

FRBR, RDA and Subject Cataloguing

**With a special focus on
the German experience**

1. Subject Cataloguing in the FR models

Existing FR Models

FRBR

Bibliographic data
(1998, revised 2007)

FRAD

Authority data (general)
(2009)

FRSAD

Authority data for
subject cataloguing (2010)

➔ *partly contradictory, especially in the treatment of subject entities*

- **FRBR Review Group**
task of preparing a new, consolidated FR model



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

FRBR-Library Reference Model

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Consolidation Editorial Group
of the IFLA FRBR Review Group

2016-02-21

Draft for World-Wide Review

Not yet endorsed by the IFLA Professional Committee or Governing Board

*draft of FRBR-LRM
published in 2016*

http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/frbr-lrm/frbr-lrm_20160225.pdf

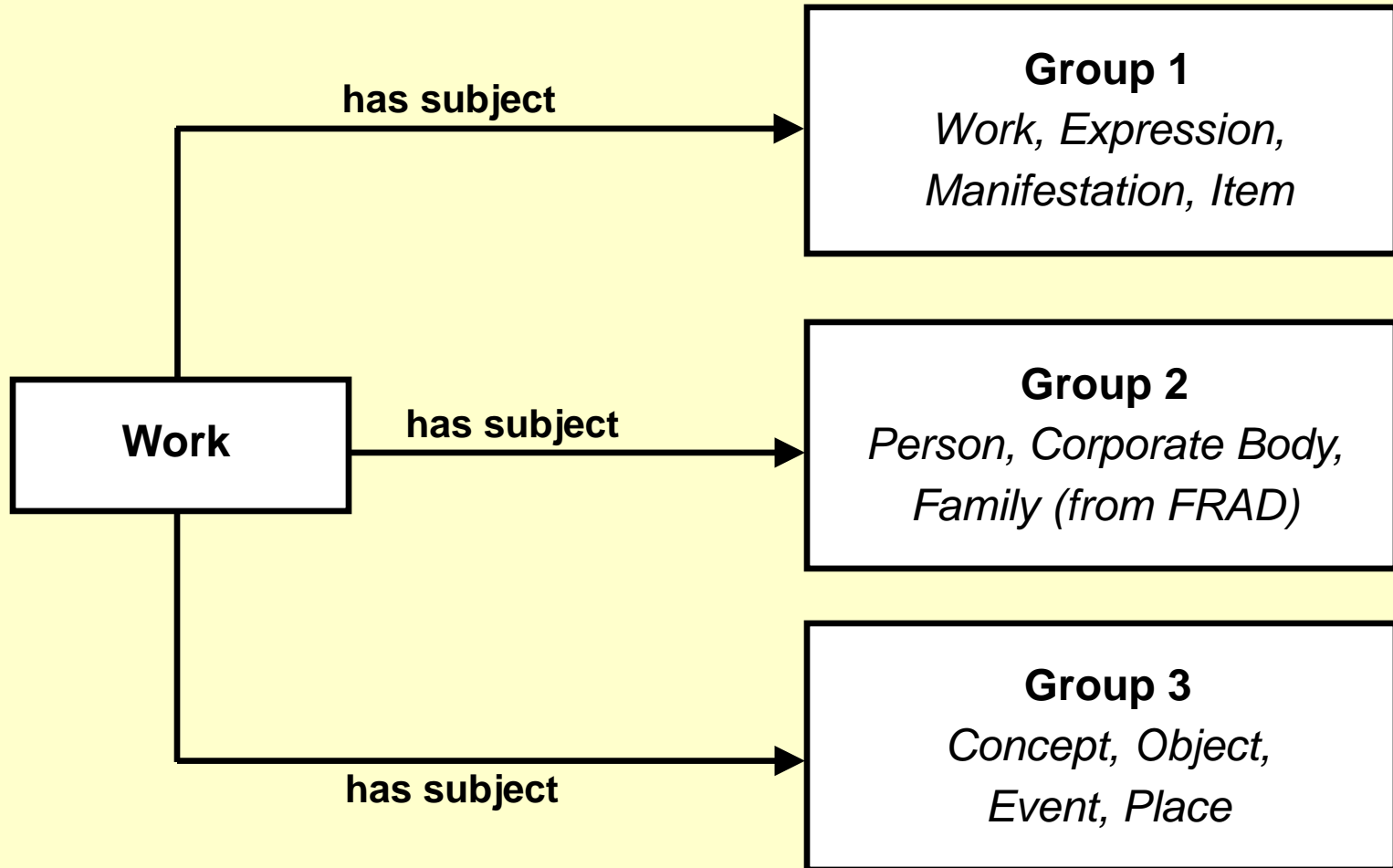
Future FR Model

IFLA-LRM

