The Work concept in bibliographic models from a practical (cataloguer's) viewpoint

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The Work actually…

Work: a „functional entity" to group/collocate Expressions/Instances

OK, but what is a work actually?

- What is its description about?
- What is the source of metadata?

What is a work in the bibliographic universe?

„there is as yet no commonly accepted definition of the concept [of a work]"

/Richard P. Smiraglia, *The Nature of 'A Work': Implications for the Organization of Knowledge* (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2001), 3./

- **Work**. The highest level of abstraction, a Work, in the BIBFRAME context, reflects the conceptual essence of the cataloged resource: authors, languages, and what it is about (subjects).

LRM-E2	Work	The intellectual or artistic content of a distinct creation

rdac:C10001 **"work"** "A distinct intellectual or artistic creation, that is, the intellectual or artistic content."
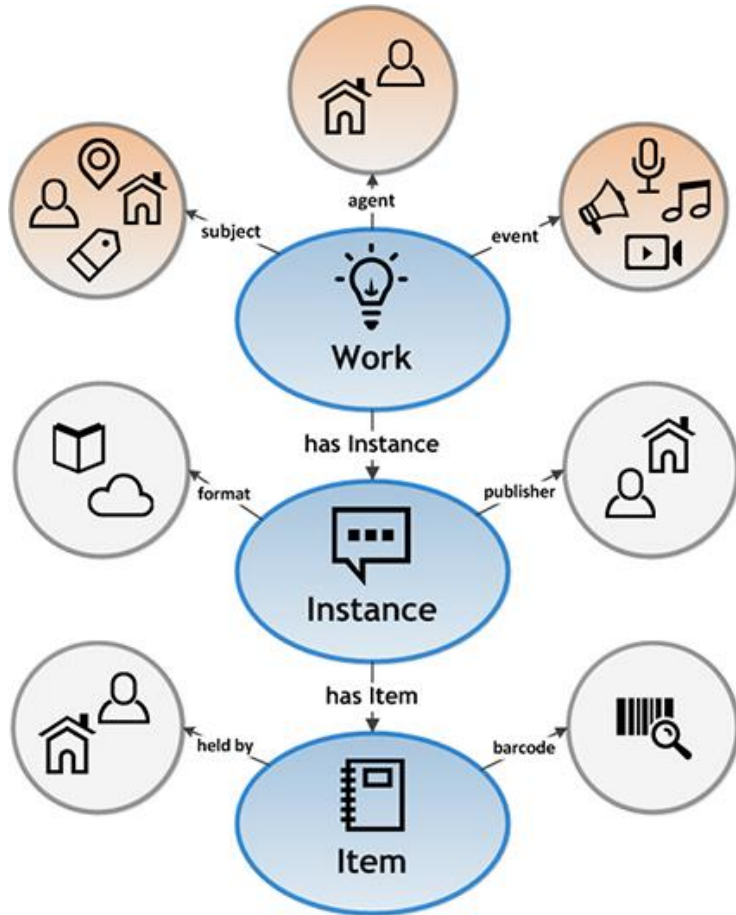
Work. The highest level of abstraction, a Work, in the BIBFRAME context, reflects the **conceptual essence** of the cataloged resource: authors, languages, and what it is about (subjects).

Instance. A Work may have one or more individual, **material embodiment**s, for example, a particular published form. These are Instances of the Work. An Instance reflects information such as its publisher, place and date of publication, and format.

Item. An item is an actual copy (physical or electronic) of an Instance. It reflects information such as its location (physical or virtual), shelf mark, and barcode.

Polemics about Work (and Expression)

- Problem:
  - Work – a concept too abstract/too misty to grasp
    - Thoughts (?), ideas (?), concepts existing in the head of the creator? (FRBR: „A work is an abstract entity; there is no single material object one can point to as the work.")
  - Work came alive when being embodied: cannot be separated from its form! (II Sapir–Whorf hypothesis: language determines thought)
  - Also: Work is a tool to group Expressions/Instances. (A „functional entity".)
  - How to reconcile different approaches?

