Library Linked Data Webinar 14 September 2021

On the way to Library Linked Data: The view from OCLC Research

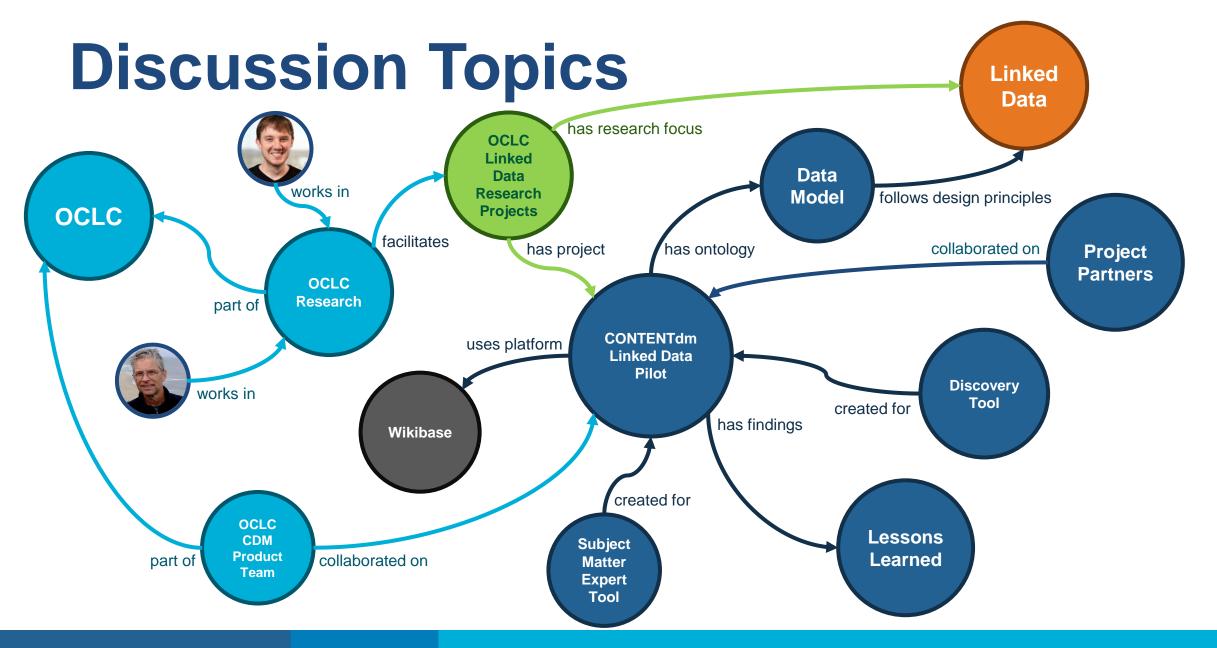


Jeff Mixter
Lead Software Engineer
OCLC Research



Bruce Washburn
Principal Software Engineer
OCLC Research







ABOUT OCLC RESEARCH



OCLC's Research Division

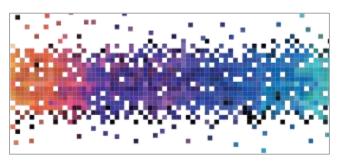
- is a **community resource** for the research-driven advancement of libraries and archives,
- provides advanced development and consultation for the teams that create and maintain OCLC's products, and
- enhances OCLC's member and partner engagement to mobilize the community around shared concerns.



OCLC Research Areas

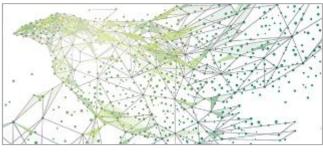


The Collective Collection
Providing evidence and models
that help libraries optimize access
to collections.



Research Collections & Support

Exploring new modes of researcher support and collection management.



Data Science

Analyzing bibliographic data to derive new meaning, insights, and services.



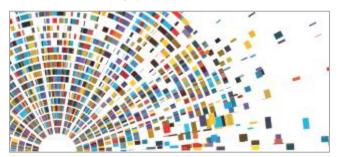
User Research

Studying trends in consumer technology and learning environments and sharing evidence.



