Civil War Data 150 ("CWD150"), is a collaborative project to share and connect Civil War related data across local, state and federal institutions during the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, beginning in April of 2011. The project will utilize Linked Open Data to find and create connections between archives and help increase the discovery of these resources by researchers and the general public alike.

The term Linked Data refers to a set of best practices for publishing and connecting structured data on the Web.

~LinkedData.org

Recent Posts
- Live Tweeting the Civil War + 150
- Civil War Data 150 in ReadWriteWeb
- Jews in the Civil War: Exploring Primary Sources
- Possibilities for Creating Weblinks to Individual Soldiers
- Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Richmond Joins CWD150 Partners
Archives, Libraries, Individual Researchers provide structured data to CWD150

Institutions and companies that provide structured data via various means, such as API’s, RDF, etc.

Institutions such as digital humanities centers, may download the data to incorporate into existing research or provide further analysis.

Individuals can download published data and may use it in reports, publications, visualizations, citing source material.

The data will be published to Freebase and other Semantic Web publishing platforms and repositories. This enables the general public to create further mashups and visualizations.

CSV, XML, RDF, JSON

Civil War Data 150

Vocabulary Alignment

Data Games

Linking people, places, regiments, battles, etc.

Geotagging

flickr® from Yahoo!

CSV, XML, RDF, APIs, Z39.50
What Inhibits Adoption/Traction?

- Lack of Awareness
- Organizational Inertia
- Lack of shared ontologies/taxonomies – what is the standard? Who is the authority?
- Dirty Data/Diversity of data formats, e.g. disambiguation of place names over time, people, etc.
- Legacy systems and/or endless technology debates
- Lack of Clarity of Rights to Use/Reuse data sets and/or limitations on use that inhibit creative integration & expression
- Concerns about persistence, ongoing support
What can we do about this?

- Get Involved: Expose or Consume a collection or two
  – even if only under the auspices of an “experiment”
    - Start small
- Embrace Best Efforts/Be Flexible
  – an imperfect approach is better than none at all
- Embrace Shared Services/Ontologies
  – why reinvent the wheel?
- Promote Maximum Reuse
- Partner
100,000+ Hours of TV
400,000+ Moving Images
700,000+ Audio Recordings
2,500,000+ Books
150,000,000,000+ Web Pages