The Author and the Person:
A Foucauldian Reflection on the Author in Knowledge Organization Systems

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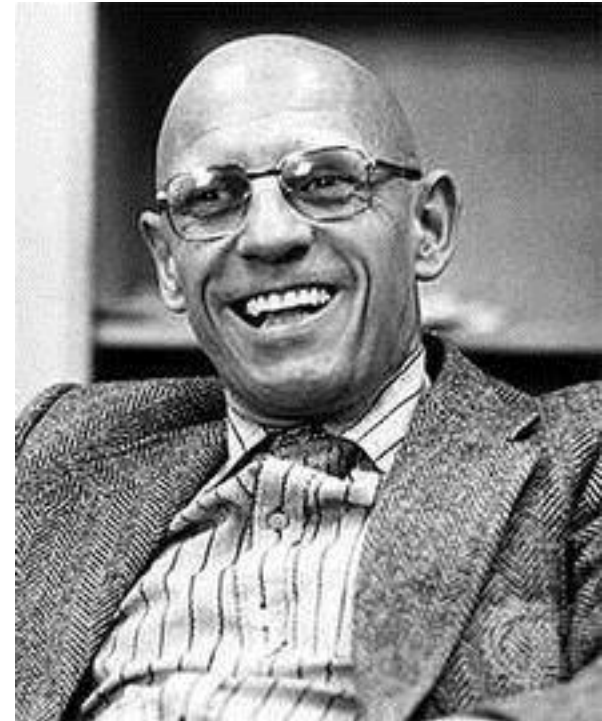
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Persons in the Bibliographic Universe

- IFLA's Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) (1998)
    - designates entities in the bibliographic universe
    - demonstrates relationships between entities.
- Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD) (2009)
    - builds on FRBR
    - designates fourteen attributes that can be recorded in authority records for persons, a Group 2 entity.
- In the bibliographic universe, people create [have relationships with] works, have attributes, and are represented by a character string (their name) that serves as a heading, yet they are never specifically identified as *authors*.
- The complexities of authorship indicate that authors are not only persons and creators or contributors to Group 1 entities, but they are also producers of intellectual products

Agenda

- Foucault: *What is an author?*

- Review of the Literature

- Analysis of Current Initiatives

- Discussion

- Conclusion

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Foucault5.jpg

Foucault: *What is an author?*

- Foucault responded to Roland Barthes's essay, "The Death of the Author" in his 1969 essay, "What Is an Author?" (published in 1977).
  - Barthes's goal in the essay was effectively to replace "the Author" (as the primary creative signifier) with writing (or the process of creation rather than what he saw as an arbitrary creator (see Wilson, 1999, p. 340).
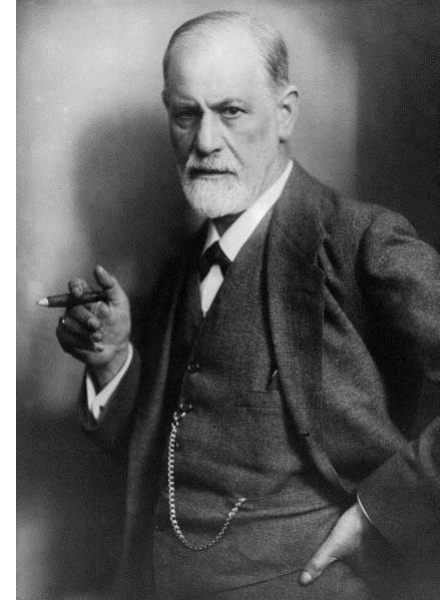
What is an author?

In his essay Foucault (1977) asks:

- "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'?" (p. 118).

- Foucault (1977) actually anticipated many of the challenges that would eventually arise in the field of KO as he diminished the "noun" that has been taken to signify an author and replace that inadequate speech act with "name" as classification (p. 123).

- Foucault's author-function
  - extends beyond the attributes of a person
  - a human being who lives in a certain place at a certain time and who has other identifiable attributes that can be recorded as authority data in an authority record.

Complexities of Identity

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sigmund_Freud_LIFE.jpg

- Example: Sigmund Freud
    - Freud was the author of definable and attributable works.
    - The discourse surrounding Freud extends beyond the person or the proper name.
        - Freud gave birth (intentionally or not) to Freudianism, or discursive practice that draws in some ways from his works. He also gave birth to psychoanalysis, a school of psychiatric and psychological practice.
        - There are also individuals that have complex connections to Freud, such as Carl Jung. Jung and Freud are also responsible for works on dreams, but Jung departed from Freud's orthodoxy.
        - Freud has further given rise to those who have reacted against his works and expressions including Betty Friedan.
    - As Foucault (1977) remarks, authors who can be seen as embodying author-functions, such as Freud , are "'initiators of discursive practices,' [who] not only made possible a certain number of analogies that could be adopted by future texts, but, as importantly, they also made possible a certain number of differences" (p. 132).

http://lechatmasque.wordpress.com/2011/08/09/livre-rouge-carl-gustav-jung-edition-france-musee-guimet/

http://www.npr.org/2013/02/10/171309154/at-50-does-feminine-mystique-still-roar

Review of the Literature

Authorship

- The principle of authorship is pivotal to the design and use of KOSs (Smiraglia, Lee, & Olson, 2011).

