Analysis of the current version of RDA

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« A French perspective »

RDA in Europe meeting - September 2021, 14th

A thorough analysis made in 2020-2021 by the Standardisation WG of the Tb programme

RDA - a universal standard ?

Official : "RDA is a **package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions** for creating library and cultural heritage resource metadata that are well-formed according to international models for user-focussed linked data applications."
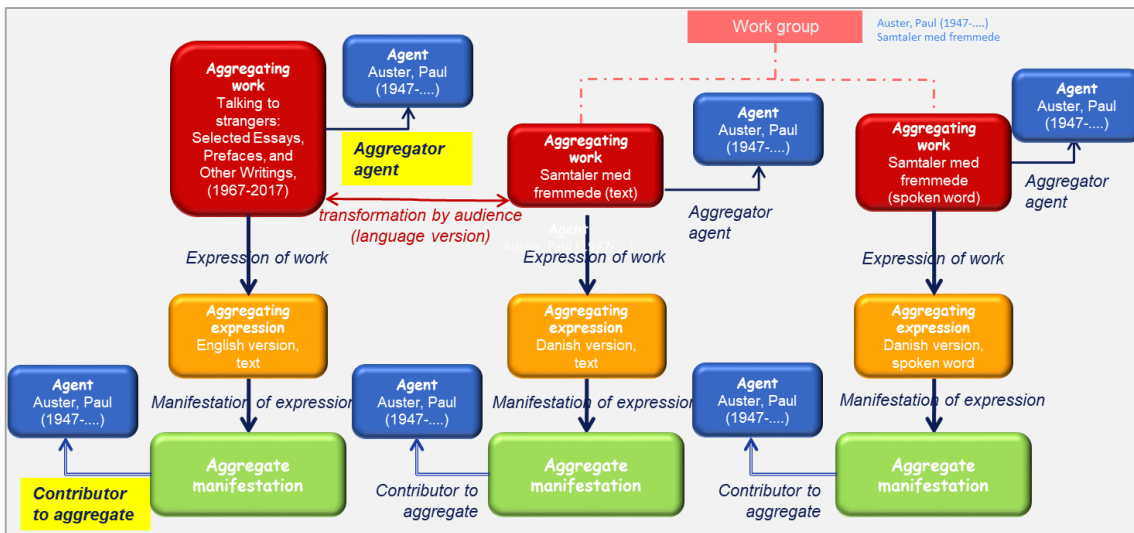
- The only internationally oriented cataloguing code that is deliberately oriented towards an entity/relationship model.

- A new version that broadens the target audience beyond libraries

- But an opening that brings contradictions
  - The multiplication of options reinforces the uniqueness of each profile
  - Interoperability is made real by alignments between named graphs in the LoD, with an increasing role of identifiers
  - Access points managed by APs (remaining local), thus impeding full universal bibliographic control and seamless data exchanges

RDA - a suitable code for cataloguers?

- A difficulty in using the RDA Toolkit in current cataloguing practice

- A need to write supplementary library cataloguing policies for our catalogers,

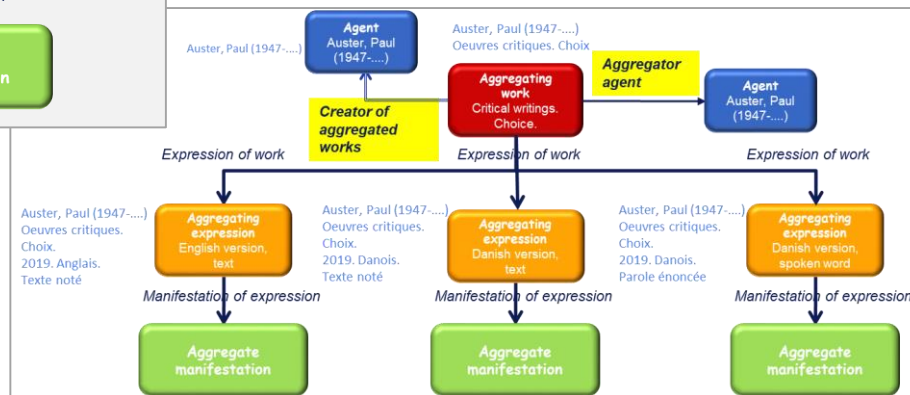- And update it as quickly as RDA evolves