Libraries as Community Catalysts

Equipping library staff to respond to ever-evolving community needs.



Library as Enterprise

Exploring how libraries organize internally, engage with their community, and act collectively.



For more information about the people and programs of OCLC Research:

www.oclc.org/research/



THE LINKED DATA VALUE PROPOSITION



"Linked Data" refers to

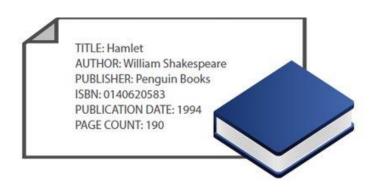
a set of best practices for publishing structured data on the Web.

- 1. Use URIs as names for things
- 2. Use HTTP URIs so that people can look up those names.
- 3. When someone looks up a URI, provide useful information.
- 4. Include links to other URIs so that they can discover more things.

https://www.w3.org/wiki/LinkedData

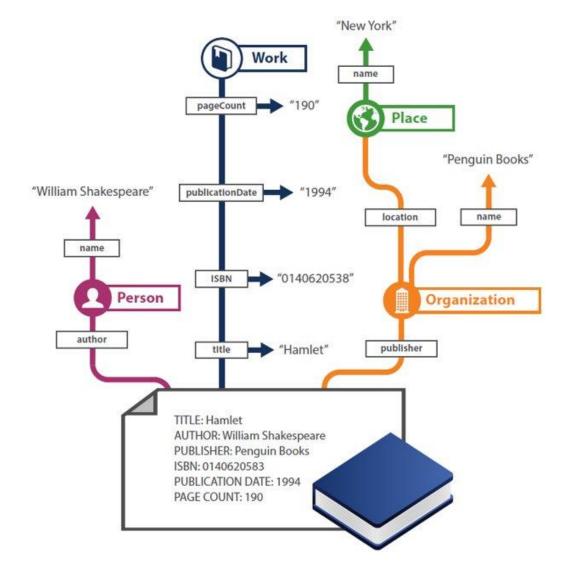


Moving from records to entities





Moving from records to entities





Linked data models reflect commonsense and in the long-term can save money

- Describe real world relationships between things
- Evolve and improve the data model inexpensively
- Avoid complex and inefficient database processes
- Obtain new skill sets and software frameworks



Quality issues with legacy data can be found and fixed when viewed as linked data

- Reveal problematic data using identifiers and rules
- Set data constraints on the model's classes and properties
- A relational database problem can become a linked data problem unless completeness and quality is addressed
- Significant resources are needed for data modeling



Attainable, incremental Linked Data projects produce solid results and lead to long-term goals.

- Build and test manageable subsets of the complete ontology in a graph-based data model
- While iterating, work towards a more comprehensive longer-term objective

Recommended reading: "Overcoming Resistance to Technology Change: A Linked Data Perspective", Tim Williams, UCB Biosciences Inc., PhUSE EU Connect 2018



LINKED DATA RESEARCH AT OCLC

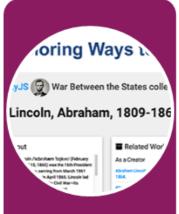


A decade with Linked Data

oc.lc/linkeddataresearch



Publish linked data - FAST, VIAF, WorldCat (2009 -)



EntityJS Research Project (2013)



Person Entity Lookup Pilot (2014)



CONTENTdm Metadata Refinery (2015-16)



Project Passage (2017-18)