- In speaking of the creation and diffusion of knowledge, authors "facilitate discourse" (Smiraglia & Lee, 2012, p. 36) and accordingly, are essential components of surrogate records describing works.

- In the modern tradition, the author is "in the narrower sense, [...] the person who writes a book; in a wider sense it may be applied to him who is the cause of the book's existence [....]" (Cutter, 1904, p. 14).
  - Authors, therefore, exercise an essential function in the creation of a work, and in the Western tradition, are credited in the bibliography (Smiraglia, Lee, & Olson, 2011).

- The concept of authorship may be evolving at present (see Smiraglia & Lee, 2012), especially given the collaborative environment that the web represents.

- It is also possible to imagine limited situations where users are seeking specific information and where in those instances, the author of the content retrieved may not matter (Svenonius, 2000).

Given the evolution of circumstances for the creation of works and the information needs of a broader variety of users, the concept of authorship is one that continues to be addressed in KO and LIS.
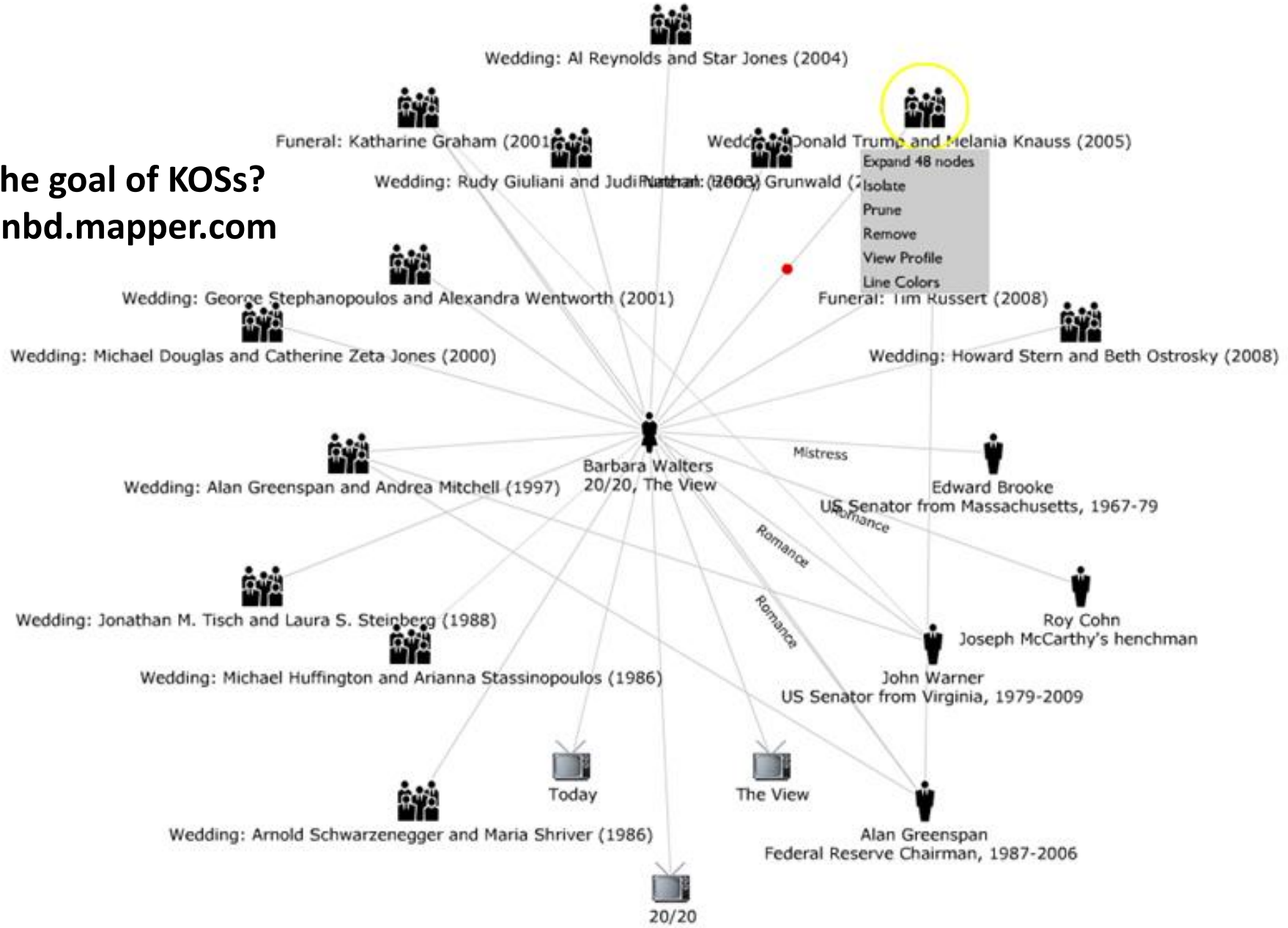
Review of the Literature

