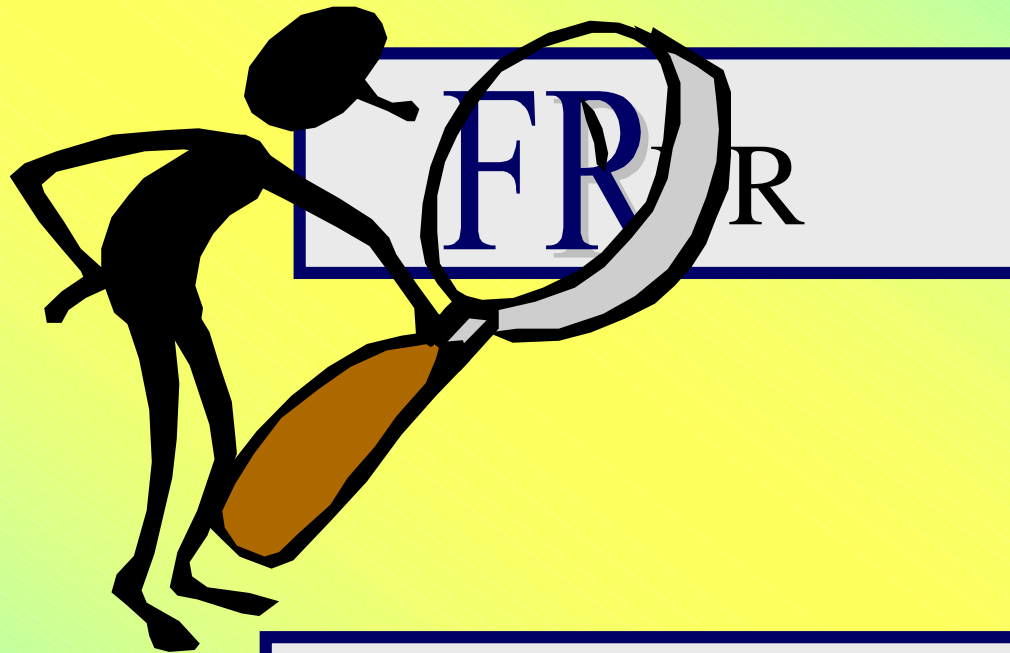5th IFLA Meeting of Experts
on an International Cataloguing Code
Pretoria, 14-15 August 2007
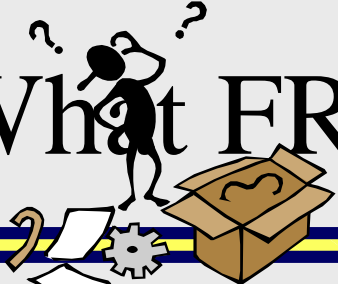
Brave New FRBR World

Patrick Le Bœuf, Bibliothèque nationale de France

FR R

- what it is and what it is *not*
- what it does and what it does *not do*
- how it relates to our major topics

What FRBR is

- a model developed for IFLA
  - 1992-1997
  - aim:
    - "to produce a *framework*
    - that would provide a (…) *commonly shared understanding* of:
      - what it is that the bibliographic record *aims to provide information about,*
      - and what it is that we expect the record to achieve in terms of *answering user needs*"

What FRBR is
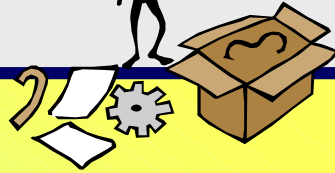
- a reference model
  - a *framework for commonly shared understanding*
  - to have the **same structure** in mind and to refer to the **same concepts** under the **same appellations**
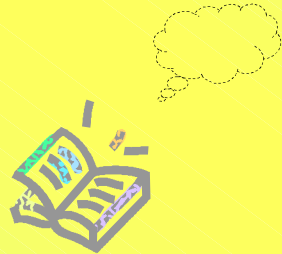 - to compare differently structured data

What RBR is

- an E-R model
  - defines "entities", their "attributes", their "relationships"
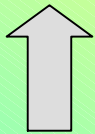 - 3 groups of entities

FRBR's core = Group 1 of Entities:

Work
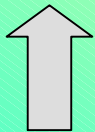
The ***book*** is set in Africa
(in whichever "version")

Expression

Which version of the ***book*** is this?
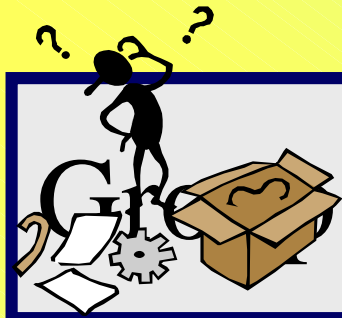(i.e., a text)

