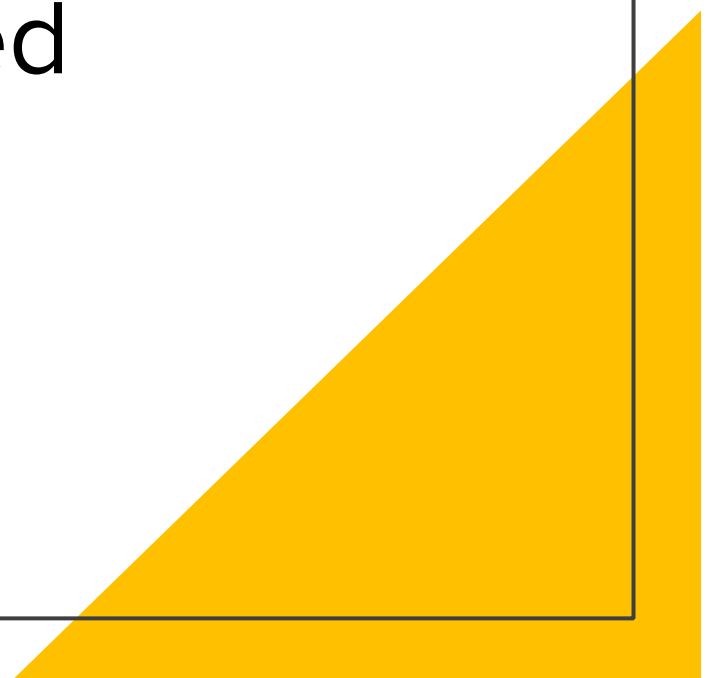


BIBFRAME in Practice: Global Perspectives on Implementation, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

DCMI 2026

Seoul, August 6



Share-VDE and the BIBFRAME Interoperability Group

DCMI 2026 · BIBFRAME PANEL



Meaning-Driven AI: Using Metadata to Align Systems with Human Values

2026 August 3rd to 7th

National Library of Korea, Seoul





A Collaborative Foundation

Through the BIBFRAME Interoperability Group and the broader international community, Share-VDE has been able to discuss concrete modelling issues with other institutions.

The goal is not to propose an alternative to BIBFRAME, but to understand how different implementations can remain interoperable while addressing local requirements.

The Scale of Share-VDE

100M+

Bibliographic Records

Bibliographic data from different libraries managed within the collaborative knowledge graph

1

Shared Knowledge Graph

A single environment where bibliographic entities are continuously shared, clustered, and enriched

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Modelling Challenges

Challenges often less visible in single-institution implementations, surfaced at collaborative scale

This environment has exposed modelling challenges that are often less visible in single-institution implementations—making Share-VDE a uniquely rich testing ground for BIBFRAME interoperability.

The Central Question

How can we preserve interoperability while representing bibliographic semantics more explicitly?

This question guides Share-VDE's contribution to BIG: balancing fidelity to BIBFRAME with richer, semantically precise modelling at knowledge-graph scale.

Example 1: Work vs. Expression — The Opus Entity

Standard LC Conversion

Hub generated only in selected cases, e.g. uniform titles or name-title access points.

