

**Association for Library Collections & Technical Services**  
**(A division of the American Library Association)**  
**Cataloging and Classification Section**  
**Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access**

January 13, 2002

Mr. Paul J. Weiss  
ALA Representative to NISO  
Head, Original & Special Materials Cataloging  
Catalog Department  
UCSD Libraries  
9500 Gilman Drive #0175  
La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Mr. Weiss,

After careful consideration and discussion of ISO Committee Draft 21047, the International Standard Textual Work Code (ISTC), CC:DA thinks that the draft standard should not be approved as written.

CC:DA's main objection to the Committee Draft as written is that the concept of "work" (or "textual work") as defined in the Committee Draft conflicts with the definition of "work" in the conceptual model set forth in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR)*.<sup>1</sup> As the authors of the Committee Draft know, the term "work" in CD 21047 is used to represent the FRBR entity "expression" (which means "the intellectual or artistic realization of a *work*" in the FRBR model).

Because the FRBR conceptual model already contains the entity *work*, defined differently than in CD 21047, and because the FRBR conceptual model and its entities *work*, *expression*, *manifestation*, and *item* have become the basis for much important work that has been done and is currently being done in the arena of international bibliographic control, CC:DA thinks that the adoption of this code would confuse the issue of what is meant by the term "work."<sup>2</sup>

Some of the work that has grown out of the conceptual model presented in *FRBR* is aimed at eventually accomplishing much of what the proposed ISTC would accomplish in terms of identifying, distinguishing, and collocating text-based (and other) expressions of the same work, and linking derivations and other bibliographically related expressions, in one or more international databases. If an International Standard Textual Work Code is to be adopted as an ISO standard identifier, CC:DA believes that the assignment of such numbers could benefit from being more in conformance with FRBR, and perhaps in cooperation with efforts presently

---

<sup>1</sup> Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, "Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records" Munich: K.G. Saur, 1998 (UBCIM Publications - New Series Vol. 19) <<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.htm>>.

<sup>2</sup> CC:DA notes that it has similar concerns about the use of the term "work" in standard numbers for musical expressions and other forms of expression through which a work may be realized.

underway in international bibliographic control, including efforts by IFLA's Section on Cataloguing.

In addition to the concerns about the use of "work", some clarification of the purpose of the standard and some reworking of definitions would be helpful. Is the purpose of the standard for intellectual property rights management? A few CC:DA committee members liked the assumed idea behind such a standard; others expressed concerns about such an activity.

Some of the definitions would benefit from editing:

### 3. Terms and definitions

3.2 Author. A creator wholly or partly responsible for the intellectual content of a textual work.

Comment: Perhaps change wording: "A creator to whom the the intellectual content of a textual work is wholly or partly attributed."

3.4 Contributor. A person contributing to the making of a textual work in whole or in part.

Comment: "Person" is defined below in this list as "an individual or organization." Use of the term "person" in this sense is confusing. Perhaps "party," i.e., contributor, would be a better choice: A \*party\* contributing to the making of a textual work in whole or in part. Also, there is a contradiction to this definition later in the document (Annex D.3) when a publisher is listed as one type of contributor. A publisher does not contribute the making of a textual work (expression) -- a publisher contributes only to the making of a manifestation of that work (expression).

3.5 Creator. A contributor originating content in a work.

Comment: Inserting the word "intellectual" between "originating" and "content" here might make this more clear. (Later in the standard, in Annex D.3, the different contributor roles besides creator are enumerated. It becomes more clear at that point that "creator" does not include translator or compiler or excerptor, etc.)

Thank you for considering CC:DA's comments. We hope that our input is useful to you in formulating ALA's comments.

Sincerely,

Kristin Lindlan, Chair, CC:DA