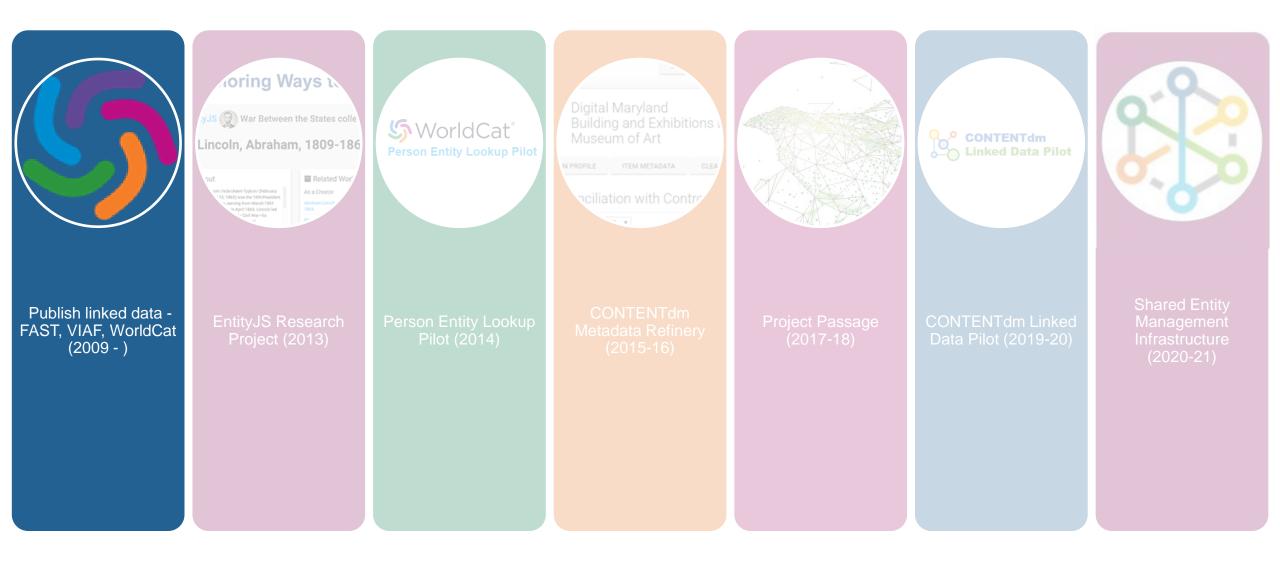


CONTENTdm Linked Data Pilot (2019-20)



Shared Entity Management Infrastructure (2020-21)





VIAF, FAST, and WorldCat: Publish Linked Data on the web with a UI, API, and downloadable datasets



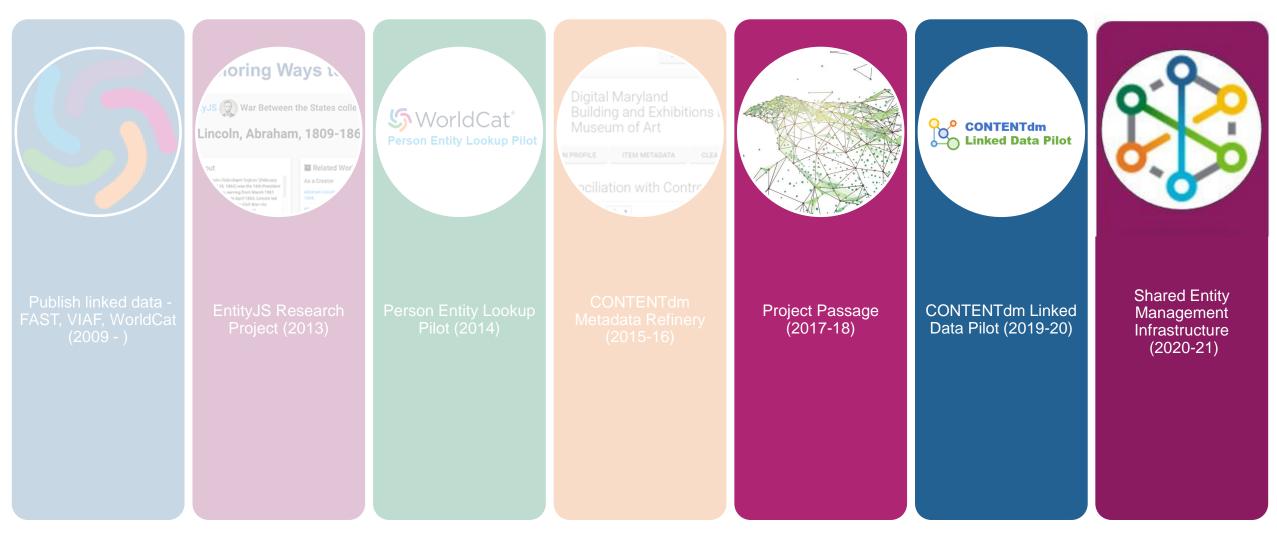


EntityJS: Explore how Linked Data improves discovery of related entities

Person Entity Lookup Pilot: Test use cases and interoperability for Linked Data as a web service

