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1. FRBR AND OPAC

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ABSTRACT
This chapter emphasises on the functions of online library catalogues
(OPAC). The FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records)
model is introduced and its potential in enhancing OPAC performance is
discussed. Conclusively, FRBR promotes user-centered bibliographic
database design. Findings from initial FRBR research suggests improved
searching results, improved user satisfaction, and enhanced user search
performance.

1.1 INTRODUCTION
Locating information is one of the major challenges which library users
encounter when they are searching for information from all information
sources such as inline catalogues (OPAC), Internet and library databases. The
development of information technology (IT) and the growing of information
volume which is available in different formats such as printed, CDs, DVDs,
manuscripts, microfilms and digitised theses could discourage users to find
information that can fulfil their needs. The availability of information in
various formats tends to be as a challenge more than as an advantage as
locating relevant information effectively and efficiently requires a number of
skills and competencies from the users.

Nowadays, most information searchers are familiar with search
engine such as Google and they get used to the tray and error strategies
(Bates, 2003). As a result, they expect the library online catalogues to be in a
similar way if not better. These expectations might influence the behaviours
of online library catalogue users based on their experiences with the
commercial books catalogues such as Amazon.com and other search engines.