Better Living through Linking

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An extract of the full presentation which is available here:

http://onebiglibrary.net/story/tcdl-2009-talk-better-living-through-linking
“Linked Data” is worth a close look
so what is it?
a way to link better
a way to make concepts explicit
a way to connect our stuff
a way to connect these together

item record

authority record
draw our stuff deeper into the web
not just files to download but part of the web
how?
use URIs as names for things
use HTTP URIs
provide useful information
include links to other URIs

http://www.w3.org/DesignIssues/LinkedData.html
break down concepts
make them “pages”
Eximious the Joe Pass Trio.

Relevance: ★★★★★

LC Control No.: 84759993
LCCN Permalink: http://lccn.loc.gov/84759993
Type of Material: Music Sound Recording
Corporate Name: Joe Pass Trio
Main Title: Eximious [sound recording] / the Joe Pass Trio.
Description: 1 sound disc : analog, 33 1/3 rpm ; 12 in.
Publisher No.: 2310-877 Pablo
Notes: Jazz; guitar, double bass, and drums.
LC Classification: M1366

Eximious

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Pablo 2310-877
The old bad URL screenscraping required few links out no links in the old
the new

good URL

alternate formats

some links out

more links in

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG RECORD

View LC holdings for this title in the: LC Online Catalog View this record in: MARCXML | MODS | Dublin Core

Eximious

LC Control No.: 84759993
Type of Material: Music Sound Recording
Corporate Name: Joe Pass Trio. prf » More like this
Main Title: Eximious [sound recording] / the Joe Pass Trio.
Description: 1 sound disc : analog, 33 1/3 rpm ; 12 in.
Publisher No.: 2310-877 Pablo
Notes: Jazz; guitar, double bass, and drums. Recorded in Group IV Studios, Hollywood, Calif., May 25 and July 8, 1982.
Subjects: Jazz--1981-1990. » More like this
LC Classification: M1386
Pablo 2310-877
discoverable, parseable alternate formats
apply these rules everywhere
arrows become cross-references
why?
it becomes crawl-able
mine-able
integrated access through smart crawl / index
precision improves with rich metadata explicitly linked
recall improves with explicit links through authority recs
bring precision / recall of clunky OPACs to open web
this is doing web stuff better
just by doing HTML / HTTP
use URIs as names for things
use HTTP URIs
provide useful information
include links to other URIs

http://www.w3.org/DesignIssues/LinkedData.html
doesn’t fit the web,

it is the web
many examples already
if i squint just right...
the "LOD cloud"

a "ready reference" collection
make this useful

turn this into linked data
seems obvious, right?
3. steps you can take today
how to link your data
(or, About All That Other Stuff You Have)
use URIs as names for things
use HTTP URIs
provide useful information
include links to other URIs

http://www.w3.org/DesignIssues/LinkedData.html
first:
clean, cool URIs
for data concepts
instead of this:
/search?subject=Strayhorn,+Billy
do this:
/subject/lccn/n81072976
easy to implement today
easy to redirect tomorrow
next:
offer data views
use

\(<a \text{ rel=}_{\text{___}} \text{ href=}_{\text{___}}}>\)

\(<\text{link rel=}_{\text{___}}>\)
offer up MARC, or JSON, or RDF, or ...
next:
relate your data
to established authorities
your search results backed by shared authority records
put it all together
visit

/subject/lccn/n81072976

• get your content results
• get alternate data views (concept record)
• get links to other useful data
• get links to authorized form
all that’s easy
i promise
the next part’s hard
how to make it last
if your site breaks when links break, cache and link yourself.
instead of just this
do this

UChicago cache is the same as
just like we do in ILS/OPACs
but, yknow, the web way
so if a remote link breaks
your local links still work
also,
proxy concepts
your

/subject/lccn/n81072976

==

my

/subject/lccn/n81072976
but in your app
make every cache its own linked data source
instead of just this

UChicago cache

same as
enable this

UChicago cache

same as

same as

same as

same as

same as

same as

same as
if one goes down
the others live on
if others live on
it’s all still linked
if it’s all still linked
we can keep adding
linked data that lasts
thanks!
dchud at umich edu
onebiglibrary.net
twitter.com/dchud