CONTENT Metadata Refinery: Evaluate shared tools to manage the Linked Data workflow





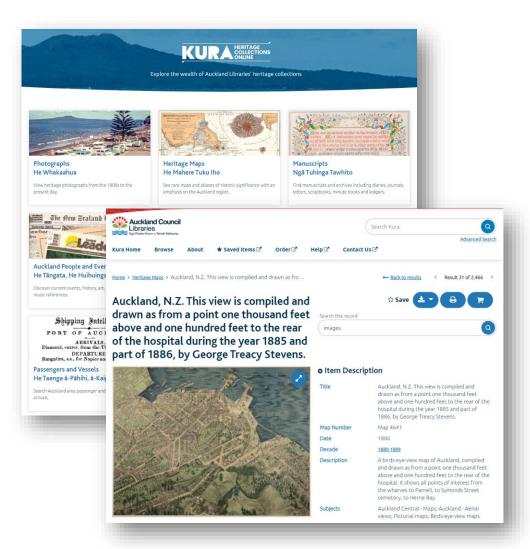
Project Passage: Think big... Build a complete system based on Linked Data **CONTENT Linked Data Pilot:** Think "long tail". Attend to the issues around the special and unique. **Entity Management:** Build a full entity management infrastructure at global scale.

ABOUT THE CONTENTOM LINKED DATA PILOT PROJECT



What is CONTENTdm?

- OCLC's digital content management service.
- CONTENTdm builds and showcases digital collections.
- CONTENTdm securely manages digital materials in a cloud-based system.



https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/

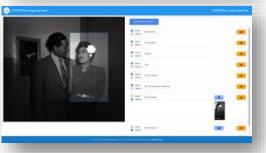


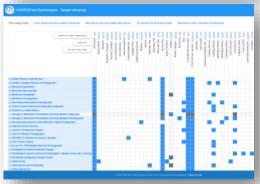
Research Areas of Interest

- 1. Divergent practice and collection assessment
- Shared data models for diverse collections and institutions
- 3. Automated data processing and human attention
- 4. Tools for subject matter experts
- 5. Discovery tools to reveal hidden connections
- 6. The Linked Data paradigm shift

oc.lc/cdmld









Research Areas of Interest

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oc.lc/cdmld









BUILDING A LINKED DATA MODEL



Developing a Data Model

- CONTENTdm metadata is very heterogeneous, when comparing different institution's practices.
- There can be variability in vocabularies and data dictionaries even for different collections at the same institution.
- A single data model was needed for the Linked Data pilot project, as a single system would manage metadata for all institutions and collections.



Developing a Data Model

- The pilot project tested a hypothesis:
 - through sampling current CONTENTdm metadata, and looking for patterns and convergence, a model could be driven by data and avoid speculation.
- Properties and Classes in the data model were associated with their counterparts in other ontologies and vocabularies, to support transformation, export, and linking.

