Libraries, classifications and the network: bridging past and future

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• Linked data – build locally, share globally

• Past revisited: desires, promises and models of building and sharing subject vocabularies

• Current challenges
• Linked data – local data shared globally

Isaac, et al. (2011) - Library Linked Data Incubator Group: Datasets, Value Vocabularies, and Metadata Element Sets
• Past revisited
  1994-2014
Linked data principles

• Basic requirements for 5 ⭐ data

⭐ on the web with open license
⭐⭐ machine-readable
⭐⭐⭐ non-proprietary format
⭐⭐⭐⭐ RDF standards
⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ linked RDF
channels through which to move library datasets to the linked data cloud
- on the web with open license
- machine-readable
- non-proprietary format
- RDF standards
- linked RDF

!!! Not the whole story !!!
• Past revisited

**Metadata element sets**
- 60s  MARC Bibliographic
- 80s  MARC Authorities
- 90s  MARC Classification

↑ A long history of collaboration and openness

**Value vocabularies for access points**
- Names / uniform titles
- Subjects
- Classification
Past revisited

Collaboration fostered by productive efficiency (scale)

Sharing and reuse based on standardization & exchange

Metadata element sets

- Complex and redundant
- Focus on the “record” not on data
- Authorities as “complements” to the bib record

Limited “openness” for reuse beyond the library environment
• With LOD

Network participation fostered by value of discoverability
Sharing based on interoperability & transformation

Easy reuse beyond the library environment

Metadata element sets
• Complex and redundant
• Focus on the “record” not on data
• Authorities as “complements” to the bib record
Past revisited

Value vocabularies for subject access

- Collaboration fostered by **intellectual efficiency**

  - generated outside bibliographic systems
  - generated inside bibliographic systems

  copied into authority files

  produced as IR bibliographic data

- **subject IR poorly automated**, classifications especially
Past revisited
1993
– before the WWW

Lopes, M.I. (1993) - Subject authority control in a union catalogue: perspectives for a national co-operative project in Portugal. KO 20, no3,
• Past revisited

2001 – when the idea of the Semantic Web was just emerging

A new philosophy and scope for authority resources

... a new vision for authority work ... that promotes the linking function of authority files, within a catalogue, among the library community of catalogues and within the wider network space of www resources.

It is like finding a market niche for owned and under-exploited values, with the advantage of contributing to help libraries’ penetration in the WWW environment, while maintaining their traditional role of bibliographic control, extending it to the Web resources, at their own pace. It is, in a way, calling for the urgency of ensuring a qualitative role, so much important as libraries cannot yet ensure the means to cope with quantitative aspects, i.e., the scale of the WWW in terms of bibliographic control.

Cordeiro, M. I. (2001) From Library Authority Control to Network Authoritative Metadata Sources. In Subject Retrieval in a Network Environment. Dublin, Ohio, USA, 14-16 August
Past revisited

2004 – when W3C Recom. for RDF, RDF Schema and OWL appear

**Strong demands on the weakest side of international librarianship**

... trends are leading to changes with impacts wider than the field of information retrieval (IR) ... where knowledge organization issues have been discussed. They convey changes in systems paradigms, raising new base concepts, such as the concept of ‘composability’, in which components tend to be system independent, adaptable, extendable and reusable. ...

Yet, most of [KO tools] have not been developed, or modified having practical solutions for wide shareability, adaptability, extensibility and reusability in mind. This is generally the case for the data structure and content of library authority files and of the solutions to manage and convey KO tools.

• Challenges that go far beyond LOD

  Authority data available, not remodeled at source
  • Still “derived”, not redefined
  • Production metadata element sets still cumbersome
  • LOD disaggregation not reflected in internal systems
  • Lack of integrated work for different types of entities
  • ....

  KO systems’ data available, not remodeled at source
  • Lack of high level common ontological principles
  • Insufficient documentation (criteria, methodologies...)
  • Most often not easy to consume directly by ILS
  • ....
The urban landscape metaphor

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Bridges alone are not enough. Structure and organization of the local territory are crucial for bridges to serve the territory and beyond.
Plenty to do in the local territory and below the waterline

- Information and data modeling
  - FRBR, FRAD, FRSAD
  - ...
- Renovation of metadata element sets
- Redesign of systems’ services as part of the global environment
- Full deployment of classificatory structures
Thank you!

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