- Representative expression:
  - „Material embodiment of conceptual essence" – a Work captured in an Instance = (more precisely, in LRM language:) a Work captured in a Manifestation (the first edition/canonical manuscript of the Work)
  - (a more philological approach)

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Work

Instance

FRBR$_{OO}$ → LRM$_{OO}$

„Revised event for the creation of F1 Work

In the FRBR$_{OO}$ model the entity type F27 Work Conception implicitly put the emphasis on the <u>beginning of the creation process, the "spark of inspiration"</u>, which is rarely known and documented.

The F27 Work Creation in LRM$_{OO}$, on the other hand, <u>comprises activities by which instances of F1 Work come into existence</u> and can serve to document the period a work was coming into existence and the circumstances of it, when these are known.

<u>In many cases Work Creation coincides with the existence of the first known complete expression of that work.</u> This approach is closer to IFLA LRM, which models the outcomes of creation processes."

Some crucial RE elements mapped with BF

| LRM (domain)	RDA (domain)	BIBFRAME (domain)
Representative expression attribute (Work)	has intended audience of representative expression (Work)	intendedAudience (-)
	has content type of representative expression (Work)	content (Work)
	has extent of representative expression (Work)	extent (rdfs:Resource)
	has language of representative expression (Work)	language (rdfs:Resource)
	has date of representative expression (Work)	originDate (Work)
-	has representative expression (Work)	-

to be used with Work, defined by RE (i.e. the first edition/canonical manuscript)

The first edition/canonical manuscript or …?

Azonosító	Entity	Attribute	Definition
LRM-E2-A2	WORK	Representative expression attribute	An attribute which is deemed essential in characterizing the work and whose values are taken from a **representative or canonical expression of the work**
	Scope notes		Generally, the representative expression attribute will be typed and the types chosen will vary depending on the context of use (as given by the cataloguing rules, the nature of catalogue, or the category of work). Each of the attributes chosen may itself be multivalued. The values of these attributes are inferred either from particular expressions considered to best represent the work, or **from characteristics abstracted from a more or less nebulous network of similar expressions**. There is no requirement to precisely identify an expression or expressions which serves as source for the values of the representative expression attributes, nor does that expression need to be recorded in the case where it is identified.

Task for a cataloguer?
Task for a researcher?
Special knowledge is required!