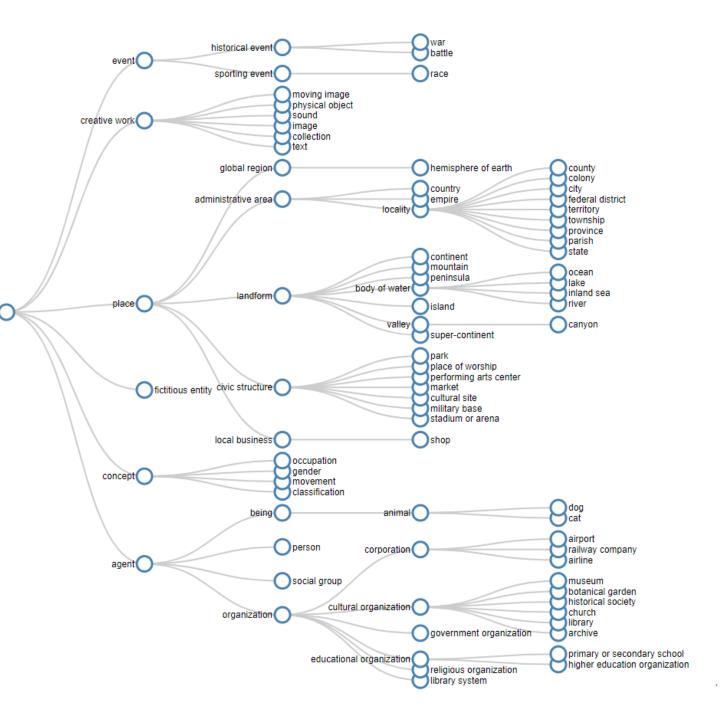


Developing a Data Model

- Metadata analysis began with an inventory of CONTENTdm mapping of local data elements to Dublin Core.
- The most frequently encountered classes and relationships were identified.
- 13 million records were analyzed to find the most widely-used properties for creative works.
- The most frequently used terms were extracted to build an initial class taxonomy for creative works.
- Collaboration with project partners and colleagues revised this method.



CONTENT
dm
Data Model
Class Hierarchy



WIKIBASE AS A LINKED DATA PLATFORM



Why Wikibase?

- OCLC Research is very familiar with the Wikibase ecosystem.
- Wikibase is well-suited for the Linked Data investigations for the CONTENTdm pilot project.
- Using Wikibase helped OCLC Research and the project participants dive right in.



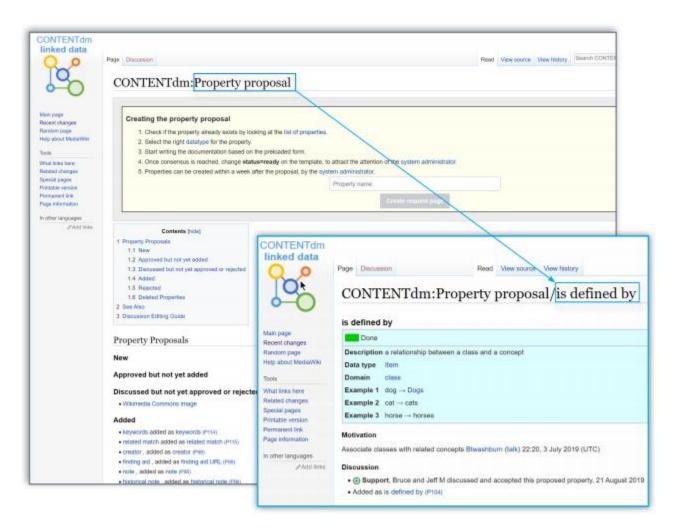
Why not just use Wikidata?

- Testing new properties and classes, but the short timeframe of the pilot didn't allow for the time needed to have these proposed, reviewed, and accepted in Wikidata.
- Participants would not have time to review and approve the metadata quality or be able to commit to maintaining it in Wikidata after the pilot project was over.



Managing the Data Model in Wikibase

- Applies a workflow used in Wikidata.
- We reused the Wikidata templates for new Class and Property proposals.
- Even with a very small team, it was beneficial to establish a review practice and to remind ourselves of prior decisions.





