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What's New with FRAR (*Functional Requirements for Authority Records*)?

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Meeting:	84 Division of Bibliographic Control
Simultaneous Interpretation:	No
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A draft of *Functional Requirements for Authority Records (FRAR)* was made available for worldwide review on IFLANET from July through October 2005. The FRANAR Working Group received comments from 12 individuals and 13 institutions (including 6 national libraries and 3 national-level cataloguing committees). The working group expresses its appreciation to all who took the time to prepare comments.

The comments received were compiled into a comments log which totaled 145 pages. Seven members of the Working Group met at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, Netherlands, on December 9, 2005, to consider these comments and to start revising the draft to reflect decisions made in response to the comments. The group was able to deal with about two-thirds of the comments during the meeting and, since the December meeting has had a series of four conference calls to complete discussions of the remaining comments, with additional calls anticipated before the Seoul meetings.

While final decisions will need to wait for the completion of the discussions and a review of a draft reflecting decisions made, there are two topics that were common themes in the comments received which have been the focus in revisions to the draft:

- Many comments revealed that the fundamental basis of the conceptual model is difficult to understand for those who are not familiar with data modeling and that it needs to be articulated more clearly. The working group has laid out plans to give more prominence in the next draft to this fundamental principle: Entities in the bibliographic universe are known by names and/or identifiers and those names and identifiers are used as the basis for constructing controlled access points.
- Comments also highlighted considerable confusion in the draft itself as to whether the model was describing authority data or authority records. The working group confirmed that the focus must be on authority data while recognizing that, in the library context, that data may take the form of authority records. The new draft will be reorganized to make that clearer in various ways, including the possibility of changing the title to *Functional Requirements for Authority Data*.

Some of these ideas for clarifying the model formed part of a presentation about the FRAR model that was part of the program for the **UNIMARC & Friends** conference, held in Lisbon in March 2006 (<http://unimarc.bn.pt/html/apresentacoes.html>). An article based on the presentation prepared for the IFLA Cataloguing Section's program at the Oslo conference in 2005 will be published in *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control*, vol. 35, no. 2.

A focus of the Working Group's meeting in Seoul will be the numbering aspects of our charge: To study the feasibility of an International Standard Authority Data Number.

The Working Group greatly appreciates the financial support of the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control and ICABS, which made the meeting possible, and the hospitality of the KB and IFLA Headquarters staff.

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