

An Approach to Serials with FRBR in Mind
CONSER Task Force on Universal Holdings
“Draft Summary” (Super-Records: Bibliographic Aspects)

It has proved difficult to apply FRBR concepts to serials (says the TF on FRBR and Continuing Resources). Besides editions, versions, etc., major changes identify a serial with multiple titles (or name titles) in sequence, requiring separate cataloging for each. Which entity represents the work—the entity we catalog (identified by one title or name title) or the entire run of issues associated through time?

In the view of those working with holdings, the biggest stumbling block to the intelligent organization of information for display to users is the fragmentation of holdings information between bibliographic records. Although the bibliographic record contains information linking title changes in sequence, this information is not used in full by vendors of library information systems (which search only subfield \$t and link only the immediately preceding and following titles; links are often not present when viewing holdings).

One possible solution to this failure to collocate related serial records is an approach loosely based on the FRBR model—using the existing records in a new way. To this end the TF has brought to bear Rahmat Fattahi’s concept of “super-work” and “super-record” from the 1997 JSC Conference. The super-record is a record (we are temporarily assuming a bibliographic record) which would stand “over” all of the component serial records in order to manage relationships between them. Relationships to be managed are chronological (major changes) and horizontal (editions, versions, etc.)—not supplement-parent or subseries-series relationships. Optimally, computers would utilize direct links by means of control numbers to aid retrieval of both the super-record and its component titles, and would be able to construct them from associating component records by means of some automated mechanism. We envision this record as usable in a general database such as the CONSER database, and locally with specific local information and holdings. By means of programming, such records could be created dynamically in the process of searching; similar scenarios were envisioned early on by Melissa Beck (“Dealing with Serial Title Changes: Some Theoretical and Practical Considerations,” *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* 9:2 (1988), 25-39.)

The structure of a super-record is a simplified bibliographic record set up to link to related titles. Its 1XX field is, provisionally, the main entry of the earliest title with the qualifier (Supertitle). 7XX linking fields (exact tag to be determined) link each version and “major change.” Subfields indicate

- position in sequence of titles*
- main entry of component
- format*
- LCCN
- OCLC#
- ISSN
- dates of title*

*example 1 shows \$? for subfield code = exact code to be determined

Example 1. A serial which underwent a single major change (in title). See the model in Fig. 1.
Computers and chemistry, v. 1-26 (1976-2002) print (Pergamon/Elsevier), fully or partially reproduced in both film and fiche in Elmsford, NY by Microforms International Marketing Co., available in electronic format (Science Direct)

continued by:

Computational biology and chemistry, v. 27- (2003)- print and electronic (no evidence of micro version so far)

1XX -- Computers & chemistry \$? (Supertitle)

7XX -- \$? 001 \$t Computers & chemistry \$? (Print) \$w (DLC) 81649137 \$w (OCoLC) 1351124 \$x 0097-8455 \$? 1976-2002

7XX -- \$? 001 \$t Computers & chemistry \$? (Microfilm) \$w (OCoLC)9421140 \$? 1976-2002

7XX -- \$? 001\$t Computers & chemistry \$? (Microfiche) \$w (OCoLC)7824405 \$? 1976-2002

7XX -- \$? 001 \$t Computers & chemistry (Online)\$? (Electronic/internet) \$w (OCoLC) 38840804 \$? 1976-2002

7XX -- \$? 002 \$t Computational biology and chemistry (Print) \$w(DLC) 2003-252370 (OCLC)51986982 \$x 1476-9271 \$? 2003-

7XX -- \$? 002 \$t Computational biology and chemistry (Online) \$? (Electronic/internet) \$w (DLC) 2003-204068 \$w (OCoLC)51756925 \$? 2003-

Possible display to users:

Computers & chemistry (Earliest title) was issued as:

Title 1:

Computers & chemistry (Print) –1976-2002

Computers & chemistry (Microfilm)—1976-2002

Computers & chemistry (Microfiche) –1976-2002

Computers & chemistry (Online) (Electronic/internet)—1976-2002

Continued by

Title 2:

Computational biology and chemistry (Print) –2003-

Computational biology and chemistry (Online)(Electronic/internet)—2003-

Notes:

- a. The position indicator following the tag could be accomplished by other methods, perhaps a \$8. The format of a version could be coded as well in an indicator in addition to the format subfield following the title.
- b. The public view of this array of titles and versions could be primarily text based, or presented in a graphic manner. See the graphic Fig. 2 as an example.
- c. ISSN is listed as the last control number, because specificity varies with the nature of the version/reproduction; this is subject to change with ISSN revision. Because the examples show the CONSER database, OCLC numbers are present.
- d. A specific identifier, preferably readily understood, is used for each format, including plain print. If the title already has a uniform title with qualifier, the format qualifier (because it is subfielded) would be enclosed in a separate set of parentheses.
- e. MARC holdings records for the publication history (CONSER database) or local holdings (local catalogs) would be attached to the Super-record, as shown in the full version of this paper. In this scenario, separate holdings records are made for each separate format, edition, or other bibliographically distinct issuance of the publication, but the holdings would not normally be split chronologically when a major change occurred. A desirable feature would be the capability to expand and contract the statements, so that various partial and itemized statements, as well as summaries, could be selected or easily constructed for particular purposes. See the full draft for holdings aspects.

Searching Issues related to the Super-record

The kind of search envisioned is a “cascading search” trying for a match on one control number after another until a matching record is retrieved. (For a discussion, see Alan, Robert. “Linking successive entries based upon the OCLC control number, ISSN, or LCCN,” *Library Resources & Technical Services* 37:3 (October 1993) p. 403-13.)

The specific order of the cascading search should be from the most specific identifier to the least specific. Since the subfield \$t search is one—though the last—option, a separate subfield for the FRBR format qualifier (which could be a specific material designator) is necessary so that the remainder of the field will be searchable as a title in the title index.

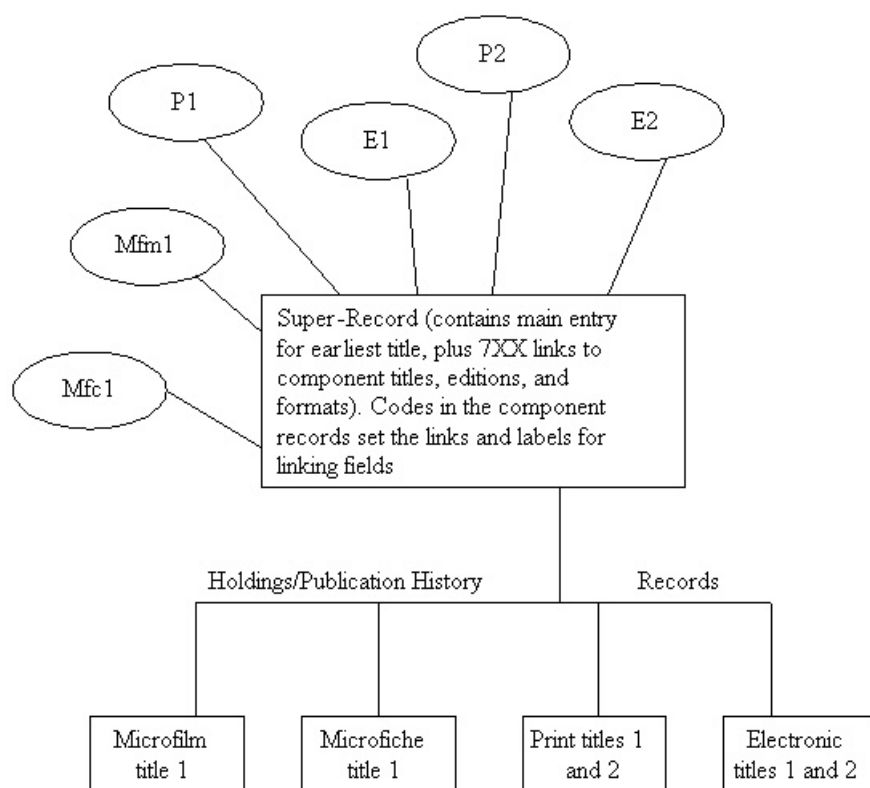


Figure 1.

Computers & Chemistry

Computational Biology & Chemistry

v. 1-26 (1976-2002)

v. 27 (2003)-



Volumes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

Figure 2.