Manifestation

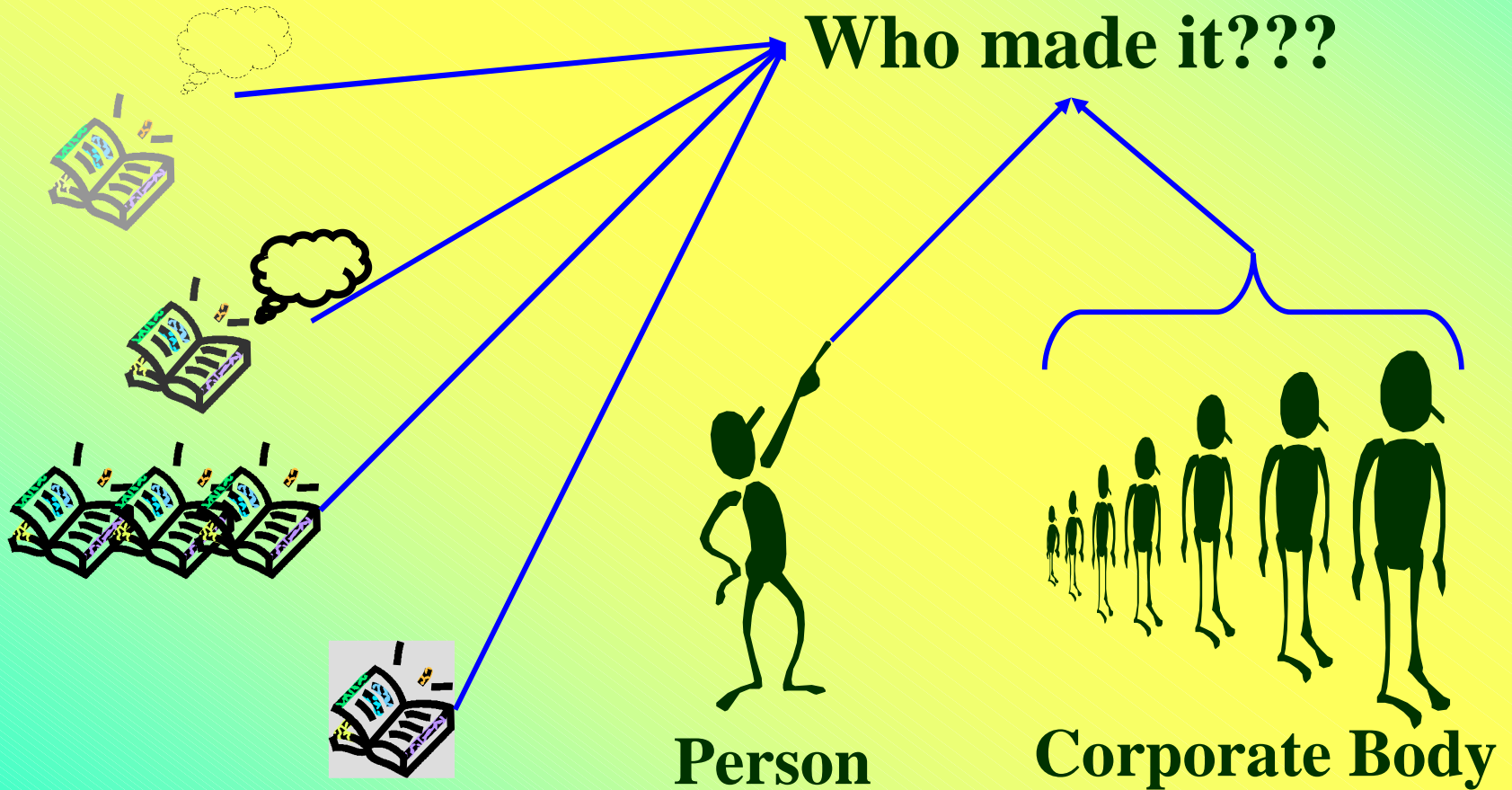I have to order that ***book***
(i.e., a publication)

Item

I have lost my ***book***
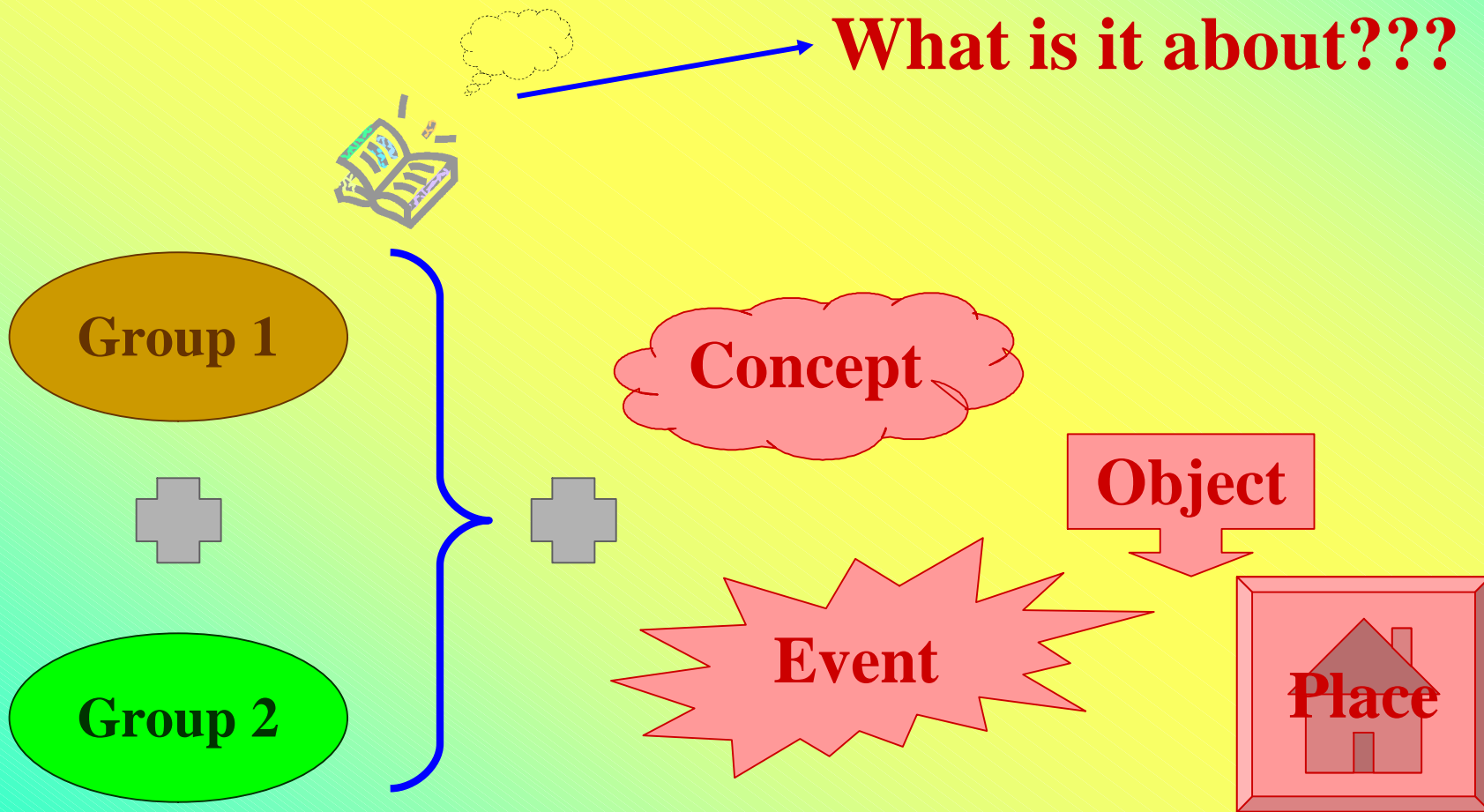(i.e., a physical copy)

The word **book** has at least four distinct meanings…

Group 2 of entities:

Who made it???