IFLA Library Reference Model

- **World-wide review of the LRM**
2016, with some criticisms
- **Official adoption expected for 2017**
with some minor changes

Subject cataloguing in FRBR/FRAD




Group 3: *meant exclusively for use in subject cataloguing*

FRBR group 3

Many problems associated with the group 3, e.g.:

- **Time aspect**
can only be expressed using „event“
- **„Concept“ vs. „object“**
can be difficult to distinguish (e.g. what about languages?)
- **Complex topics**
*Academic libraries--Acquisitions--Germany (LCSH)
Karlsruhe ; Architecture ; History 1715-1870
(„subject headings string“ according to German RSWK)*
- **Classifications**
*one class number can cover literature about different
kinds of group 3 entities*

 *the FRBR group 3 doesn't work in practice*

Do we need a different group 3?

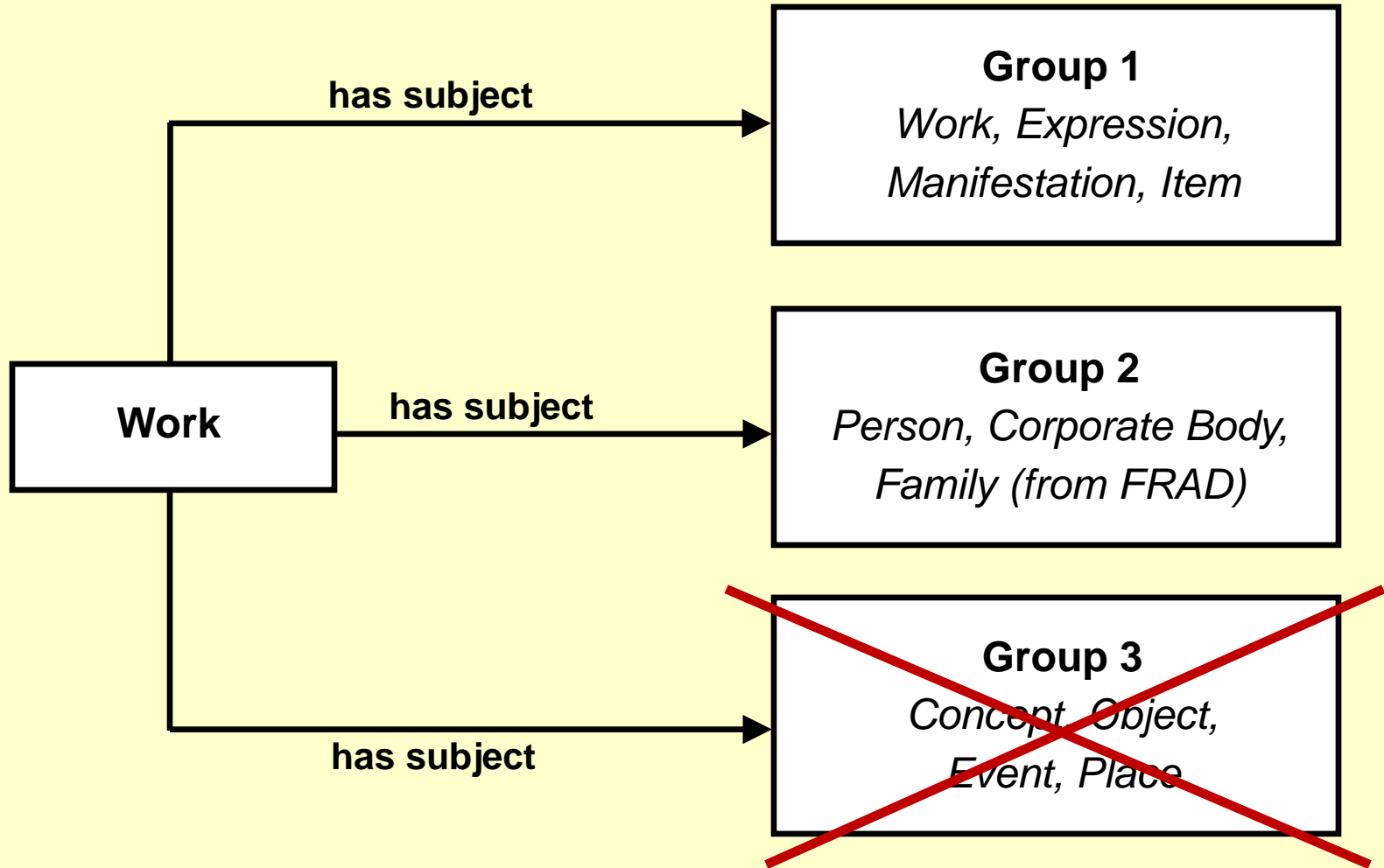
- **FRSAD working group discussed alternatives**
Is there a better way to subdivide the topics?

