

Modelling FRBR:ized work relations in the context of a hybrid edition using MEI

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Bohl, Benjamin W., Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, bohl@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Introduction

When it comes to modelling relations of works and sources MEI offers an implementation of FRBR[1] since MEI 2013[2] and in its current version 4.0.0 uses the elements `work`, `expression`, `source`, and `item` to describe the FRBR *Group 1 Entities*. Although this works quite well, another layer of complexity is being added, when describing the edition of a work, alas a hybrid edition – i.e. an edition published both, with “analog” (printed) and digital (online) components.

The work context

When all relations of the work to its expressions, manifestations, and items (henceforth called “work context”) are set the question arises as what the edition should be modeled as? First it should be recognized, that the edition should be seen as work in its own right. Besides the original author-composer it is also an author-editor being responsible for the nature of this work. This, of course, can be easily modeled using the FRBR *created by* relation. Nevertheless the relation of the edition to the work is not covered by FRBR 1997/2009[1] in a general relation, e.g. “is-an-edition-of / has-an-edition”. This might be due to the fact that the nature of “edition” can be so plurious and not covered by a single relation. While it could be argued whether the edition is a so called *autonomous work* or “merely” a *referential work*, the best match in “Work-to-Work Relationships” offered in FRBR 1997/2009[1, p. 63–68] is the *has-a-supplement / is-a-supplement-to* relationship, while in the context of describing the work on the basis of FRBR *Group 1 Entities and Relations* it could be described as yet another expression.

Dismantling the edition

Giving it a second look, though, an edition is not a single work! It is a potentially complementary reproduction of an original work, with supplemented material; the latter of which might also be considered as multiple works, each with their own *is-supplement-to* and *is-part-of* relationships to the original work and the edition (henceforth called “edition context”). The “Definition of

FRBROO"[3] offers, amongst others, the *F15 Complex Work* object type to describe such complexities with a more general term.

The relationship of the edition and the original-work's sources should also be reflected in this context. While the original work might be witnessed in many sources, these do not necessarily qualify as witnesses in the edition context.

Breeding the hybrid

Now when it comes to print-digital hybrid editions other aspects have to be covered, too, namely: the relation of the edition data to the printed publication and the online publication, respectively.

While the edition data holds all information for print and online publication and thus could be considered the "actual" work entity, print and online publications might be considered works in their own right, but at least are to be considered distinct expressions with a potential *has-supplement / is-supplement-of* relationship.

How to MEI:ify

This paper will present the above considerations and discuss if and how the described relationships might be modeled in the current MEI 4.0.0. While general FRBR relationships are possible in MEI, more detailed relationships in the work context and the edition context might need customization of MEI. Moreover questions arise as to how the data should be organized in terms of file housekeeping in order to intuitively reflect the description of the contexts.

Bibliographic References

[1] IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, "FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORDS. Final Report", As amended and corrected through February 2009, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, 2009, <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/>.

[2] K. Richts, "Die FRBR customization im Datenformat der Music Encoding Initiative (MEI)", Institut für Informationswissenschaft der Fachhochschule Köln, 2013.

[3] IFLA -- Definition of FRBRoo: A Conceptual Model for Bibliographic Information in Object-Oriented Formalism, Version 2.4, 2015, <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11240>.