Person

Corporate Body

Group 3 of entities:

What is it about???

Group 1

+

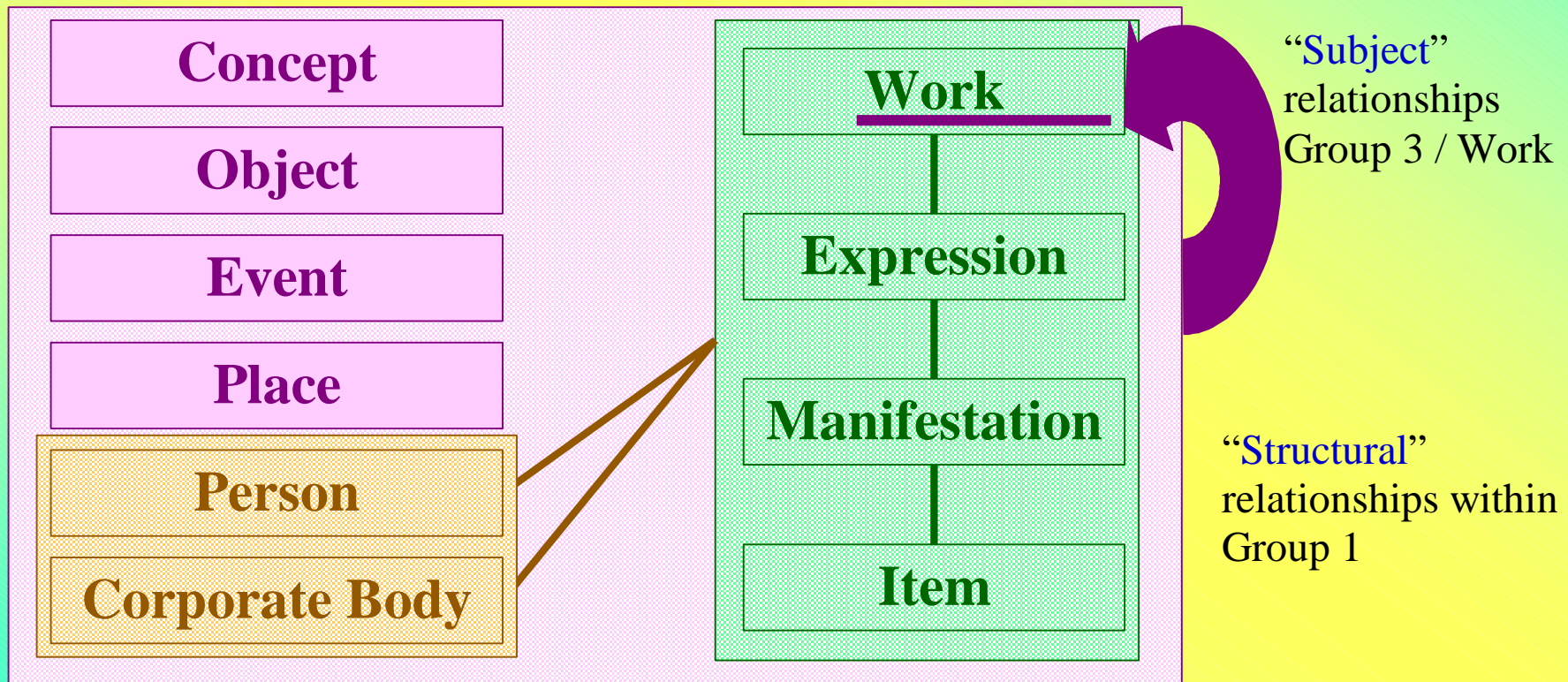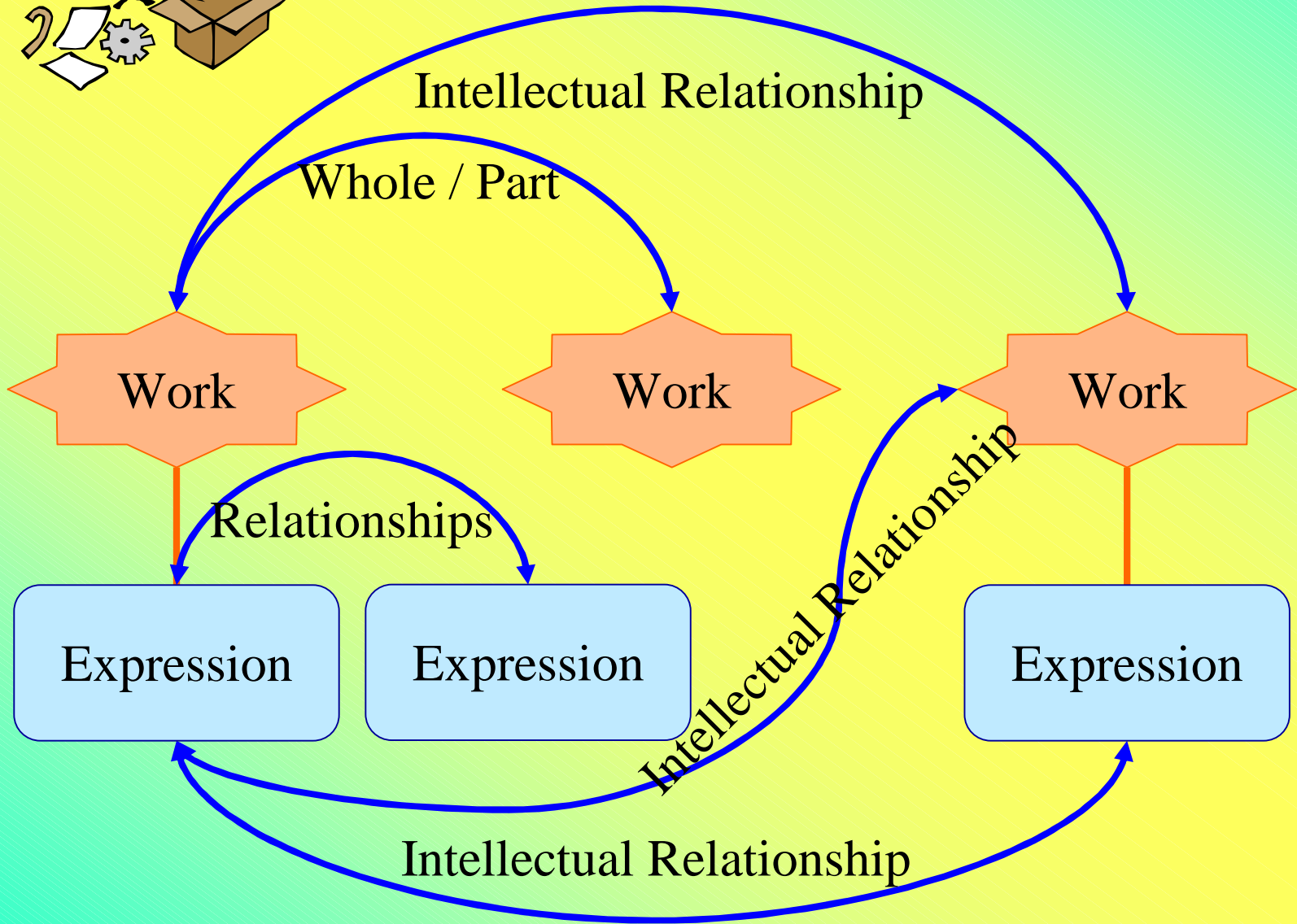Group 2

