

BIBFRAME 2.0
Agents and Roles

DRAFT
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Library of Congress

This is one of a set of draft specifications for BIBFRAME 2.0. It was developed by the Library of Congress in consultation with invited experts. Comments welcome.

1.0 Approach

BIBFRAME 1.0 has two built-in roles, expressed as properties, `bf:creator` and `bf:contributor`. `bf:contributor` is considered a general role and is used when there is not a more-specific role to express.

Any other role is expressed either as an external property or as a Relator resource. So there are three methods to express a role:

1. Via built-in property `bf:creator` or `bf:contributor`.
2. Via external property, e.g. `relators:ill` where (for this example) the prefix ‘relators:’ represents the namespace URI `http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/relators`.
3. Via a `bf:relator` role construct, used when there is no vocabulary term available/known to express the role as a property.

In all three cases, an agent and a role are expressed. The agent is expressed as a BIBFRAME Authority. Following is an example, using `bf:contributor`.

<code>bf:contributor</code> [<code>a</code>	<code>bf:Person ; bf:Authority ;</code>
	<code>bf:authorizedAccessPoint</code>	<code>“Knape, Joachim.” ;</code>
	<code>bf:hasAuthority</code>	<code><http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n80103961>] .</code>

2.0 Proposal

1. Eliminate property `bf:creator` (see examples 3 and 4, for how to express the creator role). `bf:contributor` would continue to be used:
 - a. when there isn’t a more-specific role to express, or
 - b. to express a contributor (agent) paired with a string role (see 4).
2. Method 2 above (external property) may continue to be used.
3. The relator role construct is eliminated.
4. `bf:contributor` may be used as in 1 (a), or as follows. Class `bf:Contribution` is defined, with properties `bf:role` and `bf:agent`. Thus `bf:contributor` has an expected value of either `bf:Agent` (as in 1a) or `bf:Contributor`.

5. A bf:Agent is no longer expressed as a bf:Authority. (And bf:Agent is no longer a subclass of bf:Authority. Current subclasses of bf:Agent -- bf:Person, bf:Family, bf:Organization, bf:Jurisdiction and bf:Meeting -- remain so.)
6. bf:authorizedAccessPoint is replaced by rdfs:Label.
7. Property bf:hasAuthority is eliminated, and the “direct” method is used instead (see examples).

Examples

Example 1: *Role is contributor (unqualified).*

```
bf:contributor    <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO> .

<http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO>
  a              bf:Person;
  rdfs:label     "Rineer, A. Hunter (Amos Hunter), -1985" .
```

Example 2: *Role is author, expressed by external vocabulary.*

```
relators:aut     <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO> .

<http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO>
  a              bf:Person;
  rdfs:label     "Rineer, A. Hunter (Amos Hunter), -1985" .
```

Example 3: *Role is author, expressed by external vocabulary, no label included.*

```
relators:aut     <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO> .
```

Example 4: *Role is contributor, qualified by creator, expressed by literal.*

```
bf:contributor [
  a          bf:Contribution ;
  bf:role    "creator" ;
  bf:agent   <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n94064763#RWO> ] .
```