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Book Review Editor

LE BŒUF, Patrick (ed.). **Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Hype or Cure-All?** New York: Haworth Information Press, c2005. 316 p. ISBN-13: 978-0-7890-2799-3 (pb).

The work is a collection of major contributions of qualified professionals to the issues aroused by the most controversial alternative to organizing the bibliographic universe today: the conceptual model promoted by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) known by the name of Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR). The main goals of the work are to clarify the fundamental concepts and terminology that the model operates with, inform the audience about the applicability of the model to different kinds of library materials and bring closer to those interested the experiments undertaken and the implementation of the model in library systems worldwide.

In the beginning, Patrick LeBœuf, the chair of the IFLA FRBR Review Group, editor of the work and author of two of the articles included in the collection, puts together in a meaningful way articles about the origins and development of the FRBR model and how it will evolve, thus facilitating a gradual understanding of its structure and functionalities. He describes in the Introduction the FRBR entities as images of bibliographic realities insisting on the "expression debate". Further he concentrates on the ongoing or planned work still needed (p. 6) for the model to be fully accomplished and ultimately offer the desired bibliographic control over the actual computerized catalogues. The FRBR model associated but not reduced to the "FRBR tree" makes it possible to map the existing linear catalogues to an ontology, or semantic Web by providing a multitude of relationships among the bibliographic entities it comprises.

The FRBR entities as much as their attributes and relationships are highlighted and analyzed in the first section of the work by authors such as: Olivia Madison, chair of the FRBR Study Group, Glenn Patton, Tom Delsey and Stefan Gradmann. One of the gen-

eral ideas of this first part is that there is still work to be done for the extension of the model to cover more aspects of subject access. Olivia Madison, with an insider's point of view, takes the reader on a historical approach to the IFLA Study on FRBR. The subject representation and authority issues are illustrated by Patton and Delsey in two articles in which the FRANAR (Functional Requirements and Numbering of Authority Records) conceptual model is investigated. While speaking about the low visibility of library catalogues on the Web, Gradmann proposes as a solution the implementation of FRBR as RDF Schema and of RDF-based library catalogues using semantic Web technology. He explains how catalogues should go from the "librarian ivory tower" (p. 65) into the semantic Web and discusses the benefits of the proposed approach.

The second section is dedicated to the applicability of the FRBR model to different types of library materials such as: hand press materials, in the article by Gunilla Jonsson, reiterating the expression problem; literary texts, in the view of the AustLit Gateway pointing out the use of enhanced manifestations by Kerry Kilner; musical aggregate works, seen as an experience of translation of the FRBR model by Patrick LeBœuf; digital documents, in a description of the Norwegian Paradigma Project by Kertil Albertsen and Carol van Nuys; performing art productions, as creations difficult to be held in library collections by David Miller and Patrick LeBœuf and oral tradition works as independent, collective but not impossible to grasp human creations by Yann Nicolas.

The third section is opened by an emblematic article of Barbara Tillett about the impact the implementation of the FRBR model has on future library catalogues. The novelty brought by the model is expected to influence both the cataloguing codes and practice and the design of the new library systems. Implementation issues are also treated by Maja Žumer and Gerhard Riesthuis in an article describing the application of the FRBR model to the Slovenian national bibliography. Maja Žumer reports another instance of the implementation of FRBR, namely the European

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Research Initiative. The author describes the initiative originating from ELAG (European Library Automation Group) and IFLA and proposes the agenda of future research and action. The next experiment described by Thomas Hickey and Edward O'Neil brings to our attention an algorithm developed at OCLC that identifies sets of works for collocation purposes. By so doing, the FRBR model is applied to the aggregate works existing in the huge and rapidly growing OCLC's WorldCat. An application of the FRBR conceptual approach to UNESCO's ISIS retrieval software is presented by Roberto Sturman as his personal experiment. The database structure and the relationships between entities are explained together with their functionalities in three different interfaces. The practical benefits of applying the FRBR model to enhanced displays of bibliographic records in online catalogues are explored in the article of Jacqueline Radebaugh and Corey Keith. The FRBR Display Tool, based on XML technologies, was "developed to transform bibliographic data found in MARC 21 record files into meaningful displays by grouping them into [...] FRBR entities" (p. 271).

The last section, by Dick Miller, is dedicated to a rather futuristic view of cataloguing, which the editor calls "a revolutionary alternative to the comparatively conservative and 'traditional' approach that FRBR represents" (p. 11). XOBIS, like the previously mentioned application, uses XML technologies to reorganize bibliographic and authority data elements into an integrated structure.

What is, after all the FRBR model? The question is asked in the subtitle itself: is it a "hype or cure-all?" It certainly is the talk of the day in libraries and similar institutions, a very popular topic for professional meetings, a challenging task for system vendors and food for thought for scholars both in terminology and in content. As for the solutions it offers, they enable simplified and more structured catalogues of large collections and perhaps easier ways to cataloguing resources of many different types. Once implemented in catalogues, the benefits will be both on the librarian's side and on the end user's side.

According to Patrick LeBœuf the model is a beginning and there are two directions for its development as far as the authors of the articles imply: the first, oriented to the configuration of FRANAR or FRAR, the second, oriented to what has already been established and defined as FRSAR (Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records). The latter is meant to build a conceptual model for Group 3 entities within the FRBR framework related to the aboutness of the work and assist in an assessment of the potential for international sharing and use of subject authority data both within the library sector and beyond.

A third direction, not present in the work considered, yet mentioned by the editor, is oriented towards the development of "the CIDOC CRM semantic model for cultural heritage information in museums and assimilated institutions" (p. 6). By merging the FRBR working group with the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group a FRBR/CRM Harmonization Group has been created its scope being the "translation" of FRBR into object-oriented formalism.

The work under review is the expected and welcome completion of the FRBR Final Report of 1998, addressing librarians, library science teaching staff, students, and library system vendors, a comprehensive source of information on theoretical aspects and practical application of the FRBR conceptual model. A good companion clarifying many FRBR issues the collection is remarkably well structured and offers a step-by-step insight into the model. An additional feature of the work is the very helpful index at the back of the book providing an easy access to the main topics discussed.

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SMIRAGLIA, Richard P. (ed.). **Metadata: A Cataloger's Primer**. New York: Haworth Information Press, c2005. 303 p. ISBN-13: 978-0-7890-2801-3 (pb).

Metadata: A Cataloger's Primer is a welcome addition to the field of introductory books about metadata intended for librarians and students. The book consists of a collection of papers co-published simultaneously as *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*, Volume 40, Numbers 3/4 2005. In the Introduction, the book's editor, Richard P. Smiraglia, states that "The purpose of this volume is to provide a learning resource about metadata for catalog librarians and students.... The point of the volume, overall, is that in library and information science there is an ongoing convergence of cataloging and metadata, such that the community will benefit from instructional material that demonstrates this convergence" (p. 1). The collection is di-