Concept

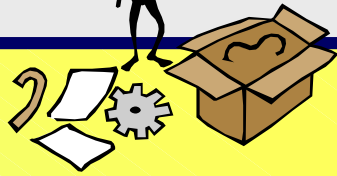Object

Event

Place

Attributes

- "Attributes" characterise instances of entities

- For instance:
  - A given Manifestation is characterised by its "Date of Publication" attribute
  - A given Person is characterised by its "Name" attribute, etc.
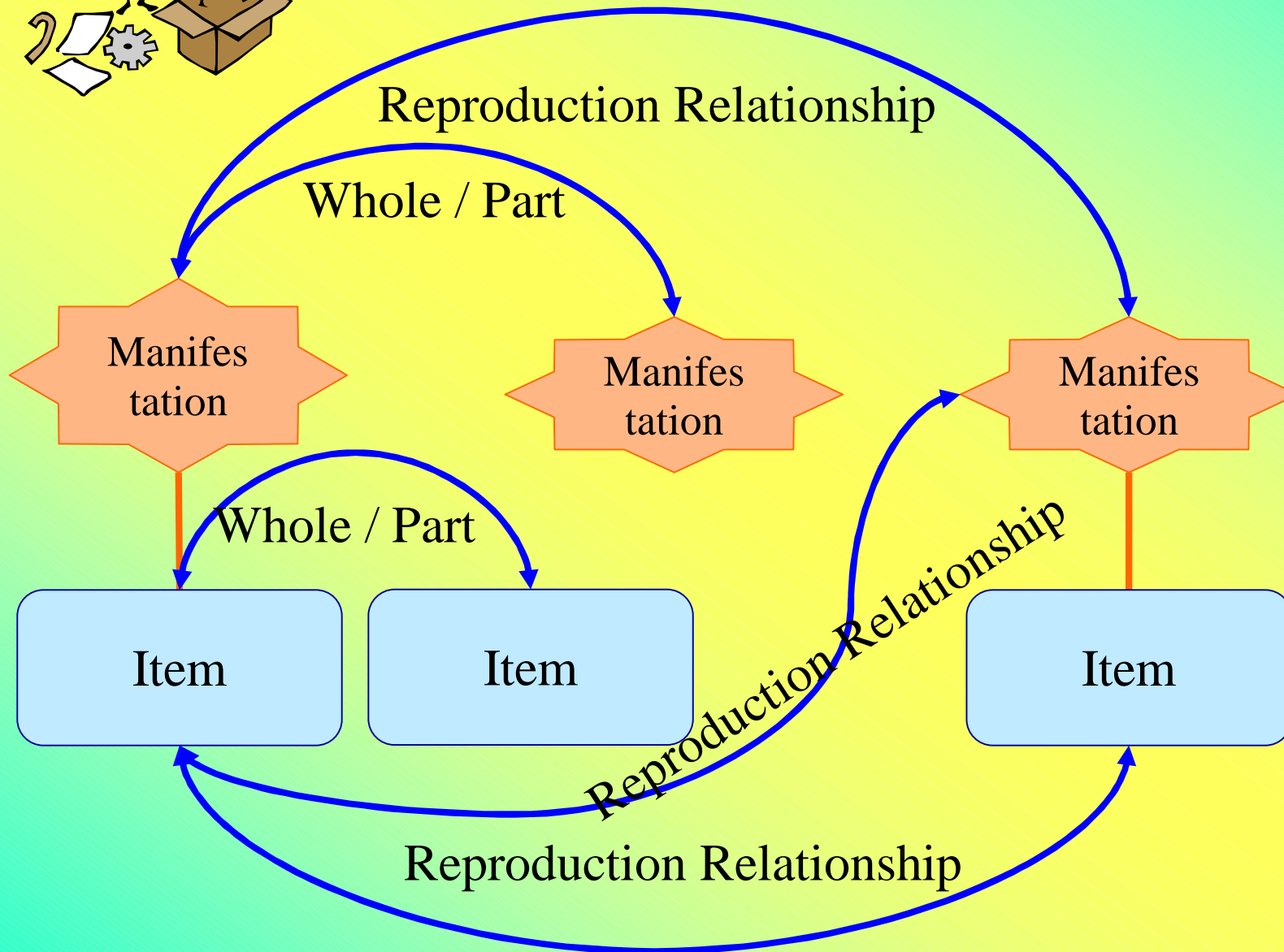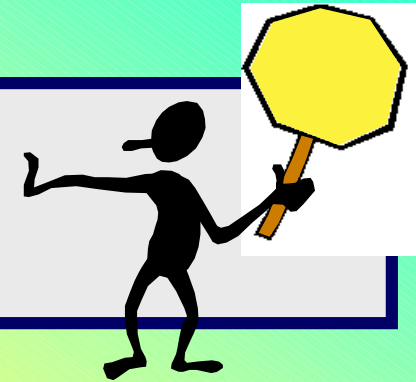
Relationships