Name Authorities

- Information about people who are either authors (Group 2 entitles) or subjects (Group 3 entities) is retained in the KOS in a complementary database, the authority file.
- Authority files contain records about individuals playing a role in the bibliographic universe and are able to be consulted by employees in the creation of surrogate records.
  - Name authority work "provides a preferred from of name with cross-references to different forms and related names" (Burke & Shorten, 2013, p. 365), with the assumption that the name itself might change over time.
  - To facilitate changes in names, non-text-based (presumably numerical) identifiers have been proposed as a complement to the traditional name-based but perpetually-updating headings entered into surrogates (Niu, 2013).
  - VIAF, the Virtual International Authority File, provides unique identifiers that could be used in this way (Niu, 2013); VIAF also supplies URIs for name authority records (VIAF, 2013), potentially allowing VIAF records to become part of the linked data web.
- Yee (2005) warns of the issues that arise in doing a keyword search for Samuel Clemens and *Tom Sawyer* in the online library catalog if the authority record for Mark Twain is not also searched as part of the query.
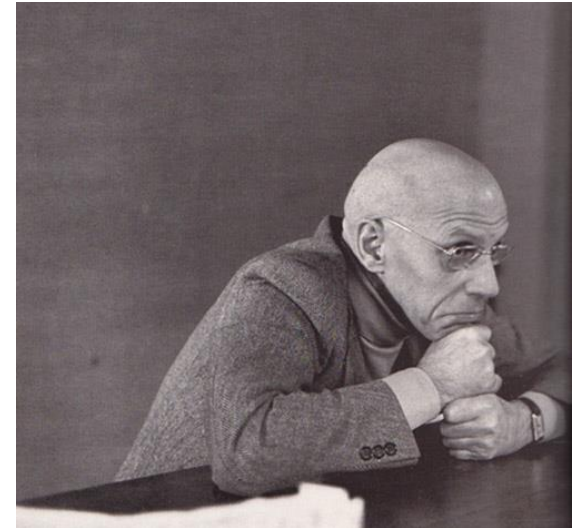
The goal of KOSs?
nnbd.mapper.com

Wedding: Al Reynolds and Star Jones (2004)

Funeral: Katharine Graham (2001)

Wedding: Rudy Giuliani and Judith Nathan (2003) Grunwald

Wedding: Donald Trump and Melania Knauss (2005)

Expand 48 nodes
Isolate
Prune
Remove
View Profile
Line Colors

Wedding: George Stephanopoulos and Alexandra Wentworth (2001)

Funeral: Tim Russert (2008)

Wedding: Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones (2000)

Wedding: Howard Stern and Beth Ostrosky (2008)

Barbara Walters
20/20, The View

Mistress

Edward Brooke
US Senator from Massachusetts, 1967-79

Wedding: Alan Greenspan and Andrea Mitchell (1997)

Romance

Romance

Roy Cohn
Joseph McCarthy's henchman

Wedding: Jonathan M. Tisch and Laura S. Steinberg (1988)

John Warner
US Senator from Virginia, 1979-2009

Wedding: Michael Huffington and Arianna Stassinopoulos (1986)

Today

The View

Wedding: Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver (1986)

Alan Greenspan
Federal Reserve Chairman, 1987-2006

20/20

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Analysis of Current Initiatives

- *Selected Library Standards*
  - *MARC*
  - *RDA**
- *Selected Projects*
  - DBpedia. DBpedia (http://wiki.dbpedia.org/About), the linked data version of wikipedia*
  - Europeana. Europeana (http://www.europeana.eu/) retains information similar in scope
  - AustLit. AustLit, the Australian Literature Resources (http://austlit.edu.au/)*
  - The American Civil War: Letters and Diaries. This product, available via Alexander Street Press*
- In the handout (Table 1) you can see the work being done by each of these initiatives to provide additional information that would be *Foucault-friendly*

