Introduction

The “Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records” (FRBR) Final Report was issued by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in 1997. The Report:
- explicitly made no assumptions about the bibliographic record and its purposes
- took a user-focused approach to its analysis of requirements.
- detailed conceptual and practical considerations related to bibliographic description.

Foucault expresses forms of control, which have parallel constructions in Group 1 Entities. Foucault then says that the author-function is specifically intended to “construct the rational entity we call an author.” Group 2 Entities likewise are manifestly rational relationships related to creation.

Group 1 Entities and Primary Relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRBR</th>
<th>Foucault</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Discourse</td>
<td>Mahler’s Symphony No. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression</td>
<td>Discourse expression</td>
<td>The musical work as conducted and performed by a given conductor/symphony on a certain day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifestation</td>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>Recording of Bernstein conducting the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra’s performance of Mahler’s Symphony No. 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group 2 Entities: Person, Corporate Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRBR</th>
<th>Foucault</th>
<th>Example in FRAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Created by</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Person, corporate body, family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized by</td>
<td>Author-function</td>
<td>Attributes of a person (dates, degrees, place of birth, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intersection of FRAD attributes and Foucaul's author-function

In describing the author-function, Foucault introduces a layer of complexity by drawing from St. Jerome’s criteria for determining authorship. His appropriation of St. Jerome admits to a unity of work and author that is less overtly articulated in FRBR and FRAD.

According to Foucault:
- The author is defined as a constant level of value,
- The author is thus defined as a field of conceptual and theoretical coherence;
- The author is here conceived as a stylistic unity;
- The author is seen as a historical figure at the crossroads of a certain number of events.

Foucault and FRBR

A principal purpose of the Group 2 Entities is to assist users in their navigation through the bibliographic universe; Foucault’s author-function is largely in concert with the purpose of Group 2 Entities. The clearest difference between the FRBR/FRAD model and Foucault’s conceptions appears in relation to Group 3 entities. Group 3 addresses subject interconnections, but those can, at times, be oversimplified. Foucault’s expansion of the author-function includes customary authorial and subject relations, but also embraces the potential for epistemological expansion open to influences—positive and negative, explicit and implicit—acceptance and rejection, and more distant relationships.

Foucault’s author-function

- Attributes of a Person
  - Date associated
  - Title
  - Gender
  - Place of birth
  - Place of death
  - Country
  - Field of activity
  - Affiliation
  - Address
  - Language
  - Field of activity
  - Profession
  - Other info

- Signifier
- Multiplicity of names
- Author function as classification
- St. Jerome’s Criteria of an Author (as cited by Foucault)
- Historical figure
- Nesting
- Standard level of quality in writing
- Consistency in words and phrases, stylistics used

References


What in short is the strange unit designated by the term, work? What is necessary to its composition, if a work is not something written by a person called an ‘author’?” (Foucault, p. 118).