Concept

Object

Event

Place

Person

Corporate Body

Work

Expression

Manifestation

Item

"Subject" relationships
Group 3 / Work

"Structural" relationships within Group 1

"Responsibility" relationships
Group 2 / Group 1

Relationships

Intellectual Relationship

Whole / Part

Work

Work

Work

Relationships

Intellectual Relationship

Expression

Expression

Expression

Intellectual Relationship

Relationships

Reproduction Relationship

Whole / Part

Manifes tation

Manifes tation

Manifes tation

Whole / Part

Item

Item

Reproduction Relationship

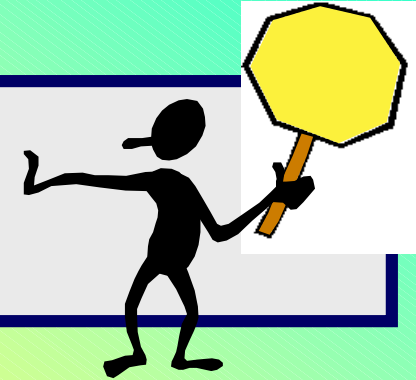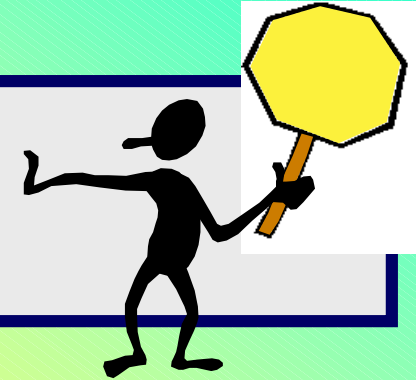Item

Reproduction Relationship

What FRBR is *not*

- a data model
  - attributes **too generic** to allow for an implementation of the model such as it stands
  - e.g., FRBR does not account for different kinds of titles
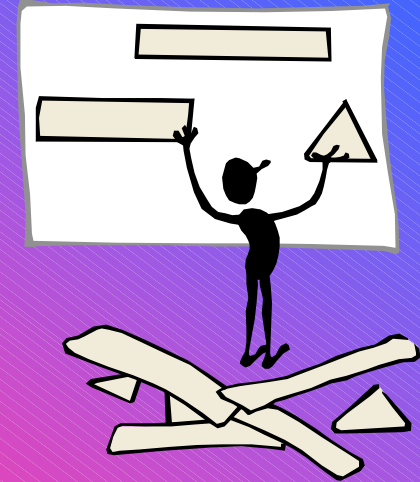
What FRBR is *not*

- an ISBD
  - FRBR does not state *how* **to structure** data elements
  - nor *how* **to display** them
  - FRBR is **broader** and **more abstract** than ISBDs
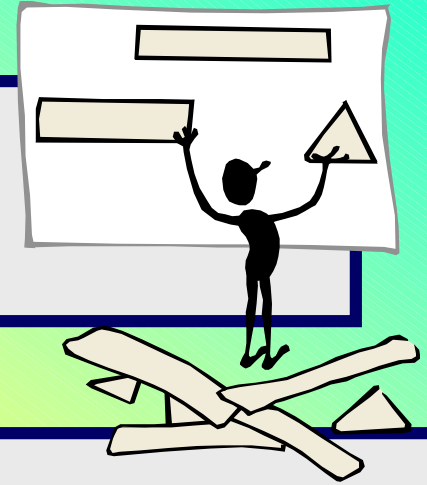
What FRBR is *not*

- a cataloguing code
  - FRBR is **not prescriptive**
  - FRBR does not say *how* **to create** bibliographic **records**
  - FRBR is at a merely **conceptual** level

Some examples of implementation

- AustLit Gateway
- Virtua
- OCLC

Implementation

- AustLit Gateway
  - applies to an exclusively literary corpus of Australian texts
  - *not* a catalogue
  - work-centred; displays for each work all of its expressions and manifestations on a single Web page (example on next slide)

Lilian's Story

work

Expressions

This work has appeared in at least 3 different versions:

1.
- Sydney, New South Wales : Allen and Unwin, 1985.
  ISBN: 0868614939
  Extent: 211p.

2. Notes:The second (revised) edition includes textual changes and 12 extra pages. Changes were suggested by Grenville's American editor.
Publications of this version include the following 3:

- New York (City), New York (State), United States of America (USA) : Viking Penguin, 1986.
  ISBN: 0670809292
  Extent: 227p.
  Edition Info: 2nd rev. ed.
- North Sydney, New South Wales : Allen and Unwin, 1991.
  ISBN: 1863730230 (pbk.)
  Extent: 227p.
  Edition Info: Rev. ed.
- St Leonards, New South Wales : Allen and Unwin, 1997.
  ISBN: 1864482842 (pbk.)
  Extent: 280p.
  Edition Info: Rev. ed.
  Notes: • Paperback ed. with new cover - t.p. verso

3. Alternative title: La storia di Lilian
Language:Italian
Translator: Pugno, Laura
- Rome, Italy and Naples, Italy : Theoria, 1998.

