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Understanding FRBR-based Information Visualisation of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter

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Abstract

The Harry Potter series, encompassing both books and films, undergoes a comprehensive FRBR examination focusing on Group 2 entities to analyse its diverse manifestations. At the textual level, J.K. Rowling's original novels form the foundational expressions, constructing intricate plots and character arcs that captivate a global readership. The cinematic adaptations bring the wizarding world to life through compelling visuals, performances, and musical compositions. Translations into numerous languages expand the series' accessibility, enabling cross-cultural immersion into the narrative. Additionally, alternative expressions, such as director's cuts and extended editions, offer new insights and perspectives, enriching the cinematic experience. Applying the FRBR framework, the Harry Potter series emerges as a complex and multifaceted entity, with each manifestation contributing to its worldwide popularity and enduring cultural significance. This research highlights the series' adaptability and impact, demonstrating its ability to resonate with audiences of all ages and backgrounds across various media formats.

Introduction

FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) is a conceptual model developed by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) to assist in organising bibliographic records within library catalogues. It offers a framework for understanding user interaction with bibliographic resources and defines the key entities and relationships within bibliographic data. Arastoopoor (2022) stated that by organizing bibliographic records based on these entities and user tasks, libraries can improve the way users search for, identify, and access resources. FRBR helps create more user-friendly and intuitive library catalogues that reflect the intellectual and artistic content of resources, rather than just their physical attributes.

It is vital to understand that there are three different types of entities. According to Sugimoto et al. (2021), Group 1 focuses on the results of intellectual or creative endeavour (a publication). Group 2 focuses on persons responsible for intellectual or creative material (individual or business body). Finally, Group 3 included those that serve as themes for intellectual or creative endeavours.

The Harry Potter series, created by J.K. Rowling, has captivated readers and viewers worldwide (Higgin, 2022). This study aims to apply the FRBR framework to analyse the Harry Potter series, examining the various manifestations of the story in both book and movie formats. There are two main reasons why the Harry Potter series has been selected for the study. Firstly, it has been the subject of numerous previous studies. In addition, the series is highly suitable for applying the FRBR model, with reliable identification of works, expressions, manifestations, and items. Thus, incorporating the FRBR model into bibliographic records offers a powerful means to enhance bibliographic organisation and navigation (O'Neill, 2002).

The objectives of the study are (1) to analyse the FRBR entities in Harry Potter's series within the bibliographic resources discovery of WorldCat and (2) to introduce/ embed the FRBR entities in Group 2 towards Harry Potter's series of works.

Methodology

The study analyses the detailed characteristics of all the FRBR elements present in WorldCat records related to the Harry Potter book and film series. Generally, the FRBRization process uses the Library of Congress FRBR Display tool to generate bibliographic records according to the FRBR entities. A study by Normaziah et al. (2023) used the LOC FRBR Display tool in the study of the Al-Quran work set. This will further illustrate the application of Group 2 entities specifically.
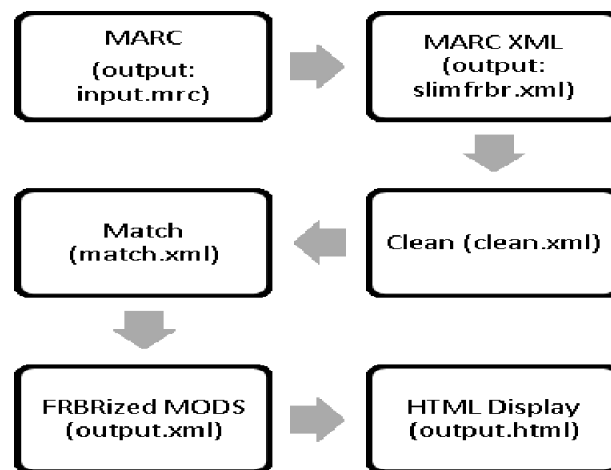
Figure 1. Flow Diagram of the FRBR Process (Normaziah et. al, 2023)

Findings

FRBR Analysis on Harry Potter Books

Figure 2. The Complete Book Series of Harry Potter

Work Level (Harry Potter Series as a Whole):