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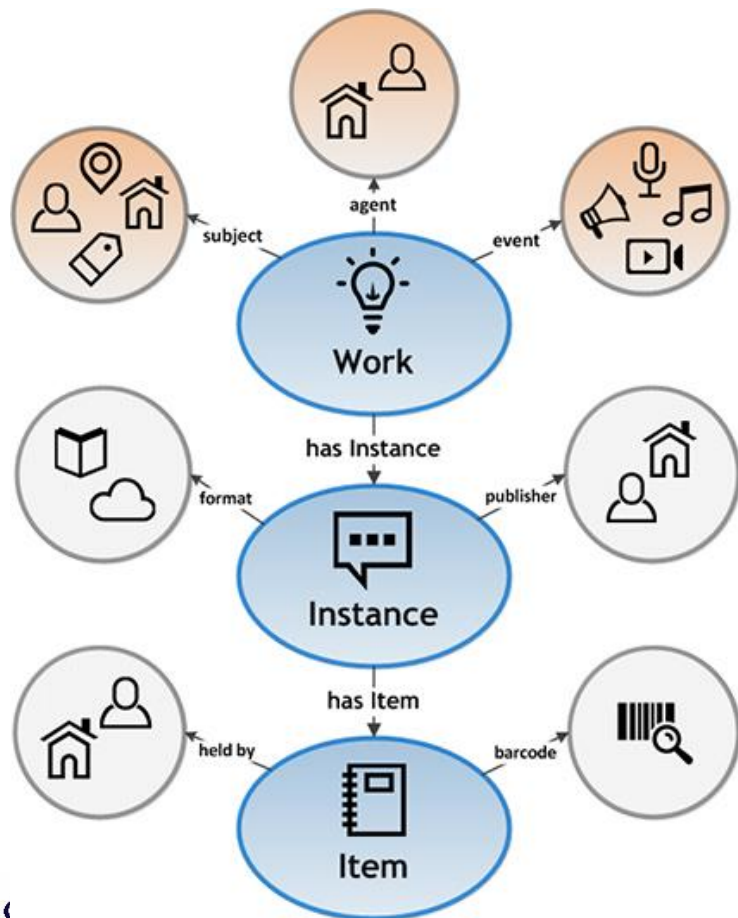
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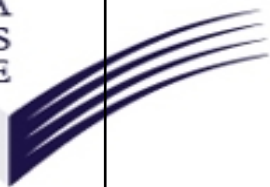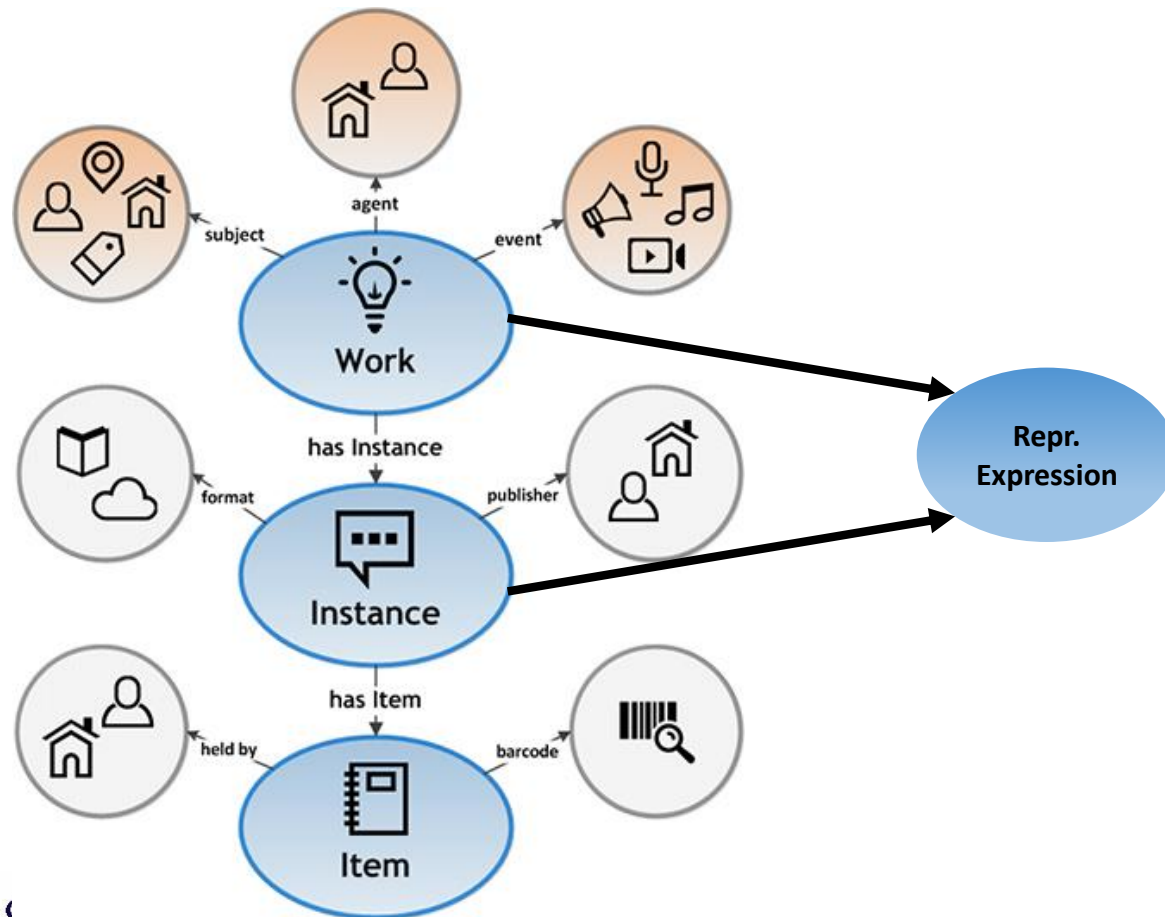
A new entity/model???