*examples to follow

http://fuckyeahmichelfoucault.tumblr.com/

RDA authority record in LC authority file

Descriptive conventions rda

Personal name heading Foucault, Michel, 1926-1984
    Browse this term in LC Authorities *or the* LC Online Catalog

Variant(s) Fūkūh, Mīshīl, 1926-1984
    Foucault, Michael, 1926-1984
    Fuko, Mišel, 1926-1984
    Pʻukʻo, 1926-1984
    Pʻukʻo, Misyel, 1926-1984
    Phoukō, Misel, 1926-1984
    Fuke
    福柯
    Fuḳo, Mishel, 1926-1984

Birth date 19260101

Death date 19840625

Place of birth Poitiers, France

Place of death Paris, France

Profession or occupation Philosopher Historian Author

Special note Non-Latin script reference not evaluated

Found in His Madness and civilization, 1965.
    Becker, H. Die Logik der Strategie, 1981: t.p. (Michael Foucaults)
    Coloquio Foucault (1985 : São Paulo, Brazil). Recordar Foucault, 1985: p. 7

http://lccn.loc.gov/n79065356

Topic

Library of Congress en

mid: /m/04jp2   **notable type**: /organization/organization   **notable for**: /organization/organization   **on the web**: W wikipedia.org ▾

The Library of Congress is the research library of the United States Congress, the de facto national library of the United States of America, and the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States. Located in four buildings in Washington, D.C., as well as the Packard Campus in Culpeper, Virginia, it is one of the two largest libraries in the world by shelf space and number of books, the other being The British Library. The head of the Library is the Librarian of Congress, currently James H. Billington. The Library of Congress was instituted for Congress in 1800, and was housed in the United States Capitol for most of the 19th century. After much of the original collection had been destroyed during the War of 1812, Thomas Jefferson sold 6,487 books — his entire personal collection — to the library in 1815. After a period of decline during the mid-19th century the Library of Congress began to grow rapidly in both size and importance after the American Civil War, culminating in the construction of a separate library building and the transference of all copyright deposit holdings to the Library. During the rapid expansion of the 20th century the Library of Congress assumed a preeminent public role, becoming a "library of last resort" and expanding its mission for the benefit of scholars and the American people. Wikipedia [-]

Properties	I18n	Keys	Links	Writes

⚙ ▾

Flag Topic

Merge with another topic

Split into multiple topics

Delete from Freebase

Flag as objectionable

Discuss

Keyboard Shortcuts

View and edit specific domains, types, or properties...

Filter options: ☐ Show all domains and properties

Common /common

≈ Freebase Commons

Topic /common/topic   X

Also known as /common/topic/alias

Library Congress

The Library Of Congress

LoC

Description /common/topic/description

The Library of Congress is the research library of the United States Congress, the de facto national library of the United States of America, and the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States. Located in four buildings in Washington, D.C., as well as the Packard Campus in Culpeper, Virginia, it is one of the two largest libraries in the world by shelf space and number of books, the other being The British Library. The head of the Library is the Librarian of Congress, currently James H. Billington. The Library of Congress was instituted for Congress in 1800, and was housed in the United States Capitol for most of the 19th century. After much of the original collection had been destroyed during the War of 1812, Thomas Jefferson sold 6,487 books — his entire personal collection — to the library in 1815. After a period of decline during the mid-19th century the Library of Congress began to grow rapidly in both size and importance after the American Civil War, culminating in the construction of a separate library building and the transference of all copyright deposit holdings to the Library. During the rapid expansion of the 20th century the Library of Congress assumed a preeminent public role, becoming a "library of last resort" and expanding its mission for the benefit of scholars and the American people. Wikipedia

36 values total »

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Business
Employer

Architecture
Architectural structure owner
Building Occupant

Computers
Software Developer

Books
Literature Subject
Publisher

AustLit

See metadata about him; also categories, including Works about his works

Patrick White (191 works by) (a.k.a. Patrick Victor Martindale White)
Also writes as: Alex Xenophon Demirjian Gray
Born: 28 May 1912 London ENGLAND ; Died: 30 Sep 1990 Sydney NEW SOUTH WALES
Gender: Male

AUTHOR

Works By (191)

Works About Author (1222)

Works About Their Works (1525)

Awards (11)

