

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA

From: Bill Leonard, CCC representative

Subject: Fictitious Families and Corporate Bodies (Revision of RDA 10.0, 10.3.1.3, 10.11.1.2, 11.0, 11.7.1.4, 11.13.1.2)

CCC thanks the British Library for raising these issues that were the subject of discussion on email discussion lists. CCC does not support this proposal for reasons that anticipate the consolidated FRBR model.

The IFLA FRBR Review Group is working on the consolidation of the FRBR, FRAD and FRSAD models. The changes proposed by the British Library for fictitious families and corporate bodies would be counter to the direction in which the consolidated FRBR model is currently going. Any changes made for 6JSC/BL/21 would have to be reconsidered when it comes time to adjust RDA for the consolidation of FRBR, FRAD and FRSAD.

One of the considerations of the FRBR Review Group during the development of the consolidation is the harmonization of the definition of the entity 'person.' The usage and definition of the person entity will be harmonized to correspond to a real person, a Thema (corresponding to any entity, not just when used as the subject of a Work), while other bibliographic identities will be treated as Nomen used by a person or persons. CCC recognizes that some confusion about the person entity can be traced back to differences in the definition of person in various current models.

It is expected that the consolidation of FRBR will not treat fictitious or legendary persons as Agent entities. The names of fictitious or legendary characters presented in the role as a creator or contributor will be treated as nomen. In the case of a fictitious entity being ascribed with creative responsibility, the character will not be viewed as a creator, but simply as a bibliographic identity (Nomen) for the person who really is the creator (Thema).

In the anticipated model, persons, families and corporate bodies will be sub-classes of a new class, agent. Agents will have a responsibility relationship with WEMI entities with the ability to create, to express, to produce, or to own. In reality, fictitious, legendary or non-human entities are unable to perform those roles.

In short, the changes proposed in 6JSC/BL/21 should not be approved because they are not consonant with the direction anticipated for the future consolidated FRBR model.