

Statement on FRBR₀₀

The IFLA FRBR Review Group endorses the version 2.0¹ of the FRBR₀₀ model (an object-oriented interpretation of the FRBR, FRAD and FRSAD models in the form of an extension of the CIDOC CRM model) as a valid ontology that can be used to express the semantic relationships embedded in descriptions provided by libraries (i.e., bibliographic and authority data) for the entities that make up the “bibliographic universe.”

The ontology described in FRBR₀₀ is based on IFLA’s conceptualization of bibliographic and authority data such as expressed in the FRBR, FRAD and FRSAD entity-relationship models, although it also somewhat deviates from the original models on some points. The differences between FRBR₀₀ version 2.0 and the FRBR, FRAD and FRSAD models are not sufficient for FRBR₀₀ version 2.0 to be regarded as a distinct model that IFLA (and more particularly, the IFLA Cataloguing Section) would not endorse and recommend, but any possible users of FRBR₀₀ version 2.0 should be made aware of them, so that their choices might be fully informed. These differences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Work entity, which has become, in FRBR₀₀ v. 2.0, the F1 Work class, can be refined into the sum of concepts realized in one and only one Expression (F14 Individual Work), the sum of concepts shared by at least two Expressions (F15 Complex Work), the concept of enhancing existing Expressions by aggregating them or adding particular features to them (F16 Container Work), or the concept of capturing aspects of events by recording them (F21 Recording Work); some of these refined classes can in turn be refined by further subclasses. In particular, the F19 Publication Work conveys the notion that publishers’ choices as to layout, paratext, cover art etc. are in themselves a sum of concepts (therefore, a Work) that enhances the authorial Expression.
- The Expression entity (transformed into the F2 Expression class) can be refined into Expressions that convey the notion of a complete Work as a whole (F22 Self-Contained Expression), or Expressions that cannot be regarded as a whole (F23 Expression Fragment). The overall content of a publication is modelled as a subclass of F22 Self-Contained Expression, the F24 Publication Expression class.
- The Manifestation entity was split into two distinct notions: Manifestations that are exemplified by more than one Item (F3 Manifestation Product Type), and Manifestations that are exemplified by only one Item, with which they can easily be confused (F4 Manifestation Singleton).
- The Manifestation entity is not regarded as relevant in the case of electronic publishing, as the physical characteristics of all exemplars of the publication cannot be entirely planned by publishers, who can only be held responsible for the overall content of the publication (F24 Publication Expression) and the procedure to follow in order to download that content, but not for the physical aspects that all carriers of the publication could be assumed to share.

¹ As of August 2014, version 2.0 of FBRR₀₀ still has the status of a draft.

- The Item entity is split into two distinct notions: physical exemplars of “traditional” publications (F5 Item), and physical carriers of downloaded electronic publications (F53 Material Copy).
- The physical process of manufacturing exemplars of a publication is disassociated from the publishing activity properly said.
- The notion of performance is more elaborated upon than in the original FRBR model.
- Events are introduced in order to account for the temporal aspects of the FRBR entities.
- The Person entity is regarded as covering real persons only, not personae (there was some discrepancy between FRBR and FRAD on that point).
- The notion of fictional characters is introduced through the F38 Character class.
- The process through which identifiers are assigned to entities is completely developed.
- The types of derivation relationships among Works are not listed in such a detailed manner as in the original FRBR model.
- The relationships between a Work and its structural parts, on the one hand, and between an aggregating Work (such as an anthology) and the Works it aggregates, on the other hand, are modelled as two distinct types of relationships.