- RE: an entity of two natures?

Material embodiment of conceptual essence

- is there a need for a new entity/model?
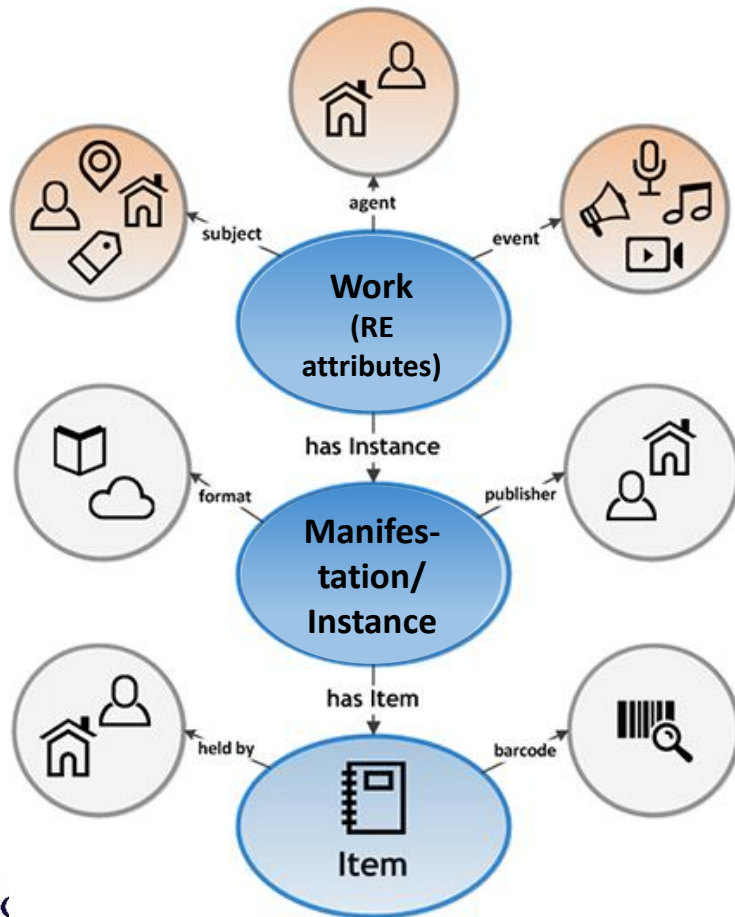
A new entity/model??

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A new entity/model

Integrating RE into BIBFRAME? I.
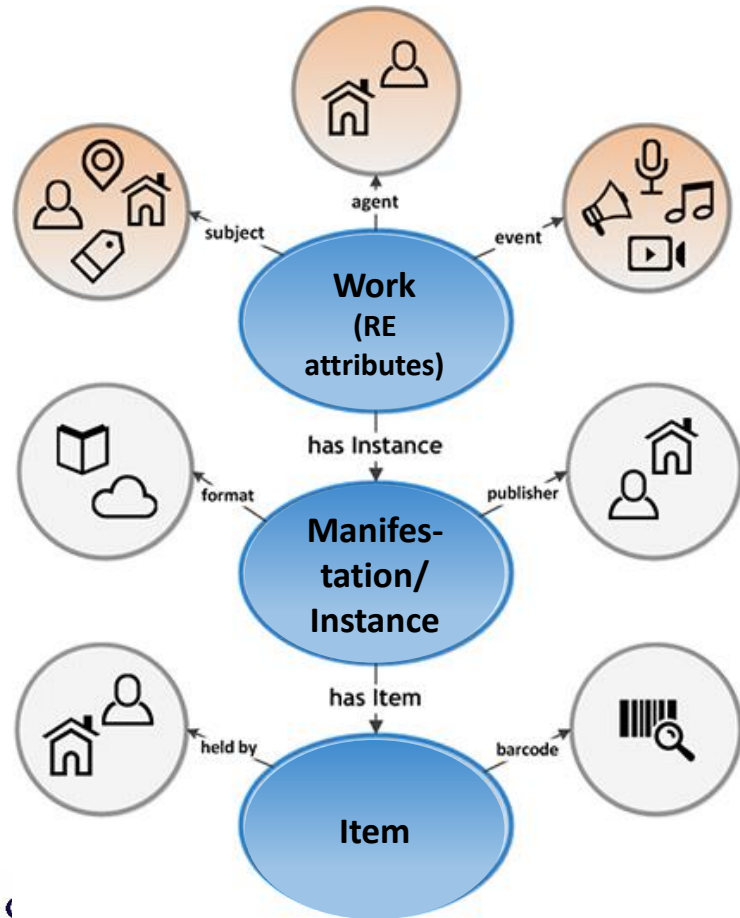
Goal:

- depriving Work of its abstractness using RE attributes to describe it

The way to achieve it:

- instead of correction of the model:
  - RE can be described by BIBFRAME elements that can be used with Work/rdfs:resource → RE described as Work using RE as source of data
  - RE = canonical manuscript/first edition/group of Expressions → to be regulated in cataloguing policy

Integrating RE into BIBFRAME? II.
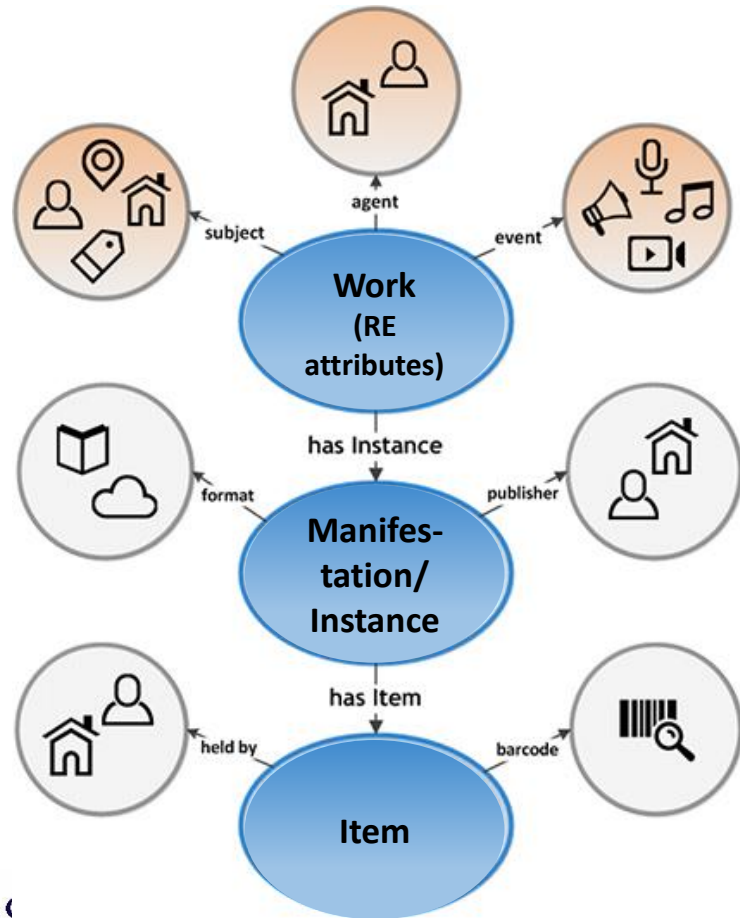
- In other words:
  - cataloguing policy includes:

    „the source of the description of the Work is

    ,the material embodiment of the conceptual essence'

    = RE

    = canonical manuscript or first edition

    = (when researchers' knowledge is at disposal) various Expressions as sources of RE attributes"

The West Side Story story

How to keep „abstractness" after all?