➔ *rejected as a matter of principle*

„Any further categorization of Group 3 entities would prescribe a particular way of structuring the subject authority systems that are used to provide access to works. A good model should allow for any multiple domain-specific structures and should be flexible enough to accommodate different implementations.“

(FRSAD report, p. 44)

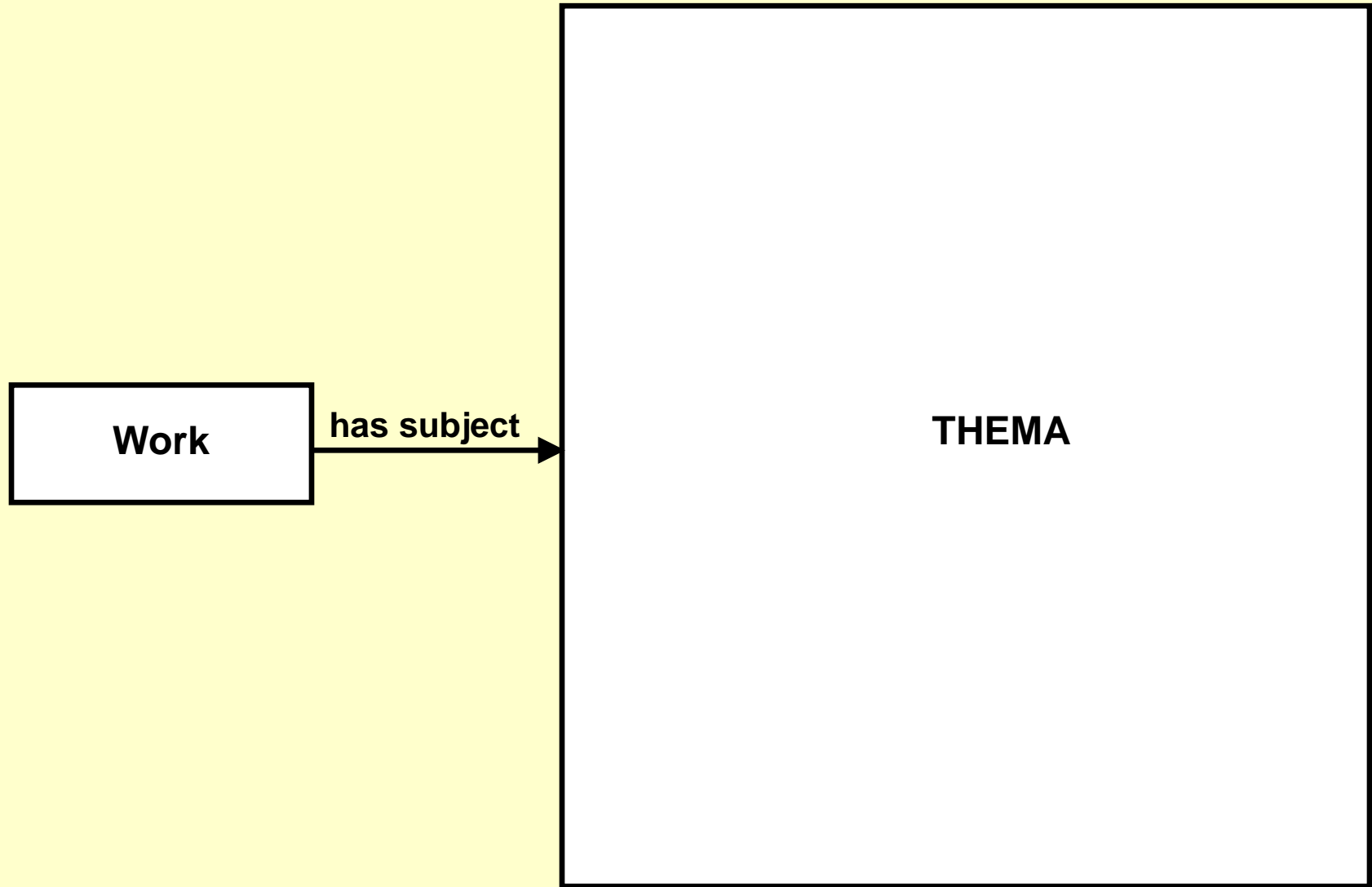
Subject cataloguing in FRSAD



Group 3: discarded by FRSAD working group

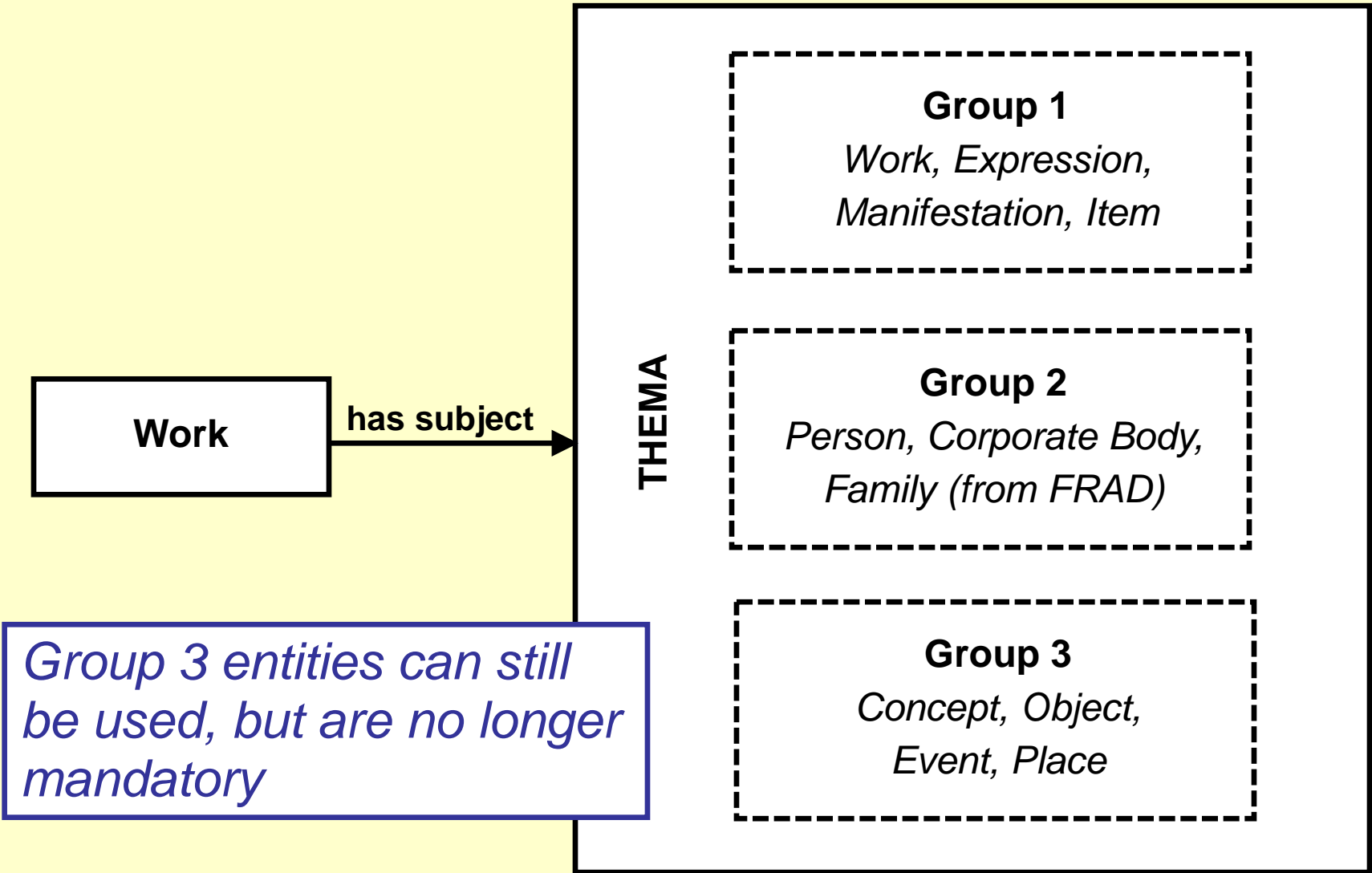
Introduction of new super-entity „Thema“