At this level, we examine the overarching concept of the Harry Potter series (as shown in Figure 2), including its themes, characters, and storyline. We identify the core elements that define the series, such as the struggle between good and evil, the journey of Harry Potter as the chosen one, and the magical world created by J.K. Rowling. We analyse the narrative structure, character development, and thematic depth present throughout the series. This level helps us understand the fundamental concepts and ideas that unify the entire Harry Potter series. According to the search result in Figure 3, WorldCat has portrayed the important point which is 'person' behind the creation of *Harry Potter- - J. K. Rowling (Author), Mary GrandPre (Illustartor), Arthur A. Levine Books (Publisher).*
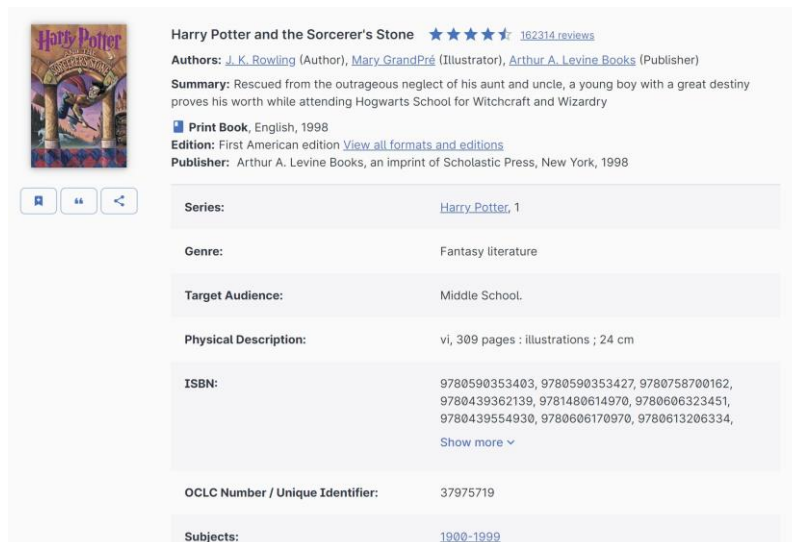
Figure 3. The Elements of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone from WorldCat

Expression Level (Different Editions, Translations, etc.):

In this section, we look at the numerous expressions or variations of the Harry Potter series, including editions, translations, and adaptations. We use translations to examine how the tale is conveyed in different languages and cultural situations, taking into account how cultural subtleties might impact text perception. We compare different editions of the works, noting differences in language, formatting, pictures, and added information. This level explains how the tale is altered and presented to diverse audiences, shedding light on the Harry Potter series' global reach and cultural significance. Figure 4 below shows the various translation works from English to Spanish, Chinese and Italian.
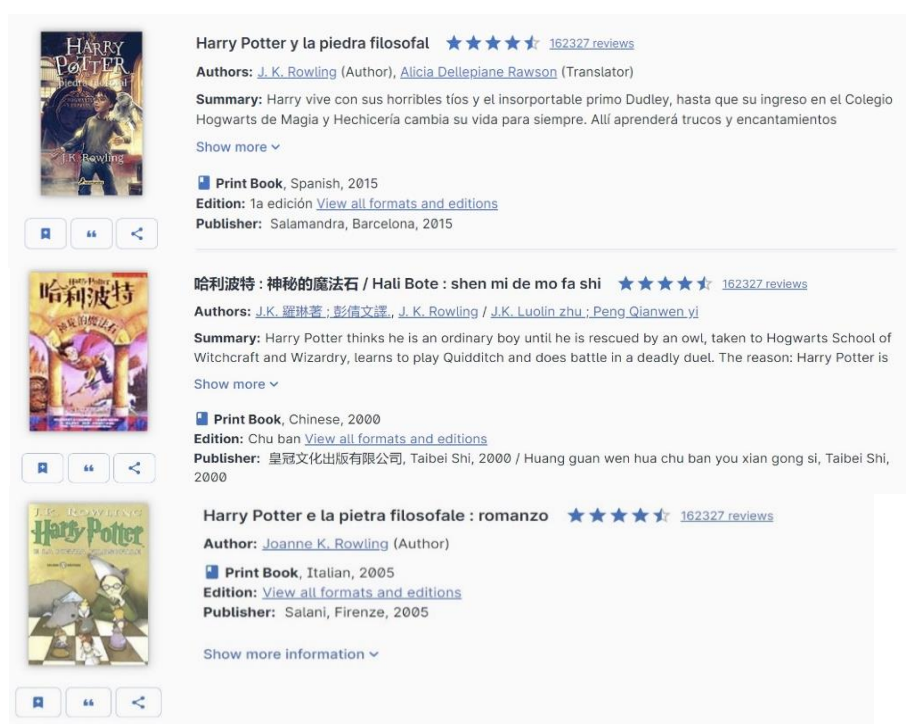
Figure 4. The Translation Works of Harry Potter

Manifestation Level (Individual Books):

At this level, we focus on the physical or digital copies of individual books within the Harry Potter series. We analyse different manifestations of each book, including various formats such as hardcover, paperback, e-book, and audiobook. We consider different editions of each book, including first editions, special collector's editions, anniversary editions, and any accompanying materials. This level helps us understand how the books are produced and distributed to readers, including changes in cover design, typography, and other physical attributes. Based on Figure 5, although all books pertain to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, each edition features a distinct cover design and formatting.