Talk Pages for Managing Collections

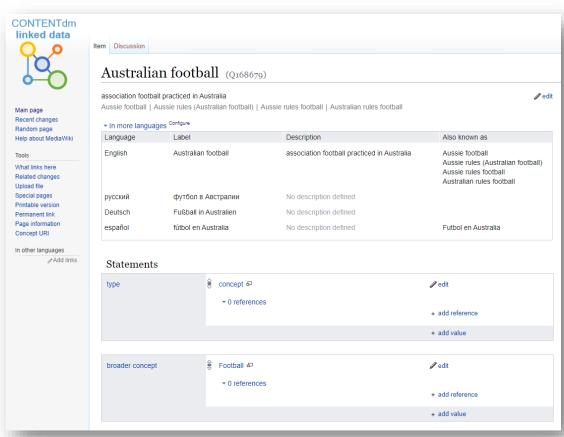
- Leveraged a built-in Wikibase feature.
- A useful tool for communication and collaboration with partners.
- Helped us track differences and similarities across collections.

Item talk:Q148309			
John W. Mosl	sley Photograph Collection		
OpenRefine Project			
nttp://18.217.24	1.229/project?project=1664881014972 €		
OpenRefine transformation notes			
CONTENTdm source field	Wikibase data element	Transformation notes	Example value
Title	label		1946 Cleveland Buckeyes
Title	title (P124)	Decided on using the newly created title property as staff can't easily confirm if titles are cataloger-supplied or original without access to and evaluation of each of the physical materials	1946 Cleveland Buckeyes
Date	date created (P21)	Use for single dates.	"1964-06-11", "1968, September, 09", "August 1954"
Date	approximate date (P123)	Use for single circa dates.	"circa 1965"
Date	earliest date (P87)	Use when there is a range of dates.	"1940-1949"
Date	latest date (P88)	Use when there is a range of dates.	"1940-1949"
Photographer	photographer (P60) John W. Mosley (Q148310)	Same value in all records.	Mosley, John W.
Subject	about (P2)	Split concatenated values, reconcile, and verify that these are generally "about" relationships rather than depictions	Schools; Segregation; Demonstrations; Civil rights; Girard College
Organization- Building	about (P2)	Split concatenated values, reconcile, and verify that these are generally "about" relationships rather than depictions	Girard College; State Office Building (Philadelphia, Pa.)
1-1			Book and Control Control Charles (Bhilliadalahia Bark)



Implementing Authority Control

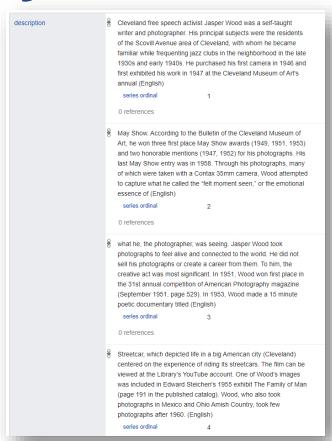
- CONTENTdm is a traditional, recordoriented system, with authority control based on the use of heading strings.
- Varying cataloging practices and sources can create discovery obstacles if searches do not use the preferred form of the heading.
- Wikibase takes multi-lingual data seriously and allows any number of variant forms to find matches, with an assigned unique identifier serving as the key.





Decreasing cataloging inefficiencies, increasing descriptive quality

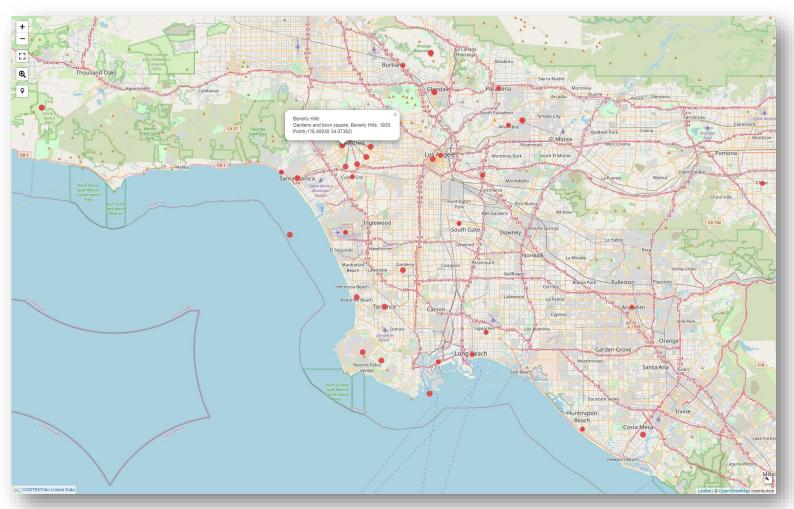
- In CONTENTdm, information about a person related to a work needs to be repeated in every record related to that person.
- If the description changes, all the records need to be updated.
- In Wikibase, entities for works and related things are maintained separately.
- The description of the person can be entered and maintained in one entity.
- This efficiency gain could encourage richer descriptions.