RDA - An implementation of IFLA LRM, complex and in some way difficult to manage
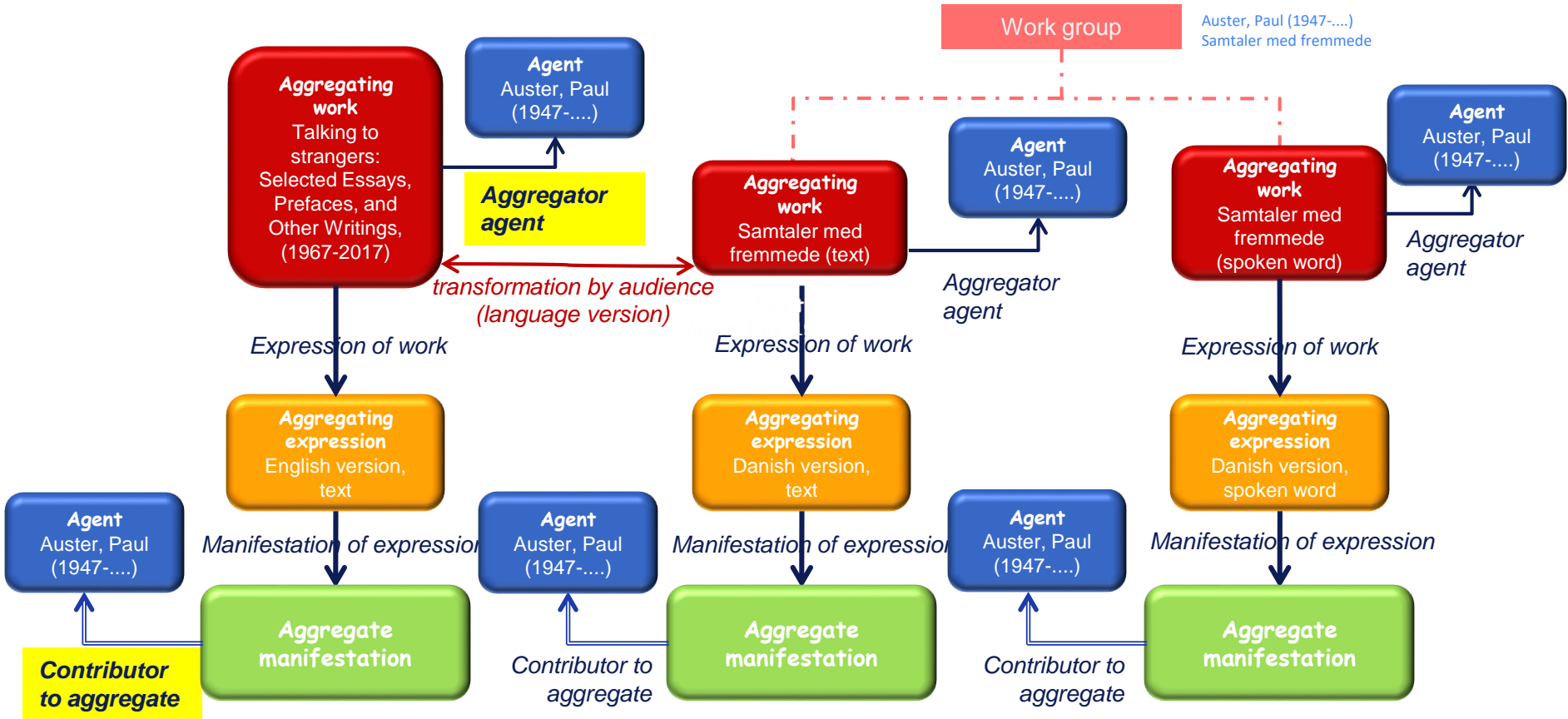