represents anything which can be the topic of a work



Introduction of new super-entity „Thema“

represents anything which can be the topic of a work



Entities in the LRM

1. Level	2. Level	3. Level
Res		
--	Work	
--	Expression	
--	Manifestation	
--	Item	
--	Agent	
--	--	Person
--	--	Collective Agent
--	Nomen	
--	Place	
--	Time-span	

No more division into groups of entities

- **11 entities, broken up in a hierarchy**
mostly taken from former FR models, but considerably transformed

1. Level	2. Level	3. Level
Res	<p><i>New top-level entity (all the other entities are instances of „Res“); corresponds to „Thema“ from FRSAD, but no longer restricted to subject cataloguing</i></p>	
--		
--		
--		
--		
--	Agent	
--	--	Person
--	--	Collective Agent
--	Nomen	
--	Place	
--	Time-span	

- **Res (lat. „thing“)**
„any entity in the universe of discourse“, i.e. everything in the bibliographic universe

1. Level	2. Level	3. Level
Res		
--	Work	
--	Expression	
--	Manifestation	
--	Item	
--	Agent	
--	--	Person
--	--	Collective Agent
--	Nomen	
--	Place	
--	Time-span	

General entity, no longer restricted to subject cataloguing

- **Also for place of birth, location of conference etc.**
formerly, this kind of information was viewed as attributes of another entity

100 Christie, Agatha
 375 f
 400 Christie, Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller
 (...)

500 !162111746!Mallowan, Max E.*1904-1978*\$4bezf\$vEhemann

548 15.09.1890\$b12.01.1976\$4datx

548 1890\$b1976\$4datl

550 !285615726!Kriminalschriftstellerin\$4beru

550 !208998802!Krankenschwester\$4beru

550 !211634395!Archäologin\$4beru

550 !209103183!Schriftstellerin\$4beru

550 !213246384!Dame\$4adel\$Z1971-

550 !208838163!Adel\$4obin

551 !212106066!Torquay\$4ortg

551 !212676695!Wallingford\$gOxfordshire\$4orts

Extracts from the authority record for Agatha Christie in the German Integrated Authority File (GND)