Generating Data Visualizations

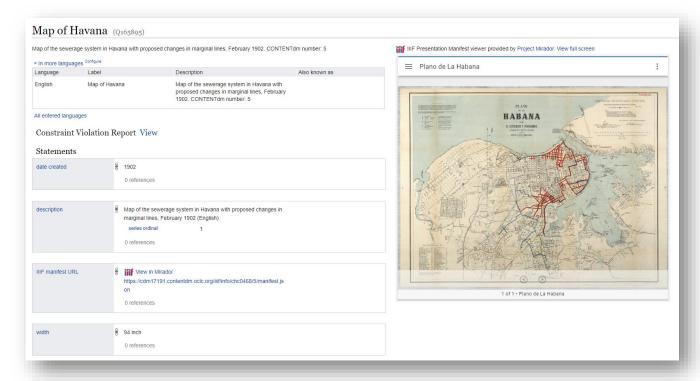
- The triplestore that maintains a linked data representation of Wikibase can be queried using SPARQL.
- The SPARQL Query UI
 provided by the Wikibase
 ecosystem makes it easy to
 query and visualize
 connections that would
 have been difficult or
 infeasible in a traditional
 record-oriented system.





Adding the Mirador Viewer

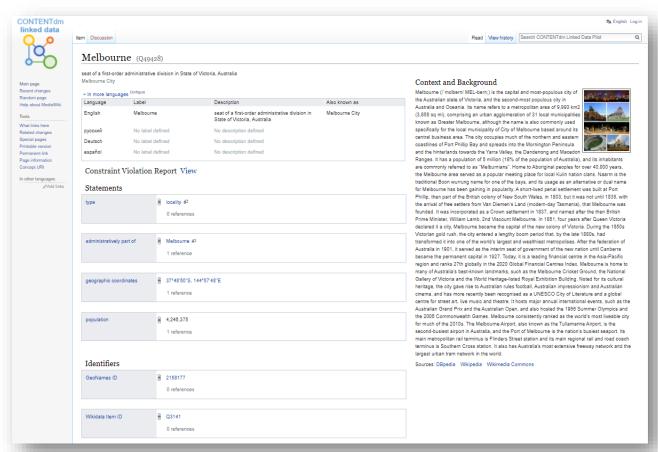
- The Wikibase ecosystem has a "Gadget" extension to develop and add custom features to the user interface.
- CONTENTdm items all have IIIF Presentation Manifests.
- Mirador is an image viewer that uses IIIF Manifests to present images and metadata.
- The Gadget can embed the Mirador viewer, making the entity view more dynamic and connected to digital content.





Showing Contextual Information

- A key Linked Data value proposition: link to related things in other systems.
- Pilot project entities sometimes have related identifiers for Wikidata entities.
- A Gadget, combined with a serverbased application, uses Wikidata identifiers to find content in Wikipedia and supplements the entity display with contextual descriptions and images.



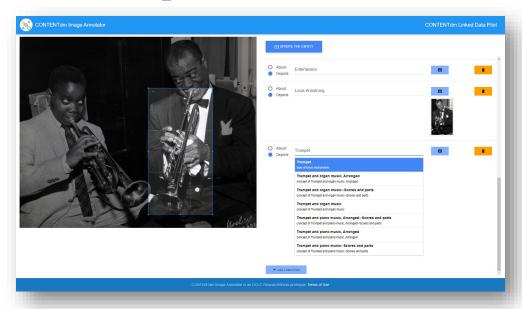


TOOLS FOR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS



Tools for Subject Matter Experts

- Differentiating between what a work is "about" and what it "depicts".
- Testing Wikibase as a platform for tool development.
- Help subject matter experts correct and supplement transformed metadata.





