RedLightGreen – FRBR between a Rock and a Hard Place

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What’s RedLightGreen?

- RLG Union Catalog on the web
  - 126 million bibliographic records representing 42 million titles
- Re-envisioning the library catalog as an intuitive online research tool for undergraduates
- A way to get students back into the library
- Development generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

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What’s the rock?

- The data in hand
  - MARC
    - Supports FRBR "aspects of user interest" only to a certain degree
    - Library of Congress MARC-FRBR analysis "sobering"
  - RLG Union Catalog
    - 126 million bibliographic records representing 42 million titles
    - Records from 300 countries and ~ 700 libraries
    - Union Catalog with all its benefits and downfalls
      - Varying cataloging practices

What’s the hard place?

- The targeted audience: undergraduates
- User studies from the outset
  - First on wireframes
  - Then on test system
  - Still ongoing with the established service…
- Result: The problem with editions and translations is…
  - Clutter up the search result screen
  - Irrelevant to undergraduate objective of getting at the information content
  - Want what’s easily located on their library shelf
RedLightGreen and FRBR

- NOT a FRBR implementation
  - Realities of the Rock and the Hard Place
- FRBR Group 1 Entities invaluable during planning
  - Work, Expression, Manifestation, Item
  - Common language
  - Precisely defined concepts
- FRBR and RedLightGreen in a nutshell
  - Mission: Make the Union Catalog relevant to undergraduates
  - Reduce the number of editions on the results screen
  - Use FRBR concepts such as Work, Expression and Manifestation
to discuss how records should cluster
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buddhistisches Kunst Van Voorhuis, by Joan Philippe Vogel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam: M E J Pakke, 1979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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RedLightGreen: “title cluster”

- ~ FRBR Work / Expression
  - “[…] the work itself exists only in the commonality of content between and among various expressions of the work.” (FRBR 16)
- Title Clusters point to…
  - Editions (Expression)
  - Translations (Expression)
  - Adaptations (e.g. audio books, films - in FRBR different work)
- Clustering Algorithm
  - Primary Author & Uniform Title (+)
- Rational
  - Minimize clutter in the search results

RedLightGreen: editions

- ~ FRBR Manifestation
  - “With the entity defined as manifestations we can describe the physical characteristics of a set of items […] enabling users to choose a manifestation appropriate to their […] needs” (FRBR 22)
- Editions List
  - Powers citation formation
Get it at [your library]

- FRBR Item
  - "[...] a single exemplar of a manifestation" (FRBR 23)
- Locate the item in your library
  - Is about locating an item on a shelf
  - Yet search in local catalog operates at the work / expression level
    - Author and Uniform Title (similar to Title Cluster algorithm)
- Rational
  - Undergraduates don’t want to locate specific editions
  - Undergraduates do want to locate intellectual content (work / expression)

"Back to the Future" : ALA / ALCTS Preconference

Get it [at your library] example

Anatomy Of The Human Body
You are viewing one of Editions of the title.

Author: Gray, Henry, 1821-1910.
Title: Anatomy : description and surgical by Henry Gray, the drawings drawn and engraved by Thomas Magee Clark.
Edition Date: 2000
Language: English
Added: "Transp. published in 1858 by John W. Parker & sons.

BobCat

Title: Anatomy of the Human Body

   Pp. 361 p., 29 cm.
   Item: 4

2. gray, Henry, 1821-1910.
   Pp. 361 p., 29 cm.
   Item: 4

   Pp. 361 p., 29 cm.
   Item: 4
FRBR concepts in RedLightGreen

FRBR
- Work
- Expression
- Manifestation
- Item

RedLightGreen
- “title clusters”
- editions
- items

RedLightGreen: **FRBRish**, not **FRBRized**

- Not a strict implementation of FRBR
- Highly influenced by the FRBR model
- FRBR invaluable in providing common discussion language in the early days of the project

www.ala.org/alcts
For more information….

www.redlightgreen.com
(RedLightGreen project page)
www.rlg.org

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