Most Referenced Works

1   📖 **Voss** Patrick White , 1957 *novel*

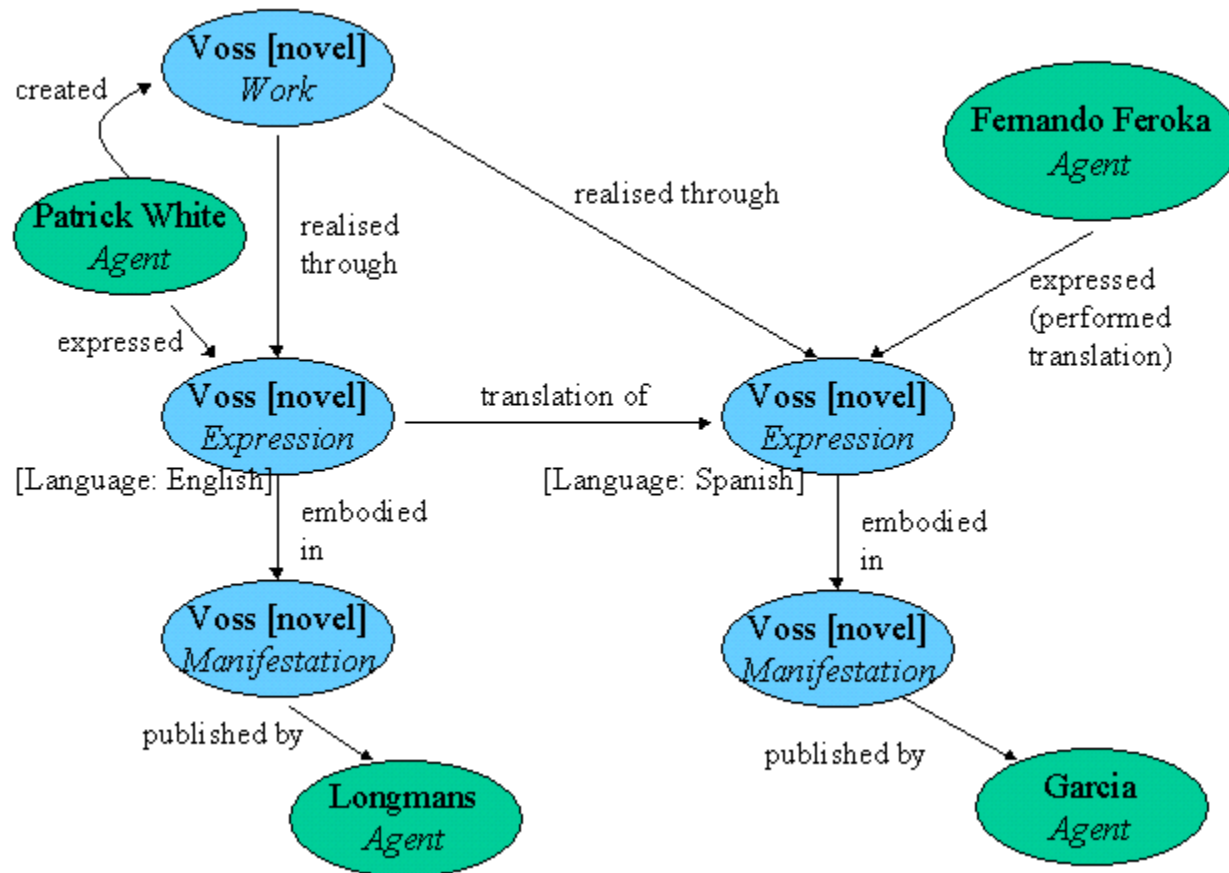# AustLit's Data Model
(excerpts, bold added)

ATTRIBUTES

- Works, Expressions and Manifestations all have attributes, and Creation, Realisation and Manifestation events all have attributes. Works, for example, can have subject attributes –- they can be about things –- and work creation events can have creators, places, and dates of creation as attributes.

- **Works can also have relationships. They can be the subjects of works, or they can influence other works or other writers.**