according to RDA

Modelling schemes for aggregating works
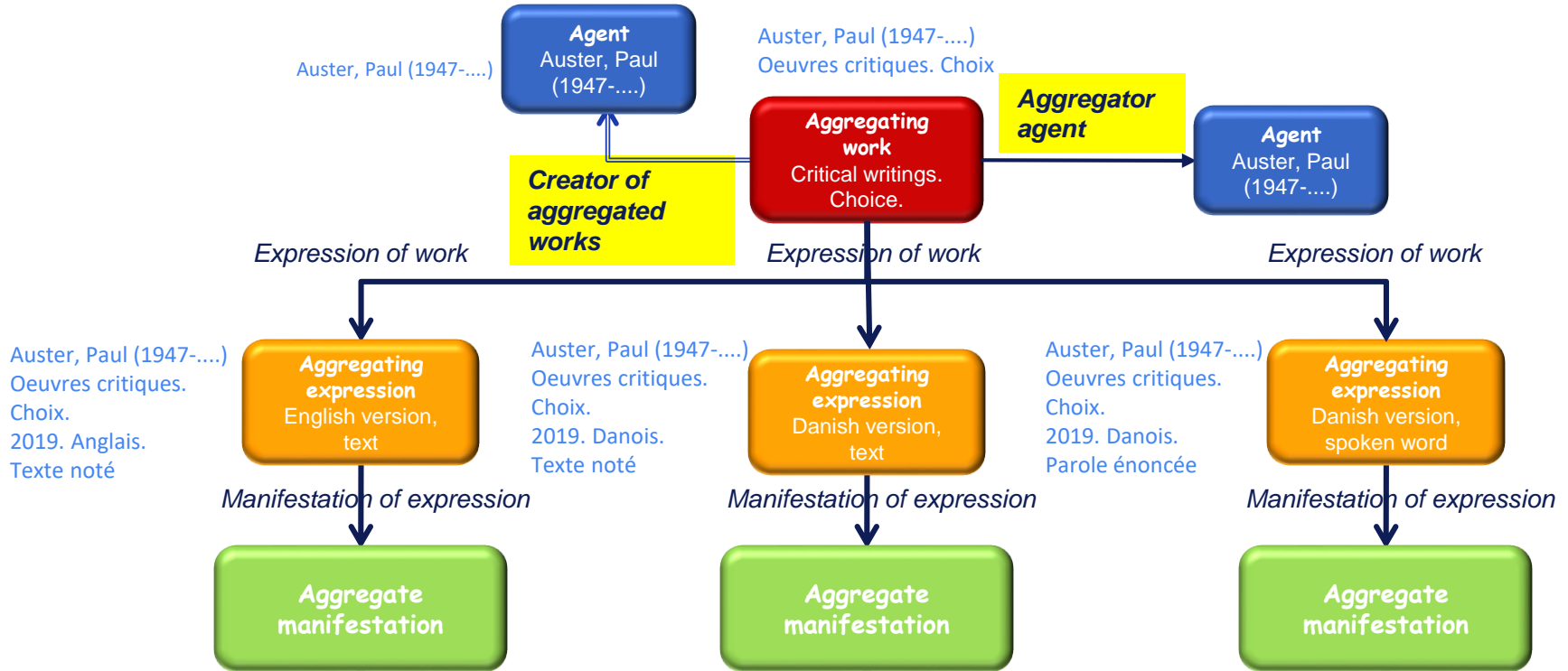
according to RDA-FR

For example
3 versions of the same work
Paul Auster's « Talking to Strangers »

Paul Auster's Talking to Strangers in RDA

Paul Auster's Talking to Strangers in RDA-FR

RDA - some entities still to be created or improved

- An implementation of the entity Person with no link to the Bibliographic Identity
  - Raises some difficulties with ISNI and the rights management community
- Some LRM entities not yet fully implemented:
  - Place
- Some useful but outside LRM entities not yet implemented:
  - Fictitious entity
  - Bibliographic identity
  - Concept
  - Event
- No detailed description of some kinds of resources, transfered to APs
  - Audiovisual
  - Cartographic resources
  - Still image

As a conclusion

- RDA-FR is consistent with almost all RDA Revised rules,
  except Agreggates, Management of Persons, and some minor other points

- RDA-FR is more precise and more suited to cataloguer's needs

- Thus we will keep writing RDA-FR, as it is based on the IFLA LRM model and relying on RDA

- We reaffirm our wish to be a member of the RDA community, via EURIG

- The RDA analysis report is a first deliverable of the French Bibliographic Transition
  Programe in the medium term

- The report is available online
  https://www.transition-bibliographique.fr/2021-06-24-rapport-evaluation-rda-revise-2019/

Thank you for your attention !

david.aymonin@abes.fr

frederique.joannic-seta@bnf.fr