FRBR and Archival Description

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The “idea” of *The Lord of the Rings*:

The realisation of *The Lord of the Rings* in one or more modes of expression: e.g. “English text”, “French translation”, “performance”, the director’s cut.


An exemplar of a manifestation of, “*The Lord of the Rings*”, e.g.: My copy!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Current bibliographic records:</strong></th>
<th><strong>manifestation based</strong></th>
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- **LC Control No.**: 47023612
- **LCCN Permalink**: [http://lccn.loc.gov/47023612](http://lccn.loc.gov/47023612)
- **Type of Material**: Book (Print, Microform, Electronic, etc.)
- **Personal Name**: *Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616.*
- **Main Title**: *... Hamlet, traduit par André Gide.*
- **Published/Created**: [Paris] Gallimard [1946]

**CALL NUMBER**: PR2779.H3 G5Copy 1

**-- Request in**: Jefferson or Adams Bldg General or Area Studies Reading Rms
The Hierarchical relationships exists among bibliographic resources

Can be shown by a computer algorithm that analyze multiple manifestation based records

Computer algorithms are useful, but not always accurate
It might be better to do hierarchical description of library resources in
the first place to avoid inaccuracy.

Use Work as the unit of description, replace manifestation based
description

- Upon receipt of a new book, the cataloger searches the database
  first for a work record.

- If no work record for the book already exists in the database, the
  cataloger creates a new hierarchy for the book in hand.

- If the work record already exists, the cataloger clicks the work
  record, and the tree structure of the work is presented.

- The cataloger judges where the book in hand belongs in this tree
  structure, adds a level to the tree structure, and provides
  metadata information about that component.
This multi-level description interface for archives can be adapted for bibliographic description.
Implications

- Brings bibliographic description closer to archival description.
- Bibliographic description will be a growing process
  - Description for each work grows every time a new expression, manifestation or item is added.
  - This is similar to the growing process of archival description. Finding aids are updated with each accrual.
- Bibliographic description will be hierarchical
  - FRBR hierarchy based on subject content
  - Archival hierarchy based on provenance and original order
FRBR hierarchy and archival hierarchy

- FRBR hierarchy exists in archival collection
- Work: a speech
- Expression: video recording of a speech or its transcripts.
- Manifestation: video recordings in MPEG format.
- Item: a particular copy of a video recording in MPEG.
- Collection of items: fonds, series and filing units
Thanks!