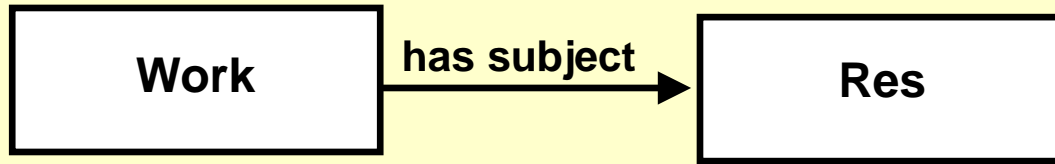
- **„Place“ in LRM corresponds to the German practice e.g. links to the authority record for Torquay (via identifier) coded as place of birth (ortg) and to the authority record for Wallington as place of death (orts)**

1. Level	2. Level	3. Level
Res		
--	Work	
--	Expression	
--	Manifestation	
--	Item	
--	Agent	
--	--	Person
--	--	Collective Agent
--	Nomen	
--	Place	
--	Time-span	

*New, general
entity*

- **Also for date of birth, date of conference etc.**
*again, such information was formerly viewed only as
attributes of another entity*

Subject cataloguing in FRBR-LRM



- **FRSAD's abolishing of group 3 is confirmed**
„concept“, „object“, „event“ absorbed in „Res“
 - **No more entities restricted to subject cataloguing**
all entities are defined generally and can be used in both descriptive and subject cataloguing
 - **Satisfactory solution for time dimension**
with new entity Time-span
- ➔ *positive development for subject cataloguing*

However, there is one problem:

- **Extremely limited view of „Person“ and „Place“**
„The entity person is restricted to real persons who live or are assumed to have lived.“
„Imaginary, legendary or fictional places are not instances of the place entity.“

 *fictitious persons and places fall under „Res“*

- **Problems with this approach:**
 - *it's not always clear whether something is real or fictitious*
 - *entity changes according to our knowledge of the „thing“ (e.g., when a pseudonym is revealed)*
 - *it would make much more sense to use the same attributes and relationships for real and fictitious persons and for real and fictitious places*

005 Tpv1
 006 <http://d-nb.info/gnd/1029449120>
 008 pxl
 011 s
 035 gnd/1029449120
 040 ger\$erda
 043 XA-GB
 065 12.4p
 100 Granger, Hermione\$IFiktive Gestalt
 375 f
 400 \$PHermione Granger\$IFiktive Gestalt
 400 Granger, Hermione Jean\$IFiktive Gestalt\$4navo
 400 Granger, Hermine\$IFiktive Gestalt
 530 !214440583!Rowling, J. K.*1965-*\$aHarry Potter\$4rela
 548 1979\$4datl
 548 19.09.1979\$4datx
 550 !209700955!Literarische Gestalt\$4obin
 670 Wikia\$bStand: 31.05.2016\$uhttp://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hermione_Granger
 678 \$bLiterar. Gestalt in Joanne K. Rowlings Harry Potter-Serie

The GND uses the same data fields as for a real person (e.g. gender in 375, dates in 548). The code „pxl“ in 008 indicates that it's a fictitious person.

- **German authority record for Hermione Granger**
subject of several works, with a fictitious biography

2. Subject Cataloguing in RDA

RDA based on FRBR:

provides sections for group 3 entities

Group 3

Work → Group 3

- + Section 1: Recording Attributes of Manifestation & Item
- + Section 2: Recording Attributes of Work & Expression
- + Section 3: Recording Attributes of Person, Family, & Corporate Body
- + Section 4: Recording Attributes of Concept, Object, Event & Place
- + Section 5: Recording Primary Relationships Between Work, Expression, Manifestation, & Item
- + Section 6: Recording Relationships to Persons, Families, & Corporate Bodies
- + Section 7: Recording Relationships to Concepts, Objects, Events, & Places
- + Section 8: Recording Relationships between Works, Expressions, Manifestations, & Items
- + Section 9: Recording Relationships between Persons, Families, & Corporate Bodies
- + Section 10: Recording Relationships between Concepts, Objects, Events, & Places

