

The information landscape of the twenty-first century is very different from that of the previous century. Consequently, the library community has created theoretical models to explain the changes in users' information seeking behaviour. One of these theoretical models that attempts to explain users' interactions with bibliographic information contained within library catalogues is *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (FRBR) created by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in 1998. Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) is an entity relationship model.

In this book Zhang and Salaba discuss how libraries are applying the FRBR model. There are three objectives of the book *Implementing FRBR in Libraries: Key Issues and Future Directions*: “(1) to provide an overview of the current status of FRBR development; (2) to identify the key issues that need to be addressed; and (3) to point to future directions of FRBR development” (Zhang and Salaba, p. x). The seven chapters in this book give the reader an insight into the impact of the FRBR model on current research, cataloguing standards and practices, and its application and implementation in libraries.

The first chapter of this book gives an overview of the FRBR model by explaining what FRBR is, the reasons behind its introduction, the potential benefits of implementing FRBR and the challenges facing FRBR development.

Chapter 2 describes the FRBR model in detail. This chapter discusses the entity groups that are a crucial part of the model as well as topics such as further development of the FRBR model and related models. The family of related models include Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD) and Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data (FRSAD). Interoperability with other models and critical issues and challenges in the FRBR model itself are also examined in this chapter.

The third chapter reviews the impact of FRBR on current cataloguing standards and practices by answering the question: what changes will FRBR bring? The authors examine the impact of FRBR on international cataloguing principles; description standards such as the international standard bibliographic description, resource description and access; Dublin Core metadata initiative and
other cataloguing standards; changes in encoding standards; and critical issues in cataloguing.

Chapter 4 reviews examples of the FRBR model applied to genre or format collections and disciplinary communities such as works of art, classical texts, fiction, national literature, moving images, music, serials and other continuing resources. This chapter also investigates how the FRBR model may be applied in various settings such as traditional libraries, consortia, digital libraries, institutional repositories, internet archives and museums. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the critical issues and challenges in FRBR application.

The fifth chapter, covering FRBR implementations in library catalogues, reviews examples of the three types of current FRBR implementation projects: algorithms and software, prototypes or experimental systems, and full-scale systems. This chapter also includes an overview of FRBR implementation projects and critical issues and challenges in FRBR implementations.

Chapter 6 examines the current status of FRBR research. This chapter gives a FRBR research overview, examines gaps in FRBR user research and concludes with a discussion of critical issues and challenges.

The seventh and last chapter of the book provides some suggestions for further directions for FRBR. It summarizes the earlier chapters, examines key FRBR issues, and suggests future directions for FRBR development, particularly in the area of user perspective and its impact on information discovery beyond catalogues.

Since this book was written in 2009, there have been some developments in the area of FRBR, particularly regarding the impact of this model on current cataloguing standards and practices. Resource Description and Access (RDA), the new cataloguing guidelines to replace the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, has been structured around FRBR concepts.

This book is very well written and explains the FRBR model clearly and concisely. It is well researched, and Zhang and Salaba cite some well-respected Canadian researchers in the area of FRBR. As a librarian who is actively involved in a Canadian national RDA training initiative as an RDA trainer, I would highly recommend this book for practicing cataloguers who are beginning to explore entity relationship models because the authors use easy to understand language to effectively explain the complex FRBR model. In addition, this book gives a comprehensive account of FRBR research, implementation and applications. It also identifies areas for further improvements and therefore would be a valuable addition to any library collection.

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