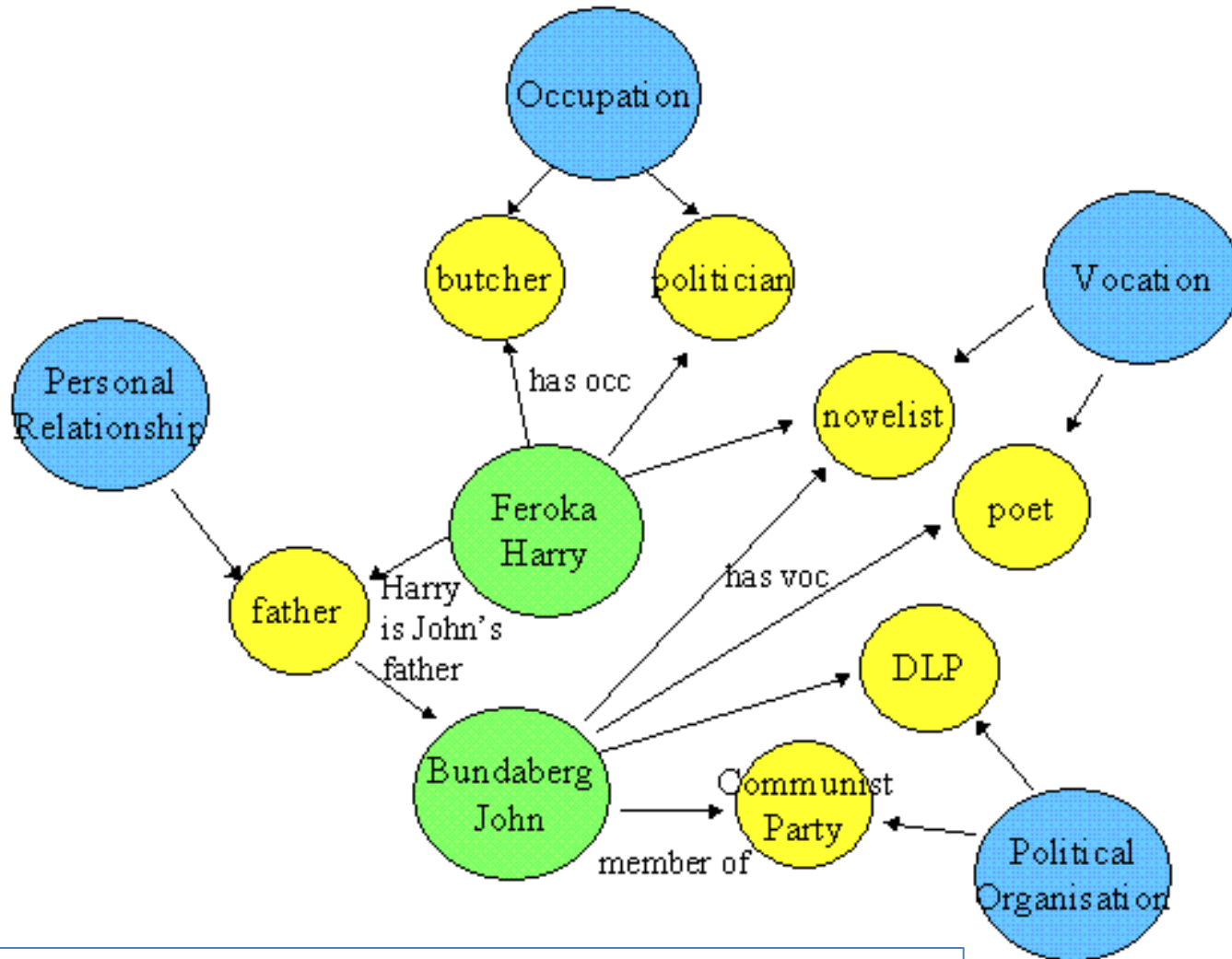AGENTS (AUTHORS, ORGANISATIONS AND OTHERS)

- AustLit treats all organisations, and all people, including authors, as Agents. **Like Works, Expressions and Manifestations, Agents can have attributes, such as names, including alternative writing names, gender, nationality, cultural heritage, and personal awards.**

- **Agents can be associated with events, which themselves have attributes.** All will have birth and, eventually, death events, with date and place attributes. They will also be associated with creation, realisation and manifestation events, with all the attributes which Works, Expressions and Manifestations can 'own'.

- Agents can also have relationships: they can be the subjects of works, or they can influence other writers or other works.

