributes of a thema are type-dependent

22

(c) Nomen

Any alpha numeric, sound, visual etc. symbol or combination of symbols by which a *thema* is known, referred to or addressed

Nomen may have components (parts). These components may (or may not) be *nomen* on their own. There may be rules governing the structure of *nomen*.

23

Nomen attributes and relationships with other entities (include but not limited to)

- Type of nomen (note: see next slide)
- Origin/source: system/vocabulary (LCSH, UDC,...)
- Medium (alphanumeric, sound, visual,...)
- Language (English, Japanese, Slovenian,...)
- Script (Cyrillic, Korean, Chinese-simplified,...)
- Encoding (Latin-1, UTF-8,...)
- Form (long, short, formula...)
- Time of validity
- Place of validity
- Community, for which this is the preferred form
- Status (provisional, accepted, official,...)

Relationships:

- Rules (AACR2, RDA, PPIAK, BS 8723,...)
- Resources using/referring to this nomen (relationship with *work*)

(note: examples of attribute values in parenthesis)

24

Types of nomen

- Identifier (= name, assigned to an entity, which is persistent and unique within a domain)
- Constructed name (= name constructed in authority control/vocabulary maintenance process, which usually serves as access point)
(note: called *Controlled access point* in FRAD)
- Implementation-specific types, e.g.:
 - Defined by originating system
 - Defined by language
 -

25

(4) Relationships

General relationships between *thema*
(applicable to all types)

- Hierarchical
 - Partitive
 - Generic
 - Instance
- Associative (=other)

Other thema-to-thema relationships
are implementation-dependent

26

Nomen-to-nomen relationships (include
but not limited to)

- Partitive
- Equivalence

Equivalence can be specified further, e.g.:

- Replaces/is replaced by
- Has variant form/is variant form
- Has derivation/is derived from
 - Has acronym/is acronym
 - Has abbreviation/is abbreviation
 - Has transliterated form/is transliteration

27