

“Linked-Data-Ready” Software For Libraries

The eXtensible Catalog

Linked data is poised to replace MARC as the basis for a new library bibliographic framework. Perhaps more significantly, linked data has the potential to make library resources discoverable to potential readers and users through applications that they are already using, such as search engines, mobile apps, and social media.

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The University of Rochester, CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) and other partners, eXtensible Catalog (XC) open source software uses a platform for bulk metadata conversion to prepare library metadata for exposure as linked data, incorporating registered vocabularies for RDA elements and roles, and facilitating the creation of linked data that represents FRBR Group 1 entities. XC can play a key role in transitioning libraries from their current record-based system infrastructure to linked data by enabling the repurposing of existing metadata - without disrupting existing library business processes.

Individual libraries need to learn about linked data in order to:

- Understand linked data as a new paradigm for managing data
- Apply library expertise, such as managing controlled vocabularies, in new environments
- Create linked data about local/special collections
- Influence best practices for linked data
- Encourage vendors to implement linked data.

XC software can facilitate this learning process for libraries by providing opportunities to experiment with linked data, demonstrate its usefulness, and take a leadership role in its deployment.

Proposed future development for XC includes implementing and evaluating a range of linked data output formats including RDF/XML to facilitate harvestable record sets, RDFa to expose website content as linked data, and SPARQL to enable linked data about library resources to be queried on demand, and others based upon community input.

As a result of this proposed development, XC will also become a platform for the creation of linked data TOOLS to manage vocabularies, augment instance data, and create linked data as part of the scholarly process.

Download XC Software:
www.eXtensibleCatalog.org

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