Group 3 → Group 3

Please note: All screen images from the RDA Toolkit (www.rdatoolkit.org) in this presentation used by permission of the Co-Publishers for RDA (American Library Association, Canadian Library Association, and CILIP: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals)

13

IDENTIFYING CONCEPTS

[To be developed after the initial release of RDA]

- **Up to now: only „place holder chapters“**
exception: chapter 16 (Places), as this is also needed in descriptive cataloguing; however, this chapter is still incomplete

Development of RDA

2013: Two rather different proposals

- **6JSC/Chair/8 (Barbara Tillett)**
 - *aimed at keeping the original FRBR structure as a requirement for all subject cataloguing systems*
 - *details would have been left to individual subject cataloguing systems*

Example from the Proposal:

13.2.1.3 General Guidelines on Recording Names of Concepts

Record the name of a concept in the form governed by the chosen subject system (e.g., the standard for subject access points and classification numbers) used by the agency creating the data.

<http://www.rda-jsc.org/archivedsite/docs/6JSC-Chair-8.pdf>

- **6JSC/ALA/Discussion/2**

- *aimed at a solution according to FRSAD*
- *RDA should only provide a general framework*
- *no specific structural requirements for subjects*

“Given the variety of subject systems in existence and use, we feel that RDA should provide basic guidance without imposing constraints, either upon the ability of individual subject systems to define their own structure and content, or upon the use of such subject systems by catalogers. (...)

ALA recommends that RDA adopt the FRSAD approach, with a single subject entity, rather than the FRBR Group 3 entities (...).”

<http://www.rda-jsc.org/archivedsite/docs/6JSC-ALA-Discussion-2.pdf>

- **April 2015: new chapter on subject cataloguing**
 - *only a general entity „subject“ is defined*
 - *structure and design of topics are left to the subject system used by the agency*

23.1.5 Identifiable Subject System 2015/04

identifiable subject system▼: A standard for subject access points and/or classification numbers used in determining the names or terms, other identifying attributes, and relationships representing what a work is about.


An identifiable subject system includes rules for application of terms, systematic combination of terminology such as pre- or post-coordination, and guidelines on cardinality and depth of assignment.



RDA does not claim to replace DDC, LCSH etc.

3. RDA and Subject Cataloguing in Germany

Background

- **Personnel**
descriptive cataloguing and subject cataloguing often done by different persons with different training
- **Integrated authority file (GND)**
since 2012 only one authority file used by both descriptive and subject catalogers
 *common rules had to be established*
- **Several classification schemes in use**
not covered here, as RDA does not give any guidance for classifications
- **Indexing language: RSWK**
*„Regeln für den Schlagwortkatalog“
(Rules for subject catalogs)*

LCSH:

Academic libraries—Collection development



looks superficially similar

but: underlying principles completely different

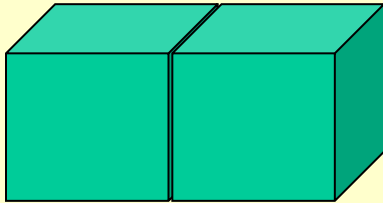
RSWK:

Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek ; Bestandsaufbau

Academic library ; Collection development

LCSH:

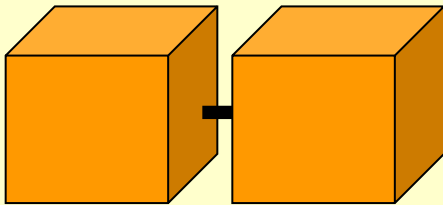
Academic libraries—Collection development



Two elements which have been „glued together“ in advance to form one single heading (only 1 record in authority file)

RSWK:

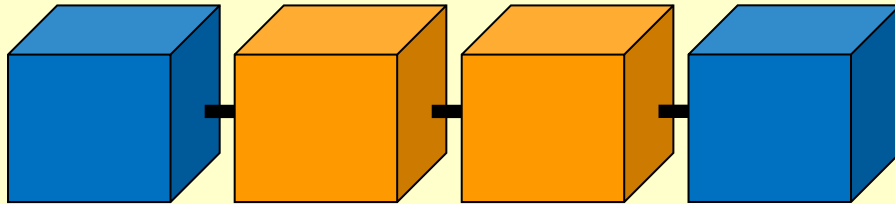
Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek ; Bestandsaufbau
Academic library ; Collection development



Two separate elements which are „put together“ during the process of indexing according to the topic of the resource in hand (2 records in authority file)

What is covered by RDA?