Manifestations

Credits to:
AustLit Gateway
& Carol Hetherington

Implementation
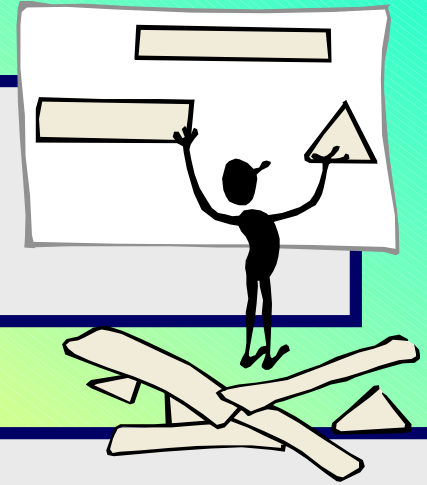
- Virtua
  - 2002: VTLS Inc. releases Virtua 41.0
  - MARC records can be "split" into 4 levels
  - "Flat records" and "FRBR records" live side-by-side
  - uses Tom Delsey's mapping of MARC21 to FRBR
  - cataloguing paradigm is still based on ISBDs

ORTAL
ART LIBRARIES

RECHERCHES **simple | par mot-clé | en mode expert**
dans plusieurs bases | par séminaire | par vedette

French

Fermer la session | Sauvegarder la session | Caddie | Historique | Aide | Point de départ

Ecran suivant   Fin de la liste

MARC

Titre uniforme

الف ليلة وليلة

MARC Exemplaires (1)

Titre	The thousand and one nights (Alf Layla wa-Layla): from the earliest known sources / Arabic text ed. with intr. and notes by Muhsin Mahdi
Titre parallele	الف ليلة وليلة
Editeur	Leiden : Brill, 1984-1994
Collation	3 v.
Entrée secondaire	Mahdi, Muhsin
Notes de contenu	1. Arabic text
Notes de contenu	2. Introduction and indexes
Notes de contenu	3. Critical apparatus ; description of manuscripts

الف ليلة وليلة

☐ 📕 Monographie - Arabe

The thousand and one nights (Alf Layla wa-Layla): from the earliest known sources / - Brill, 1984-1994

الف ليلة وليلة - مكتبة الثقافية, 1981

☐ 📕 Monographie - French

Les mille et une nuits : - Garnier, 1941

Implementation
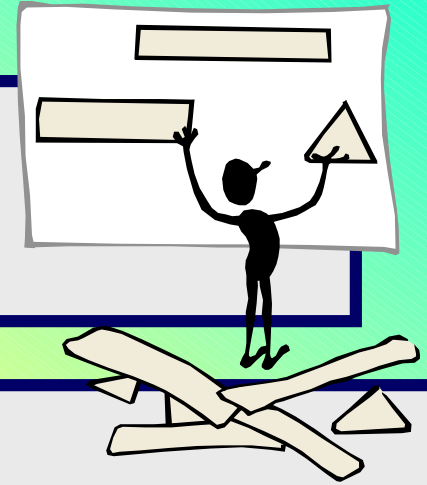
- **FRBR at OCLC:**
  - FRBR Work-set algorithm (<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/frbr/algorithm.htm>)
  - xISBN service (<http://worldcat.org/affiliate/webservices/xisbn/app.jsp>)
  - FRBRized WorldCat.org and Open WorldCat (<http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm>)
  - "FictionFinder" prototype (<http://fictionfinder.oclc.org>)

xISBN (Web service)

Use this Web service to retrieve a list of International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) associated with a submitted ISBN, based on WorldCat information. Free and subscription versions are available.

Frequently Asked Questions: xISBN

- What is the xISBN Web service?
- What are "related ISBNs"?
- Why would I want to retrieve related ISBNs?
- Is this Web service available now?
- Is xISBN free?
- In what ways is the xISBN service provided?
- How to make an order?
- How often is xISBN data updated?
- Does xISBN utilize FRBR?
- I've also heard talk about "xID." What is that?
- Is there a mailing list I can subscribe to to keep informed about xISBN and other xID services?
- How can I learn more about my organization using or licensing xISBN?
- Does the original OCLC Research Web service still work?
- What happens if my application makes too many requests?

What is the xISBN Web service?

xISBN is a Web service that supplies International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) associated with an individual intellectual work, based on information in the WorldCat database. Give it one ISBN, and it returns a list of related ISBNs and selected metadata.

What are "related ISBNs"?

They are ISBNs of other editions or version of the same "work." For example, given the ISBN of the U.S. hardcover edition of The Da Vinci Code, associated ISBNs returned by this Web service might include those for the U.S. paperback; library-bound or large-print editions; audiobooks; foreign editions; and possibly out-of-print editions.

Why would I want to retrieve related ISBNs?

Books are usually referenced by ISBN. However, a user looking for a book usually isn't trying to find a specific edition—they would like to see all versions of the source work. For example, an end user may have an ISBN representing a trade paper edition, but you would like your online application to reference all versions that are in print, or in a library's case, all versions in its collection.

Is this Web service available now?

Yes. You can try it by entering the following address in a Web browser:

```
http:/xisbn.worldcat.org/webservices/xid/isbn/[ISBN]?method=getEditions&format=xml
```

where [ISBN] is a recognized ISBN. For example,

```
http://xisbn.worldcat.org/webservices/xid/isbn/0441172717?method=getEditions&format=xml
```