Source: http://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/5961888

AustLit: Agents and Works in the ALEG Data Model
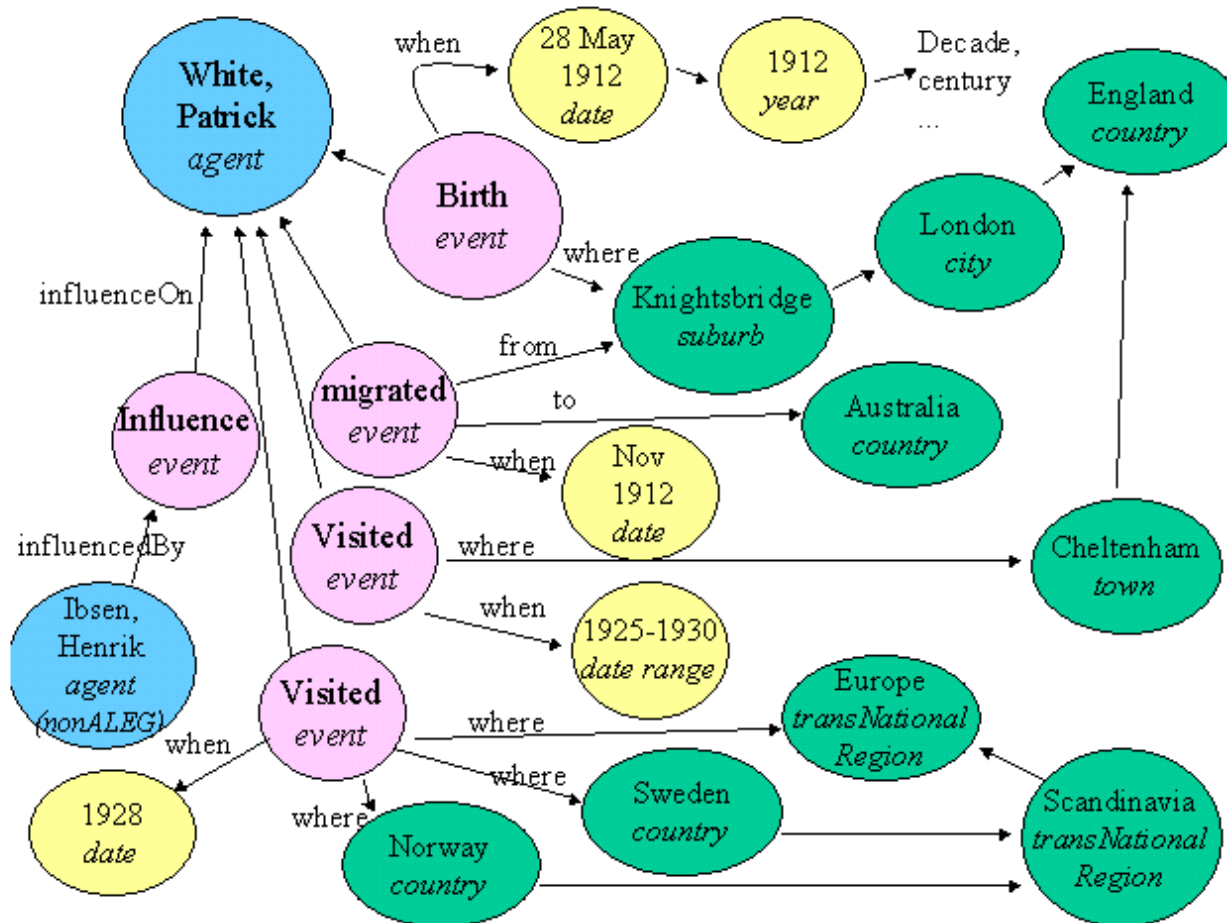
AustLit: Personal relationships and attributes in the ALEG Data Model

AustLit: Attributes and Influences in the ALEG Data Model

Patrick White - The Early Years
A few events sourced from http://www.nobel.se/laureates/literature-1973-1-autobio.html

http://www.austlit.edu.au:7777/DataModel/relationshipInventory2.html

Advanced Search

[SEARCH] [CLEAR]

Search Texts: [_____] (e.g., plantation)

Note: the vertical line (|) serves as the OR operator (e.g., uneasy|apprehensive or poor man|boy).
For pattern matching one may employ wildcard characters (e.g., doubt* retrieves doubt, doubts and doubted).

Select a Search Option:

A. (Default) Single Term and Phrase Search ●

B. Proximity Searching: in the same Sentence ○

or Paragraph ○

or Separated ○ by [3] words [or fewer ▼] in the same sentence.

Limit your search by the following fields:

Author:	[_____] [Terms]	(e.g., Ellis)
Gender:	[▼] (Select an option)	
Age When Writing:	[_____]	(e.g., 42 or 30-45)
Allegiance:	[▼] (Select an option)	
Residence:	[_____] [Terms]	(e.g., Pennsylvania)
Race:	[_____] [Terms]	(e.g., White)
Religion:	[_____] [Terms]	(e.g., Quaker)

Discussion

- Is there little doubt that in a system dedicated to bibliographic records the *book* would be the central focus?
    - With the focus on access to information about the book and its features, access to information about the author historically has been overlooked.
- In the traditional KOS used in libraries, information about attributes of authors has been and remains hidden from patrons.
    - Subject headings *Big Red Books* (aka the *Library of Congress Subject Headings),* made available
    - Some of the importance of the author in the traditional KOS is lost in the fact that he is reduced to a name – a character string that can be collocated with identical character strings. Systems with authority records created using AACR2 only have information about the author as it pertains to the choice of the character string that forms the heading.
- FRBR and FRAD expand on the notion of author-as-character-string, adding information about the author as a person that have the potential to expand on the author-function.

Discussion

- FRBR and FRAD do not go far enough in permitting users to understand an author in light of her author-function and to collocate (works, authors, movements, etc.) based on that author-function.