Wien ; Hallenbad ; Geschichte 1870-1970 ; Bildband
*Vienna ; Indoor swimming pool ; History 1870-1970 ;
Pictorial work*



- **Entities used as headings: partly covered**
„Vienna“ covered by RDA 16 (Places); „Pictorial work“ can be expressed by RDA 7.2 „Nature of content“
- **No coverage of application rules, e.g.**
*no rules for string building (order of headings),
no rules for specificity („indoor swimming pool“ or just
„swimming pool“?)*

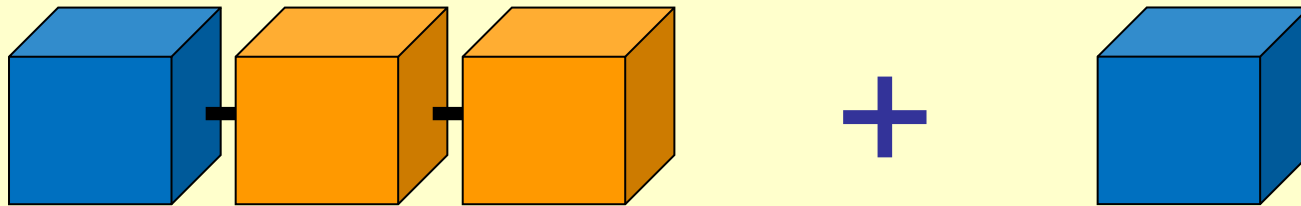
Entities used as headings

Persons and families	✓
Coporate bodies	✓
Events	✓
Works	✓
Topical terms	✗ <i>(probably never)</i>
Places	(✓) <i>(only jurisdictions)</i>
Chronological terms	✗ <i>(perhaps at some time)</i>
Form terms	✓ <i>(using RDA 7.2 etc.)</i>

➔ *many, but not all entities can be found in RDA*


Form terms: New German practice

- **Use of existing RDA elements**
most former headings covered by 7.2 Nature of Content
- **Taken out of the subject heading string**
stored in separate field; can be used e.g. for a facet



- **Form terms recorded cooperatively**
both by descriptive and subject catalogers
- ➔ *efficient and innovative development of indexing practices in an RDA framework*

RDA optimized for descriptive cataloguing

- **Entity splitting, e.g.**
 - *jurisdictions (e.g. „Saint Petersburg“ vs. „Leningrad“)*
 - *heads of state etc. (e.g. „Clinton, Bill“ vs. „United States. President (1993-2001 : Clinton)“)*
-  *may make sense in descriptive cataloguing, but not helpful in subject cataloguing*
- **Not all kinds of works adequately covered in RDA**
RDA concentrates on those that are typically collected in libraries (esp. literature, music, movies)
 - **Examples for problematic areas of works**
 - *works of architecture (do not fit the WEMI concept)*
 - *manuscripts: RDA only interested in the literary work, but not in the physical object (the „art work“)*

Summing up

German experience:

- **Large parts of RDA usable for subject cataloguing**
but there are some special needs in subject cataloguing which are, up to now, not adequately catered for
- **Additional subject cataloguing rules still necessary**
especially rules for topical terms and application rules, RDA makes no claim to be exhaustive for subject cataloguing
- **Introduction of RDA has lead to closer cooperation between descriptive and subject catalogers**
e.g. cooperation in recording form terms

Reference:

Heidrun Wiesenmüller:

Sacherschließung unter FRBR und RDA in Theorie und Praxis. In: o-bib 3 (2016), issue 3, p. 24-53

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5282/o-bib/2016H3S24-53>

**Thank you
for your attention!**

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