will return a list of ISBNs for editions of Frank Herbert's *Dune*.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
- <rsp xmlns="http://worldcat.org/xid/isbn/" stat="ok">
    <isbn>0441172717</isbn>
    <isbn>0801950775</isbn>
    <isbn>0399128964</isbn>
    <isbn>044100590X</isbn>
    <isbn>1556909330</isbn>
    <isbn>0425027066</isbn>
    <isbn>0425036987</isbn>
    <isbn>0425046877</isbn>
    <isbn>042507160X</isbn>
    <isbn>0736692401</isbn>
    <isbn>0441172660</isbn>
    <isbn>042505313X</isbn>
    <isbn>1402553242</isbn>
    <isbn>0425080021</isbn>
    <isbn>0441013597</isbn>
    <isbn>0450011844</isbn>
    <isbn>0736689591</isbn>
    <isbn>8470021818</isbn>
    <isbn>0575035404</isbn>
    <isbn>0575068566</isbn>
    <isbn>057501864X</isbn>
    <isbn>0575073349</isbn>
    <isbn>8401469317</isbn>
    <isbn>1402523807</isbn>
    <isbn>1559948981</isbn>
    <isbn>0441010628</isbn>
    <isbn>0194242390</isbn>
    <isbn>1402523602</isbn>
    <isbn>2266008552</isbn>
    <isbn>5237030777</isbn>
    <isbn>8484504085</isbn>
    <isbn>2266008560</isbn>
    <isbn>968320340X</isbn>
    <isbn>0340839937</isbn>
    <isbn>226602664X</isbn>
    <isbn>8320707722</isbn>
    <isbn>849759682X</isbn>
    <isbn>0450031462</isbn>
    <isbn>2266026658</isbn>
```

OCLC: xISBN

OCLC: Open WorldCat

OCLC: Open WorldCat

OCLC: "FictionFinder"

Implementation
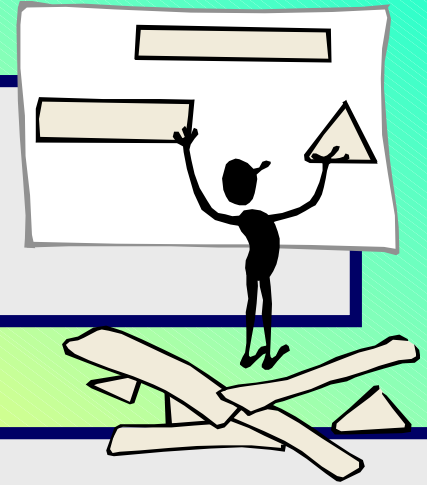
- RLG (Research Libraries Group)
  - "RedLightGreen" OPAC was partially FRBRized
  - Merged with OCLC July 1, 2006
  - No longer available as of November 2006

Implementation
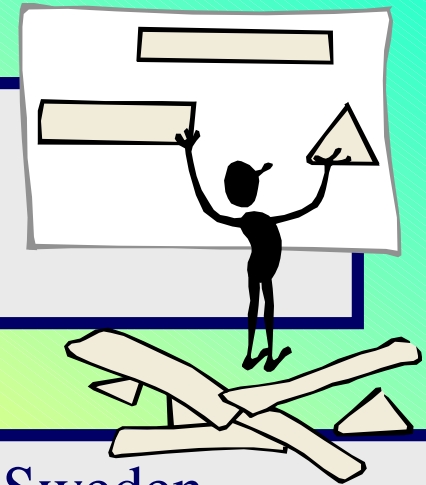
- LIBRIS WebSearch from the National Library of Sweden

Current evolution of FRBR

- FRAD
- FRSAR
- FRBR Review Group
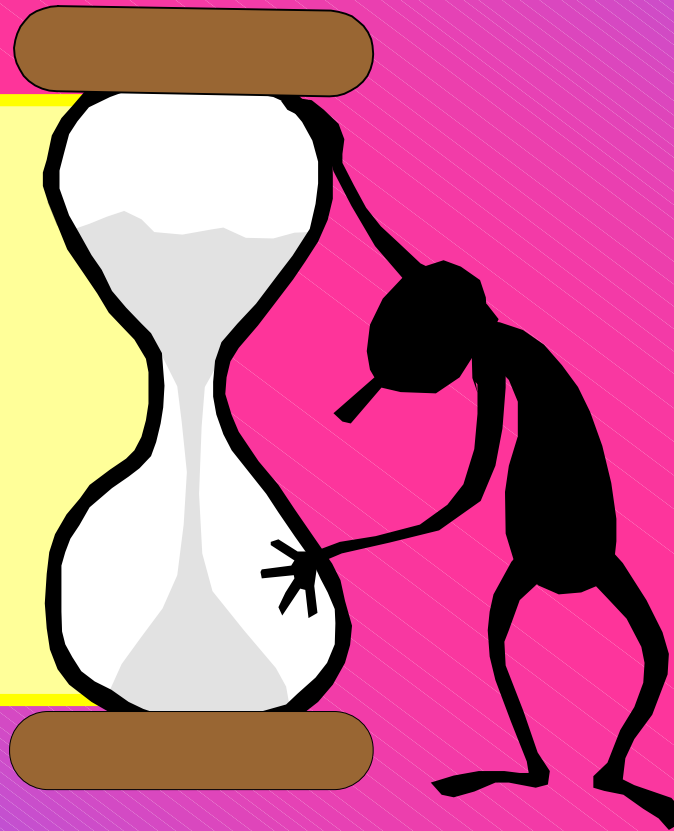
Current evolution
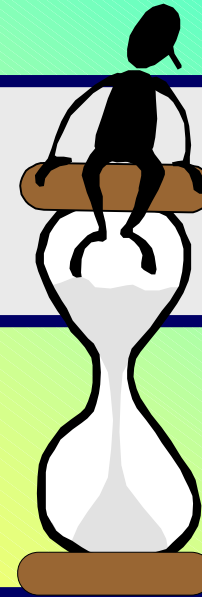
- FRAD
  - 1999: FRANAR Working Group
  - Goal: to model **authority data**
  - 2nd World-wide review to **July 15, 2007**

Current evolution
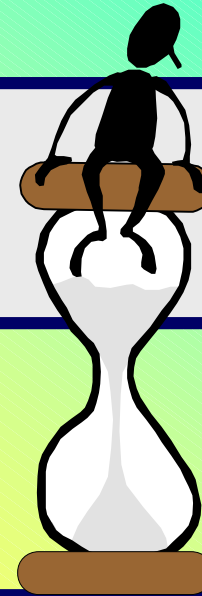
- FRSAR
  - FRSAR Study Group formed in 2005
  - Goal: to model **"subject relationships" (classification and indexing)**
  - FRBR+FRAD+FRSAR = complete model for the "Bibliographic Universe"

Current evolution
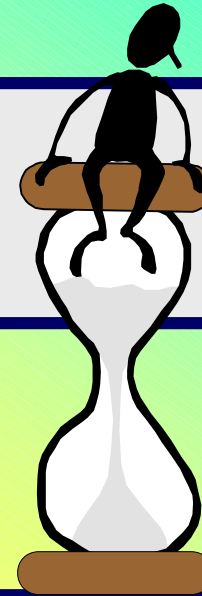
- FRBR Review Group
  - Formed 2003
  - 2005: Working Group on Aggregates (will deal with collections & anthologies, multi-volume monographs, continuing resources, Web sites…)
  - 2006: World-wide review of amendment to expression entity : 1st FRBR amendment!

FRBR
and the Meeting's 5 "Focus Topics" (that happen to be 6…)
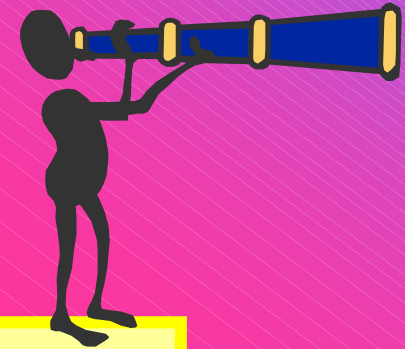
- "Appellations"
- "Types"
- "Aggregates"