Two approaches to Work:

→in narrow sense: e.g. Romeo and Juliet (literary work) and its translations (also literary works); including translations of translations (LRM: direvations of the Expressions of the (same) Work)

→ LRM: **Expressions (of Work)** – *Work as a purely functional entity to group related Es*

ID	Domain	Relationship name	Inverse name	Range	Cardinality
LRM-R24	Expression	is derivation of	has derivation	Expression	M to 1
	Definition	This relationship indicates that of two *expressions* of the same *work*, the second was used as the source for the other			

→in broad sense: e.g. Romeo and Juliet (literary work) and its translations (also literay works); West Side Story (musical); the fim by Zeffirelli, etc.

→ LRM: **Expressions of Work and related (transformed/inspired) Works** – *Work as an access point to the network of related catalogued resources*

Work in the narrow sense according to LRM

LRM: „A *work* is an abstract entity that permits the grouping of *expressions* that are considered functional equivalents or near equivalents…

The essence of the *work* is <u>the constellation of concepts and ideas that form the **shared content** of what we define to be **_expressions_ of the same _work_**</u>. A *work* is perceived through the identification of <u>the **commonality of content** between and among various *expressions*</u>.”
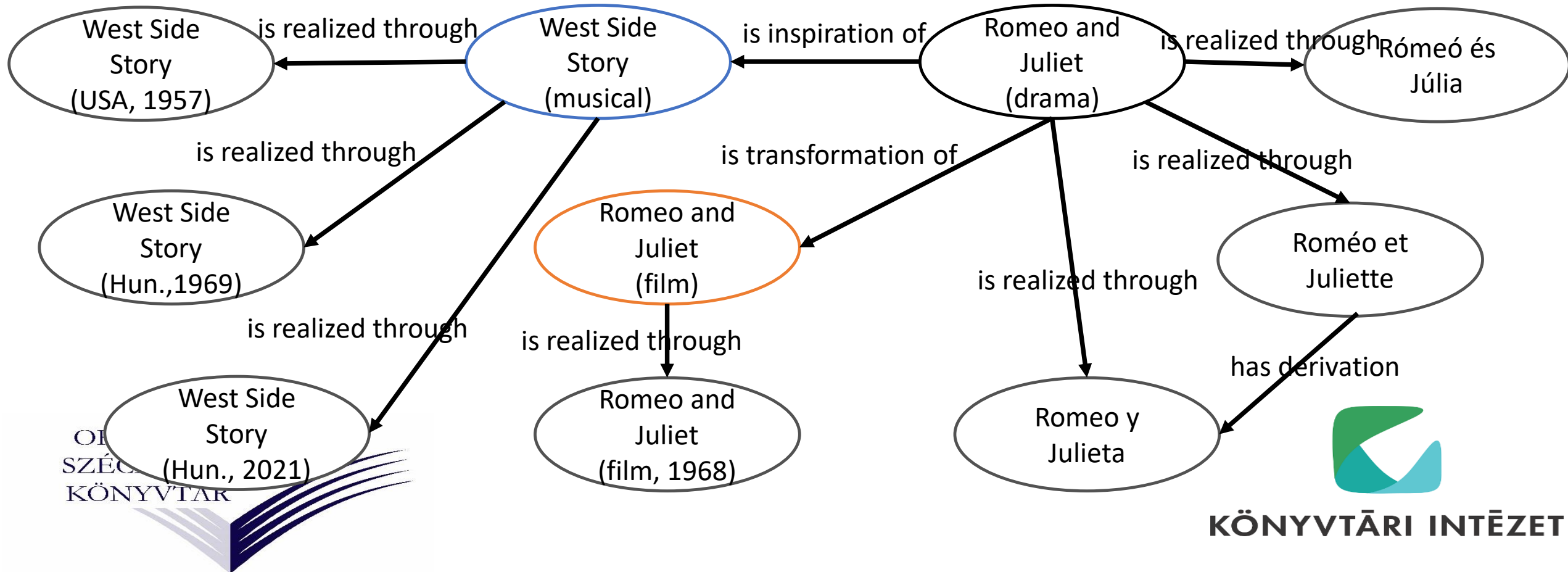
Work in the broad (abstr.) sense according to LRM