Figure 5. The Printed Version of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone with Different Editions

Item Level (Specific Copies):

Here, we examine specific copies of individual Harry Potter books, focusing on the unique or special attributes of each item. We may analyse signed copies, limited editions, first editions, or copies with unique annotations or inscriptions. We consider the provenance and history of individual copies, including any noteworthy ownership or associations. This level provides insights into the materiality of the books and their value as collectable objects, as well as the personal connections and experiences of readers with specific copies.
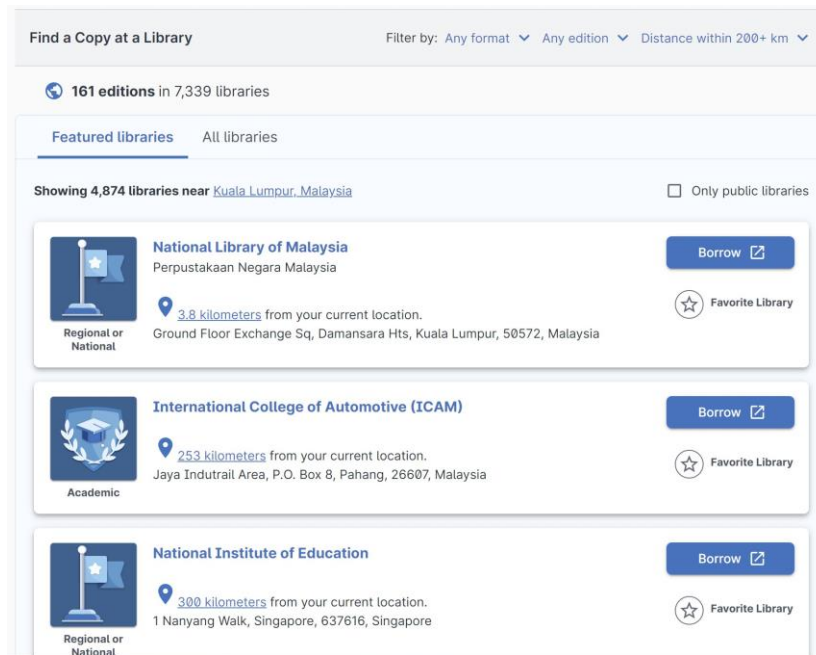
Figure 6. Library Holdings of Harry Potter Editions Near Kuala Lumpur via WorldCat

Thus, through FRBR analysis at each of these levels, we gain a comprehensive understanding of the Harry Potter books from their conceptualisation as a series to their expression in different languages and editions, their physical manifestations as individual books, and the unique attributes of specific copies owned by readers. This multi-dimensional approach enriches our appreciation of the wizarding world created by J.K. Rowling and its significance within the realm of literature and popular culture.

FRBR Analysis of Harry Potter Movies

Figure 7. Harry Potter Movies

Work Level (Film Series as a Whole):
At the work level, we examine the Harry Potter film series as a cohesive entity, encompassing all eight movies. We identify the overarching narrative structure, themes, and character arcs that span across the entire film series. Analysis at this level helps us understand the collective storytelling and world-building efforts undertaken by filmmakers to adapt J.K. Rowling's novels into a cinematic format. We

explore how the movies collectively contribute to the cultural phenomenon of the Harry Potter franchise and its impact on popular culture.

Expression Level (Different Versions, Cuts, etc.):