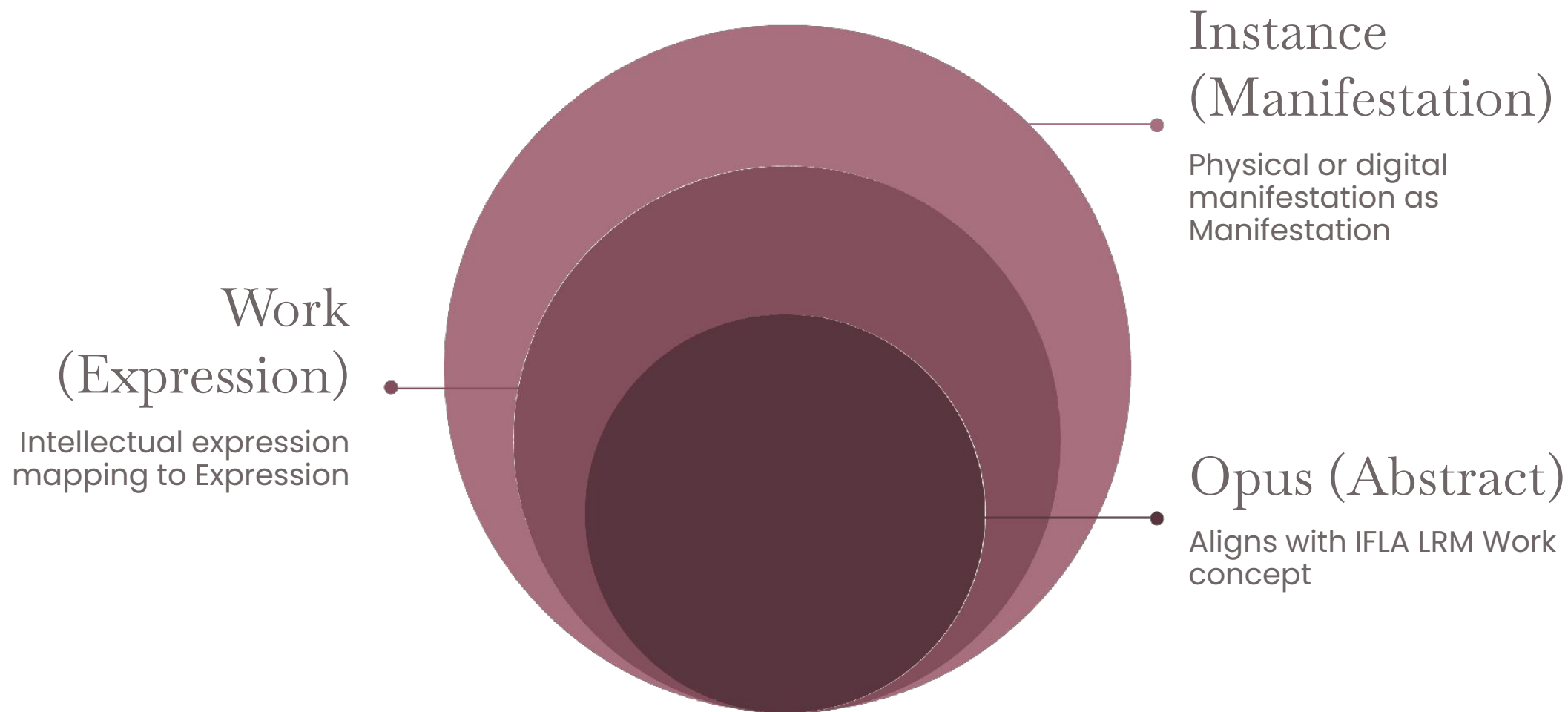
Share-VDE Approach

Every bibliographic description generates an **Opus entity**, the abstract work behind specific expressions.

Distinct Work entities represent expressions and link back to the Opus, supporting consistent clustering.



Opus and IFLA LRM Alignment



Opus bridges BIBFRAME implementation with IFLA LRM and supports clustering beyond local cataloguing practice.

Example 2: Name-Title Access Points

The standard MARC-to-BF conversion tool tends to aggregate all information from a 7XX Name-Title field into a single Hub. However, those MARC subfields often describe characteristics belonging to different conceptual entities.

Standard Conversion

All subfield information collapsed into one Hub, preserving the original MARC grouping regardless of semantic level.

Share-VDE Approach

Information is distributed across **Opus, Work, and Instance** according to semantic meaning. Language, identifiers, and manifestation-specific data are assigned to the appropriate bibliographic level.

Example 3: Contributor Roles

Standard conversion usually assigns 7XX contributors to the Work. Some MARC relator codes instead describe manifestation-level responsibilities.

1

Analyse

Each contributor role is examined individually for its semantic scope

2

Assign

Roles are assigned to Opus, Work, or Instance accordingly

3

Represent

Precise bibliographic responsibility, fully compatible with BIBFRAME



The Broader Lesson: MARC Is Not Just a Format

The transition from MARC to linked data is not simply a format conversion exercise. It requires interpreting the semantics embedded in MARC and deciding how those semantics should be represented within an entity-based model.

Each of the three examples—Opus entities, Name-Title access points, and contributor roles—illustrates that meaningful BIBFRAME implementation demands active semantic interpretation, not mechanical field mapping.

The Role of the BIBFRAME Interoperability Group



Compare Strategies

Discuss modelling choices and compare different implementation approaches across institutions



Identify Gaps

Surface areas where future community guidance or ontology evolution may improve interoperability



Evolve Together

Allow the community to understand modelling diversity and grow collaboratively rather than enforcing uniformity

Interoperability Is Not Identical RDF

A Common Misconception

Interoperability does not require identical RDF. Different communities may model differently to support local workflows and discovery services.

What Interoperability Actually Requires

- **Shared semantics** across implementations
- **Transparent modelling decisions** that others can understand
- **Continuous collaboration** across the community
- Modelling choices that remain **explicit and interoperable**

Key Takeaways

Semantic Interpretation

MARC-to-BIBFRAME conversion demands active semantic interpretation, not mechanical mapping

Explicit Modelling

Modelling decisions must be transparent and understandable to enable true interoperability

Collaborative Forums

Groups like BIG are essential—not to eliminate diversity, but to help the community understand and evolve with it

