

COMMON ISSUES AND UNCOMMON SOLUTIONS TO
CATALOGUING COMIC BOOKS IN LIBRARIES

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Introduction

There are three major issues highlighted in cataloguing comics in the libraries

- Prioritization of author and title of the work as the primary access point by bibliographic standards like RDA or AACR2 used widely in libraries
- Cataloguing comics as serials when the nature of the comics consists of frequently changing titles and having story arcs or subtitles embedded within a series
- Lack of standardized schema leading to disordered approach to cataloguing comics specially when dealing with single issues

Solutions

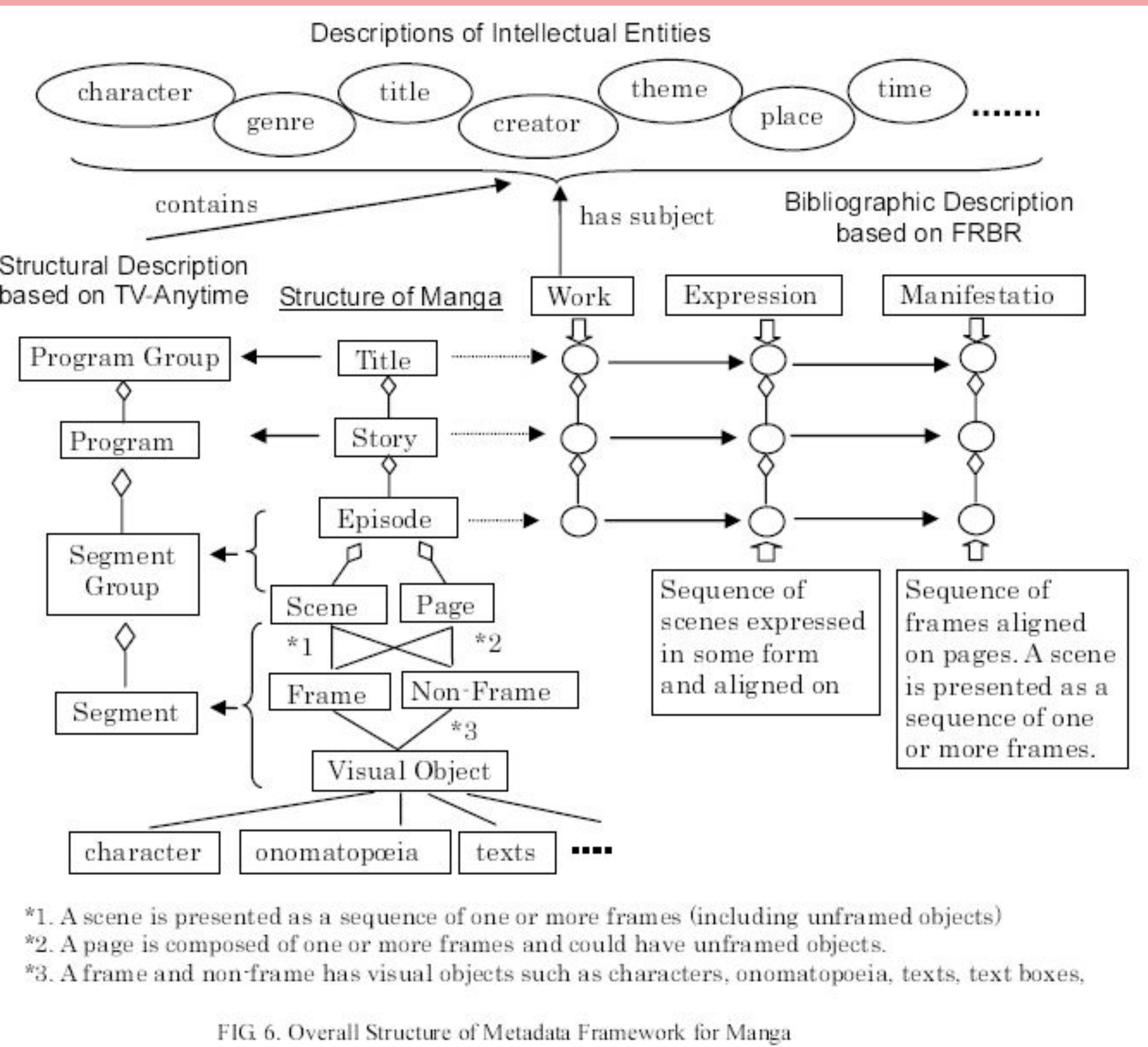
Trying to keep the traditional cataloguing rules intact:

- Developing guidelines titled *Best Practices for Cataloguing Comics and Graphic Novels using RDA and MARC21* (GNCRT - Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table)
- Creating metadata schema familiar to comic book collectors and researchers (James Madison University's metadata schema project)
- A model designed at the University of Tsukuba by integrating schemas; FRBR for bibliographic descriptions and TV-Anytime for structural descriptions (Metadata Framework for Manga)

Breaking the traditional cataloguing rules:

- Developing guidelines to record details in MARC21 fields
245 10 \$aSeries title.
\$nVolume number, \$pSubtitle
Example: 245 10 \$aJujutsu Kaisen. \$n1, \$pRyomen Sukuna /\$cstory and art by Gege Akutami ; translation, Stefan Koza ; touch-up art & lettering, Snir Aharon.
(Central Library Consortium's standards for cataloguing comics)

FIG. 6. Overall structure of Metadata Framework for Manga



- Ayako et al. (2009)

Conclusion

While libraries have found ways to work around to cataloguing comic books and maintain a collection that might prove to be useful for resource discovery but these solutions are in the form of projects undertaken or in-house guidelines. The lack of a standardized metadata clearly led to a variety of creative solutions adopted by libraries.

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