- Content pertaining to authors (and even to people) can and should be included in authority records. This additional content would allow library KOSs to be searched in a more robust manner.

- Use-case scenarios that involve the selection of works based on criteria of authorship are easy to imagine.
  - Researchers could examine books on a topic that were authored by 20-year-olds versus 70-year-olds.
    - Information about age at the time of publication would need to be included in the authority records in library KOSs for this to happen in FRBR-compliant systems.
  - Researches could also want to read all of the works written by members of a particular group, such as the Bloomsbury Group from England in the 1920s or by authors who frequented a certain French salon as the Enlightenment took shape.

Events

The Author-Function and Events

- Events, in particular, can be defining aspects of an author's life, bringing about changes in relationships and statuses.
- An example of an event could be a wedding.
  - By virtue of the marriage, the participants change their statuses from single to married ("Miss" to "Mrs." according to tradition).
  - They also enter into new relationships with another person (husband, parent, step-parent, etc.).
  - Attendees at events also have the potential to be marked by it – they may meet future marriage partners at a wedding; they may also meet people in passing who do not, ultimately, affect their attributes or relationships.
  - The interactions at events have the potential to influence persons, providing fodder for a fictionalized account of the events in the form of a work, or by overhearing conversations that influence thinking on, for example, a work in progress.

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Europeana *Events*

- Of the selected projects described above, only Europeana is considering implementing information about events to be recorded in authority records. Europeana will do this through the wasPresentAt element.
  - Events can be a defining factor in the life of any person, including an author.
  - This information would be recorded as well as attributes she possesses and relationships she has had, even if these attributes and relationships were attained as a result of participation in events.
  - Being able to create a bibliographic network of *events* would permit users to search more and better content about the context of authors.

Discussion

- The fourteen person attributes identified in FRAD provide enriched authority records for use in KOSs and take an author from being a character string to becoming a more three-dimensional individual with the characteristics (attributes) of a person.
  - Information about attributes and about relationships, identified separately in Table 1, goes a long way toward making personal name records reflect the person-ness of the authors they represent. They are less able, however, to indicate how those attributes and relationships were engendered if they were the result of an event in the author's life.
  - Increased information about the author that can be leveraged to carry out searches in future KOSs is a great benefit to users and is indisputability an improvement over the previous name-only methods.

End-User Searching

- No matter the sophistication of an authority file's records, content will remain hidden until KOSs permit the kind of targeted retrieval that *The American Civil War: Letters and Diaries* permits with its advanced search's series of drop-down menus
    1. The first step to ensuring robust access to works via sufficient information about their authors is to begin to include the kinds of attribute and relationship data that appear in DBpedia records and event data that appear in Europeana records for individuals in the authority records in our KOSs.
    2. The necessary second step is to permit retrieval based on that data.

Conclusion

- Works are created by persons (or corporate bodies) in the FRBR model; persons create, yet, in doing so, the person becomes an author who is associated with a context extending beyond his or her *person-ness*.
  - The author-function as described by Foucault goes beyond the contextualization of entities in the bibliographic universe to include aspects of the person as an author.
- In the past, the KOS author was not a person, he was a character string in a database.
  - This weakness is being overcome in FRBR/FRAD, which include fourteen attributes of persons in records for authors. DBpedia permits many more kinds of attributes than FRAD's fourteen to be recorded in a person's record, thereby potentially giving a fuller perspective on the person as well as potentially allowing for retrieval of works based on attributes of authors.
  - All four of the projects examined in this paper, Europeana, AustLit, American Civil War: Letters and Diaries, and DBpedia permit both attributes and relationships to be recorded in the authority record and permit some degree of *retrieval* based on them. These projects serve as examples of what the FRBR model could permit library-based KOSs (e.g. online catalogs) to do if relationship information were recorded in the authority records.

Conclusion, cont.

- Europeana is the only surveyed KOS publicly envisioning the inclusion of information about *events* in authority records for individuals. It is this final aspect that has the potential to make Europeana more Foucault-friendly than the other projects and the standards that were examined.

- We therefore make a case for the inclusion not only of *attributes* in authority records, but also for the inclusion of information on *relationships* and *events* in those same records in an effort to provide additional context supporting the author-function.

  - To best make use of this additional data, we strongly encourage KOSs to implement retrieval systems that are robust enough to permit users to search for works within the context of the author, going beyond a simple search on a character string that is the author's name heading in the body of the bibliographic record.

Heather Lea Moulaison (Rutgers and UIUC grad, Francophile, ICAL2 attendee…)

Felicity Dykas (MU grad, healthy-food eater, MOBIUS conference attendee…)

John M. Budd (Chapel Hill and LSU grad, philosopher, CAIS conference attendee…)

THANK YOU.

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