Linked Data in Canada: Behind the Curve

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Library & Archives
openness advocate:
- open source
- open access
- open data

LD advocate since 2010

SWIB PC since 2013

Ruby RDF contributor
• openness advocate:
  • open source
  • open access
  • open data

• LD advocate since 2010

• SWIB PC since 2013

• Ruby RDF contributor

• never implemented a project using linked data
A Brief History
2011: W3C LLD Report

"to help increase global interoperability of library data on the Web, by bringing together people involved in Semantic Web activities — focusing on Linked Data — in the library community and beyond, building on existing initiatives, and identifying collaboration tracks for the future"
Recommendations

1. develop library data standards compatible with Linked Data
2. identify sets of data for exposure as Linked Data
3. foster a discussion about Open Data and rights
4. increase library participation in Semantic Web standardization
• Britain & France (2010)
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• Finland & Sweden (2012)
  • research projects to expose Linked Data
• USA & Germany (2012)
  • work with BIBFRAME
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• Finland & Sweden (2012)
  • research projects to expose Linked Data
• USA & Germany (2012)
  • work with BIBFRAME
• Netherlands (2016)
  • work with Wikipedia
Cultural Heritage Organizations
• DBpedia (2009)
  • research project using Wikipedia data
• DBpedia (2009)
  • research project using Wikipedia data

• Europeana, European Library, DPLA (2013)
• DBpedia (2009)
  • research project using Wikipedia data

• Europeana, European Library, DPLA (2013)

• BBC (2014)
  • custom ontologies
Corporations
• Google, Yahoo, Bing (2011)
• Schema.org & microdata SEO
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• OCLC, Zepheira (2012)
• Google, Yahoo, Bing (2011)
  • Schema.org & microdata SEO

• OCLC, Zepheira (2012)

• Talis (2012)
  • abandons semantic web business
• BANQ (2013)
• LODLAM summit
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  • LODLAM summit

• LAC
  • $30M funding cut
  • 20% staff cut

• Canadiana
  • ¯\_(ツ)_/¯
How can we do better?
• “librarians in Canada must work across departments, institutions, and countries to create new workflows and tools”

• Participation, not emulation
We must participate internationally
• Disparity between web & library worldview

• From **passive consumers to active developers** of web technology

• eg. LDOW 2016 (Montreal): no library representation
We must contribute to the web community
• “Linked Data … [will] ensure that Canada’s cultural heritage is easily discoverable”

• **Misunderstanding** of Linked Data, Open Data, and the Semantic Web

• Moving our data into the web, where it will live
We must think differently about data
• Lack of commitment to learning about technology & how to use new tools

• **Culture of inaction and fear**

• Stop waiting for someone else to do it

• ask questions, try things, learn how the web works
We must all learn about technology
Attachment to traditional vendors & business models

How does Linked Data fit into the business / revenue model?

What is open (and not) and why (and not)?

Linked Data is not necessarily Open Data
We must work together honestly
• Experimentation & funding: investment in libraries’ technological independence

• **Vaccine against technical debt**
  
  • eg. Open Source web & library technology
We must embrace openness and share
Final Perspective
Silos collaborating!