linking networks of people

Experimenting with the application of Linked Open Data (LOD) technology to digital archives of jazz history.
project goals

1. To help **identify** and **give legibility** to the network of relationships among the jazz artists described in primary sources.

2. To **expose** archival data to the web in the form of LOD that would facilitate discovery and increase visibility of archival content beyond the boundaries of institutional repositories.
“A Great Day in Harlem”

“A Great Day in Harlem”

http://dbpedia.org/resource/Mary_Lou_Williams

http://dbpedia.org/resource/Marian_McPartland

http://dbpedia.org/resource/Thelonious_Monk

http://dbpedia.org/resource/Mary_Lou_Williams

How many people does this artist know? Is this artist connected to another specific artist? What type of relationship do these artists have?
methodology

Create a dataset of RDF triples representing jazz artists and their connections that can be queried and visualized.

Sample: 12 transcripts of taped interviews with jazz musicians.
FOAF in the archive

Friend of A Friend (FOAF) ontology applied to represent relationships among people from the past

- Core FOAF vocabulary (foaf:knows)
- Extension of FOAF
methods

– Create a directory of names.

– Find matches between names from the directory and the transcripts.

– Record the relationship between the interview subject and the resulting match in the format of an RDF triple.
Linked Data cloud
name directory

- Inconsistencies within DBpedia
- Refinement as an ongoing process
- 11,066 triples describing 6,444 individuals

<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Miles_Davis> <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name> "Miles Davis".
“No, we jammed here. Thelonious Monk—I remember once one morning I got sleepy so I said, ‘I'm going to bed.’ When the guys left, the door was open and Monk rang the doorbell and he came inside [...] I screamed. He yelled too and ran out the door and ran in to the closet and the clothes fell on him...”
“...and this was the, like the biggest jazz festival ever. Mary Lou Williams played it and I played it and Toshiko Akiyoshi had her big band, and I mean it was a large event.”
“Later on after I met Count Basie and Art Tatum, Buck showed me a run that Art Tatum—it was his famous run. He made it from top to bottom and Buck had taught me that run.”
searching and matching

To search for and record the instance of the names, a Python script was written that parsed the jazz directory and searched for each name in the transcript.
Ms. Williams: So with me when I went in this place I had Oscar Pettiford, Kenny Clarke on drums, Kenny Durham on trumpet, and Kai Winding on trombone.
degree of knowing someone

doesn’t know

- rel:knows_of
- rel:knows_by_reputation
- rel:knows_in_passing
- rel:has_met
- foaf:knows
- rel:acquaintance_of
- rel:close_friend_of
- rel:influenced_by
- mo:collaborated_with
- rel:mentor_of
“...the biggest jazz festival ever. Mary Lou Williams played it...”

“Later on after I met Count Basie...”

“Jack Howard was an influence as far as giving me strength on the piano... He taught me a lot of professional things it would have taken me years and years to learn.”

“No, we jammed here. Thelonious Monk—I remember once one morning I got sleepy so I said...”
relationship refinement

Two combined approaches for refining and validating foaf:knows relationships:

– machine-driven
– human-driven
low hanging fruit

doesn’t know

- rel:knows_of
- rel:knows_by_reputation
- rel:knows_in_passing
- rel:has_met
- foaf:knows
- rel:acquaintance_of
- rel:close_friend_of
- rel:influenced_by
- mo:collaborated_with
- rel:mentor_of
Public Linked Data Sources
The script searches discographies and album metadata for musicians and producers who contributed to recordings together. It then adds a triple to the dataset that connects musicians using `mo:collaborated_with`.

**RESULTS FILE (QUAD)**

```
<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Duke_Ellington>
<http://purl.org/ontology/mo/collaborated_with>
<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Billy_Strayhorn>
<http://musicbrainz.org/release/6c15be5a-0bc0-44ed-b177-794f717cea58>.
```
Linked Jazz

Interview Transcripts

Below are the interview transcripts currently contained in this archive.

Mary Lou Williams
Interviewed by John S. in 1973

Buddy Tate
Interviewed by Michael Woods in 1995

Charles Davis
Interviewed by Monk Rowe in 1997

Ron Carter
Interviewed by Monk Rowe in 1999

Clark Terry
Interviewed by Joe Williams in 1995

Benny Powell
Interviewed by Michael Woods in 1995
Mary Lou Williams

Excepts from a 1973 interview conducted by John S.

"Louis in 1920 and played briefly with Charlie Barnet and Eddie 8 Vinson before joining Count Basie in 1948. From 1951-59 he traveled with the 7 Duke Ellington Orchestra and toured Europe with the Quincy Jones production 8 of "Free & Easy." Clark was part of the NBC Tonight Show Orchestra in New York City and"

Knows by Reputation

It isn't clear if they have met - but the subject is aware of the person's reputation.
Team members
Cristina Pattuelli
Chris Weller
Ben Fino-Radin
Jared Negley
Sara Rubinow
Jeff Walloch
Genevieve Szablya
Thank you!

Questions?

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