Here, we explore the various expressions or versions of the Harry Potter movies, including extended editions, director's cuts, and alternative versions. We analyse any differences in content, pacing, or visual effects between the theatrical releases and extended or director's cut versions. Additionally, we consider how the movies are adapted for different formats or platforms, such as IMAX or 3D screenings. This level allows us to understand how filmmakers' choices in editing and presentation affect the viewer's experience and interpretation of the story.
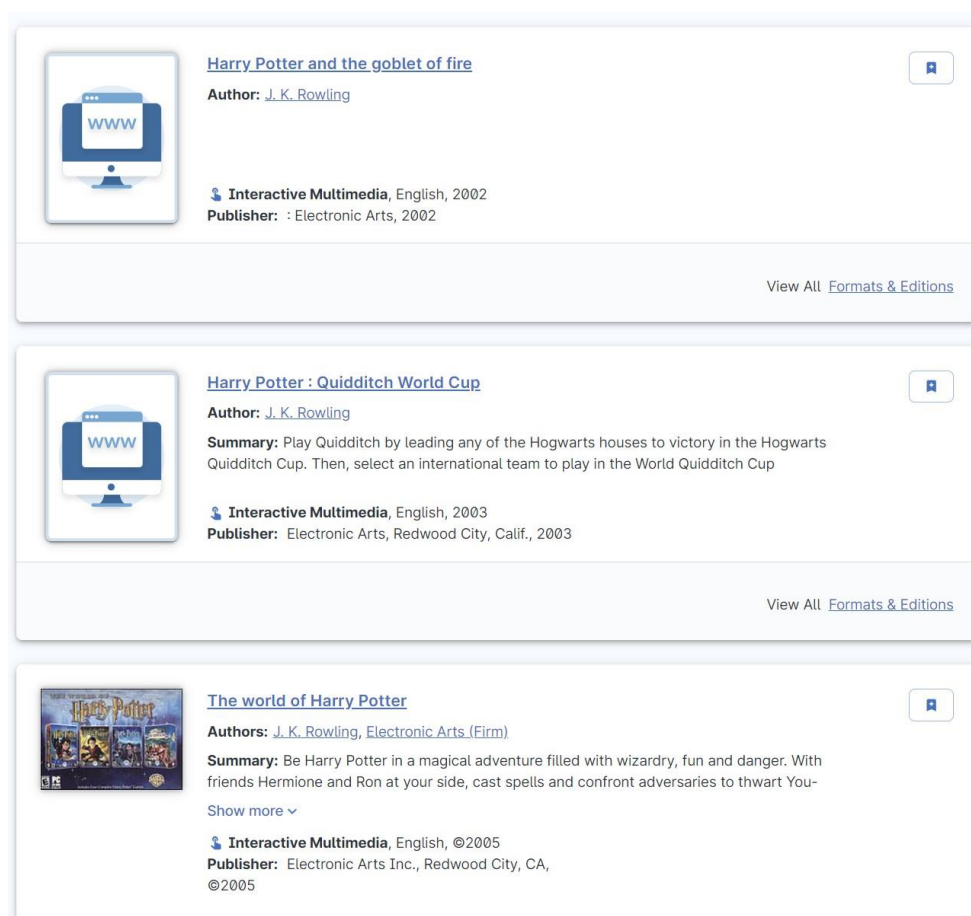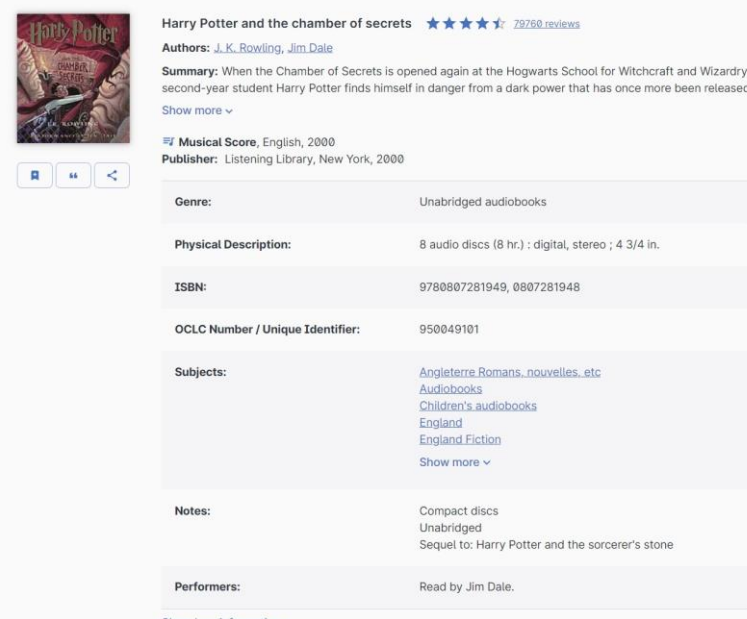

Figure 8. Variations of Harry Potter Interactive Multimedia Adaptations as Expressions

Manifestation Level (Individual Movies):

At the manifestation level, we focus on the individual movies within the Harry Potter series. We examine each film's distinct storyline, visual style, and thematic elements, as well as how they contribute to the overarching narrative of the series. Analysis at this level includes considerations of directorial choices, cinematography, set design, and musical score. We also examine deviations from the source material and assess how such changes impact the adaptation process. This level helps us

understand the unique characteristics and contributions of each movie to the overall Harry Potter cinematic universe, as illustrated in Figures 9 and 10.