"Appellations"

- Names of personal authors
  - FRBR could have defined just one attribute: "**heading**"
  - FRAD: Person entity = real-life person? No; "**Bibliographic Identity**" notion (as in AACR2)
  - undifferentiated names cannot be controlled; to what extent is that **lack of control tolerable**?

"Appellations"

- FRBR and names of corporate bodies
  - FRBR could have defined just one attribute: "**heading**"
  - FRAD: Corporate Body entity = real-life corporate body? No; "**Bibliographic Identity**" notion

"Appellations"

- Uniform titles
  - Title attribute:
    at *Work*, *Expression*, and *Manifestation* level
  - title of a Work = uniform title or title proper
  - no prescription as to what constitutes the title of an Expression
  - title of an Expression = title of the Work, plus… which information elements?

"Types"

- GMDs (General Material Designations)
  - GMDs: **not mentioned** in FRBR
  - define "**type**" attributes for Work, Expression, Manifestation? Combine them into GMDs?
  - e.g.:

textual work – expressed as sound – on physical carrier

textual work – expressed as written word – in manuscript

textual work – expressed as written word – on microform

musical work – expressed as notation – on printed material

musical work – expressed as sound – in an electronic resource on line

cartographic work – in an electronic resource on line

**motion picture – on physical carrier**

multimedia work – on physical carrier(s)

"Aggregates"

- Seriality issues of when to create a new record
  - title change => New *Work*?
  - deal with continuing resources in *authority records* rather than bibliographic records?

"Aggregates"

- Multipart structures
  - More than one Work in one Manifestation: what is the smallest bibliographic unit, the Work or the Manifestation?
  - This echoes the older debate between "literary unit" and "bibliographic unit"
  - Computer system possibilities can help us solve the problem…
  - … provided we make consistent recommendations in such cases as:
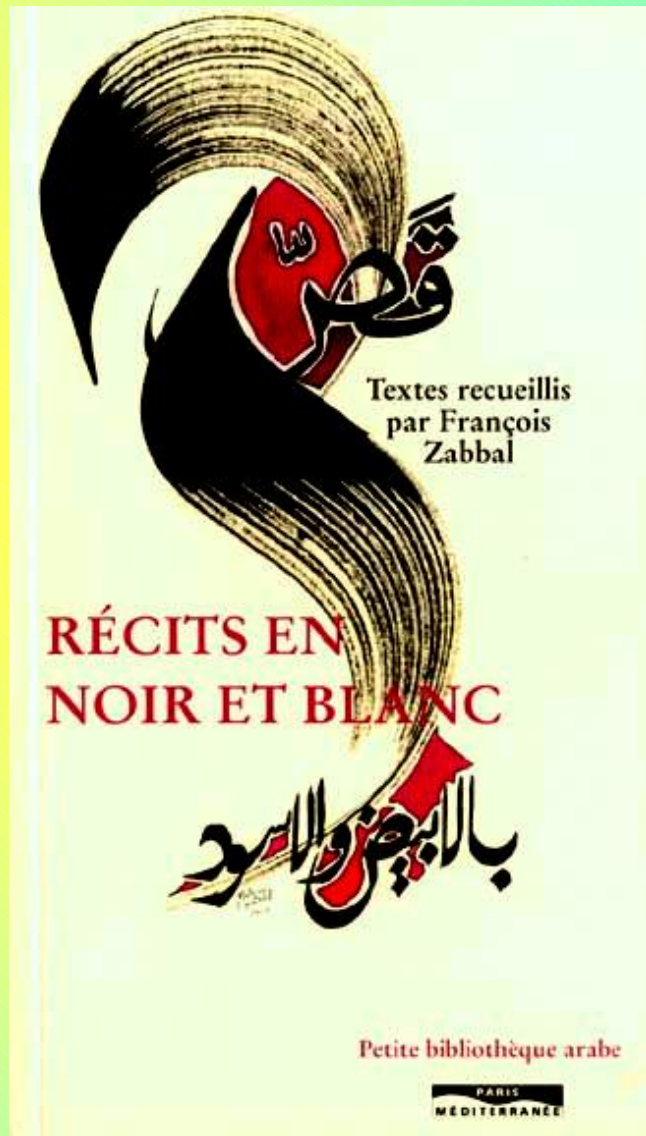
"Récits en noir et blanc" as a whole = a Work by F. Zabbal?

Possible policies include:

- **Ignore** the short stories: they are more than 3
- Mention them in "**other title information**"
- Mention them in a **contents note**
- Make additional **author/title access points**
- Create **analytical records**

Conclusion

• FRBR does not solve all theoretical problems…

• … But FRBR provides a useful conceptual framework, with clear distinctions between the "physical" and "abstract" aspects of the holdings we describe

• Such distinctions should be reflected in an International Cataloguing Code

Thank you