ID	Domain	Relationship name	Inverse name	Range	Cardinality
LRM-R21	Work	is inspiration for	is inspired by	Work	M to M
	Definition	This is the relationship between two *works* where the content of the first served as the source of ideas for the second			

ID	Domain	Relationship name	Inverse name	Range	Cardinality
LRM-R22	Work	is a transformation of	was transformed into	Work	M to 1
	Definition	This relationship indicates that a new *work* was created by changing the scope or editorial policy (as in a serial or aggregating *work*), the genre or literary form (dramatization, novelization), target audience (adaptation for children), or style (paraphrase, imitation, parody) of a previous *work*			

The network of Expressions & the abstract functionality of the Work
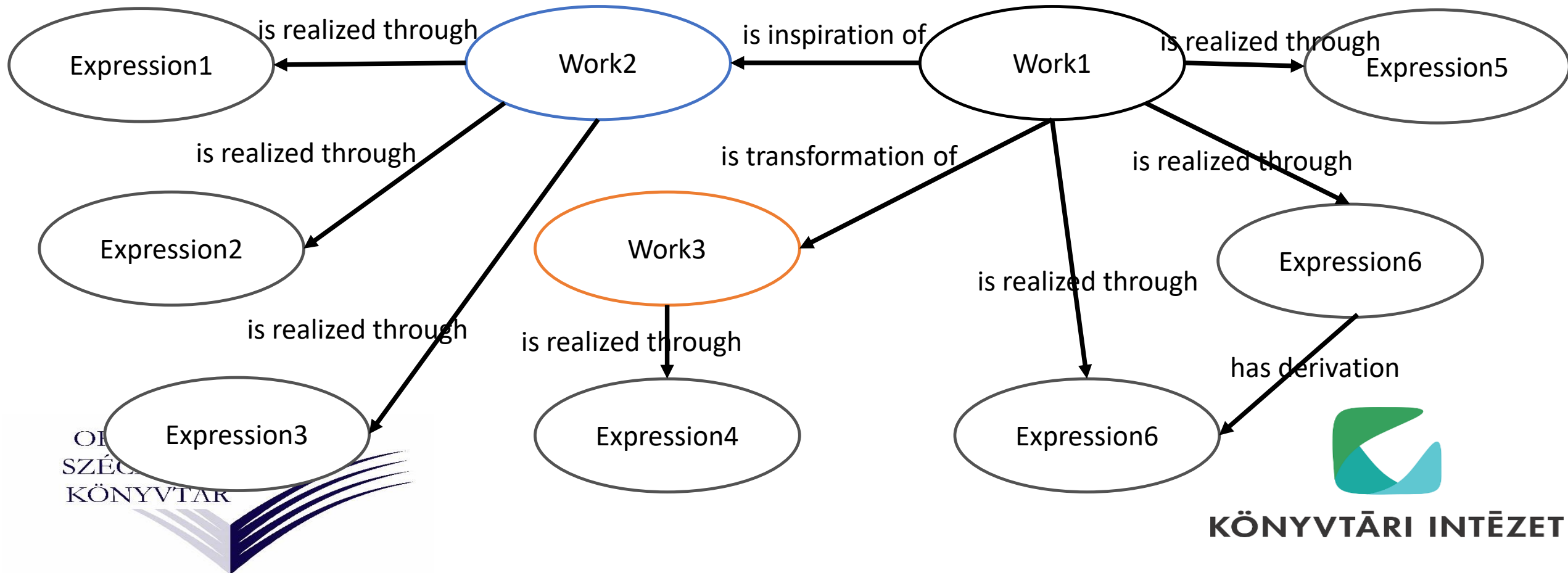
The network of Expressions & the abstract functionality of the Work

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