Figure 9. Item-level Example: Unabridged Audiobook Edition

Figure 10. Manifestation-level Example: First Edition Print

Item Level (DVD/Blu-ray Copies, Digital Versions, etc.):

Here, we focus on specific copies or formats of the Harry Potter movies, such as DVD, Blu-ray, digital downloads, or streaming versions. We analyse the features and extras included in each release, such as behind-the-scenes documentaries, deleted scenes, and audio commentaries. Additionally, we consider any variations in image quality, sound encoding, and subtitles between different releases and formats (Figure 11). This level allows us to understand how the movies are packaged and distributed to viewers, as well as the supplementary content provided to enhance the viewing experience.

Figure 11. Item-level Examples - DVD, Bluray and VHS

Hence, by performing an FRBR analysis at each of these levels, we gain a comprehensive understanding of the Harry Potter films, from their conception as a film series to their expression in various cuts and versions, their manifestation as individual films, and the various formats and editions available to viewers. This multifaceted approach broadens our understanding of the cinematic

adaptation of J.K. Rowling's famous novels, as well as its relevance in the worlds of film and pop culture.

Types of Expression of Group 2 Entities in Harry Potter Books and Movies

Through the findings, it can be seen that in the FRBR model, Group 2 entities represent the "Expression" level, focusing on the various expressions or versions of a work. There are four "Expressions" that can be identified, which are (1) Textual Expression, (2) Visual and Auditory Expression, (3) Language Expression, and (4) Alternative Expression.

Textual Expression

Firstly, the Textual Expression, which can be identified through the books written by J. K. Rowling. The books represent the textual expression of the Harry Potter series, each presenting the story through written language and narrative prose. J.K. Rowling's original novels serve as the primary source material for the Harry Potter series, offering readers a textual representation of the wizarding world and its characters. For instance, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" is an expression of the first instalment in the series, presenting the story through written words and descriptions.

Visual and Auditory Expression

Secondly, the movies produced by The Warner Studios represent the visual and auditory expression of the Harry Potter series, presenting the story through audio-visual elements such as cinematography, acting, and sound design. Film adaptations of the Harry Potter books translate the narrative into a cinematic format, incorporating visual effects, musical scores, and performances to convey the story to audiences. For example, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (also known as "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" in some regions) is an expression of the first movie adaptation, presenting the story through visual and auditory means.

Language Expression

Thirdly, the translations of the Harry Potter books represent the series' expression in different languages, allowing readers around the world to access the story in their native tongues (Salaba & Merčun, 2020). The books have been translated into numerous languages to reach a global audience, with translators adapting the text to convey the story effectively while preserving its cultural and linguistic nuances. This can be seen through "Harry Potter y la Piedra Flosofal". It is the Spanish translation of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," offering Spanish-speaking readers an expression of the story in their language.

Alternative Expression

Lastly, the director's cuts and extended editions of the Harry Potter movies represent alternative expressions of the cinematic adaptations, offering viewers additional or revised content beyond the theatrical releases. These versions may include deleted scenes, extended sequences, or alterations to the editing and pacing of the films, providing viewers with alternative interpretations or experiences of the story. Take "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets: Extended Edition" as an example. It includes additional scenes and footage does not present in the theatrical release, offering viewers an alternative expression of the second movie in the series.

Categorising the Harry Potter books and movies within Group 2 entities of the FRBR model, we can better understand how the series is expressed across different mediums and versions, each offering unique interpretations and experiences of J.K. Rowling's beloved story.

Conclusion

In concluding the FRBR analysis of the Harry Potter books and films through Group 2 entities, it becomes evident how the series is expressed across various mediums, each offering a unique interpretation and experience of J.K. Rowling's magical world. The textual expression of the books immerses readers in intricate narratives, rich character developments, and vivid descriptions, inviting them to explore the wizarding realm through their imagination (Sugimoto et al, 2021; Seikel & Steele, 2020). Simultaneously, the visual and auditory expressions of the films captivate audiences through stunning cinematography, compelling performances, and enchanting musical scores, bringing the magical universe to life on the silver screen.

Furthermore, the translations of the books and alternative expressions of the movies, such as director's cuts and extended editions, demonstrate the global reach and enduring appeal of the Harry Potter series. Translations enable readers worldwide to access the story in their native languages, fostering inclusivity and cultural appreciation (Dobreski, 2021). Meanwhile, alternative expressions provide viewers with additional insights and perspectives, enriching their understanding of the narrative and characters. Overall, by applying the FRBR model to the Harry Potter books and films through Group 2 entities, we gain a deeper appreciation of the series' versatility, cultural significance, and enduring impact on audiences worldwide.

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Syahirah Nawawi, is currently a master's student at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in Library and Information Science. She still exploring how the research world works. Her interest towards books is unimaginable.