Q

Read View history 🛊 Search CONTENTdm Linked Data Pilot



Main page Recent changes Random page Help about MediaWiki

Tools

Image Annotator What links here Related changes Upload file Special pages Printable version Permanent link Page information Concept URI

In other languages

Add links

Louis Armstrong and Jake Armstrong (Q155370)

Daniel Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong with his son, Jake Armstrong, at the Academy of Music. @ edit ▼ In more languages ^{Configure} Language Label Also known as Description English Louis Armstrong and Jake Daniel Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong with his son, Armstrong Jake Armstrong, at the Academy of Music.

Statements

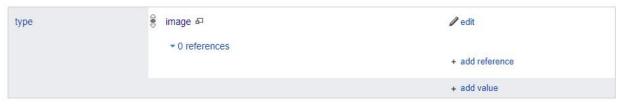
process or format

Item Discussion



John W. Mosley Photograph Collection 5 part of @ edit ▼ 0 references + add reference + add value

§ John W. Mosley ₽ photographer edit ▼ 0 references + add reference + add value



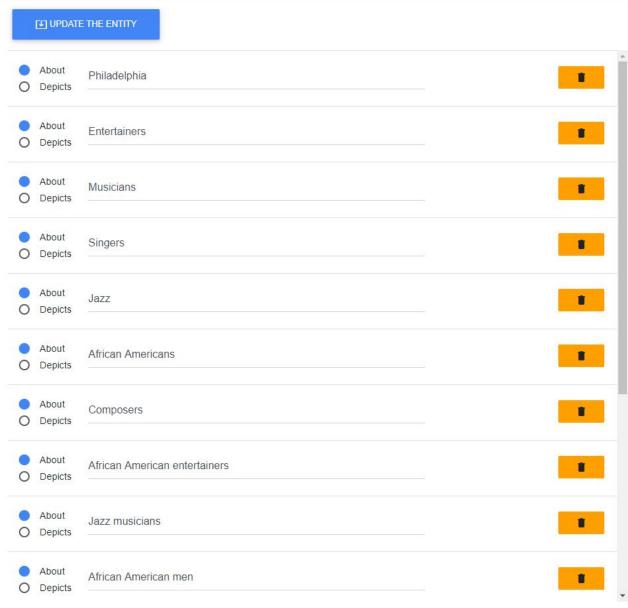
@ edit

Black and white prints 4

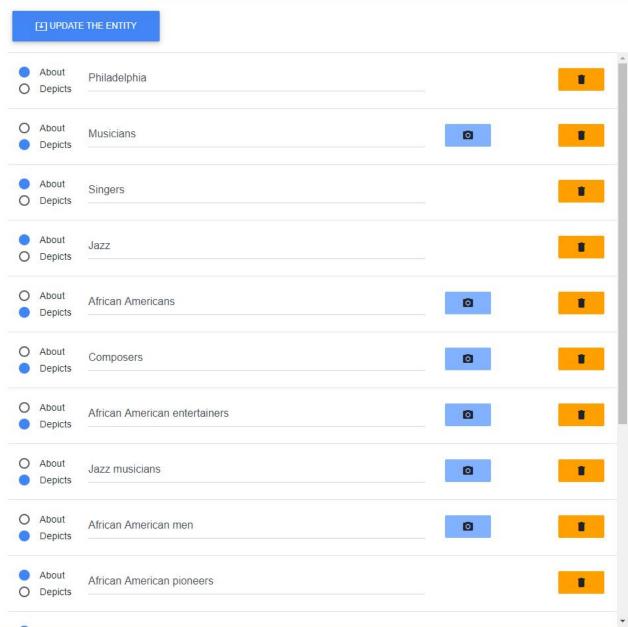
IIIF Presentation Manifest viewer provided by Project Mirador. View full screen ■ Louis Armstrong and Jake Armstrong

1 of 1 · Louis Armstrong and Jake Armstrong

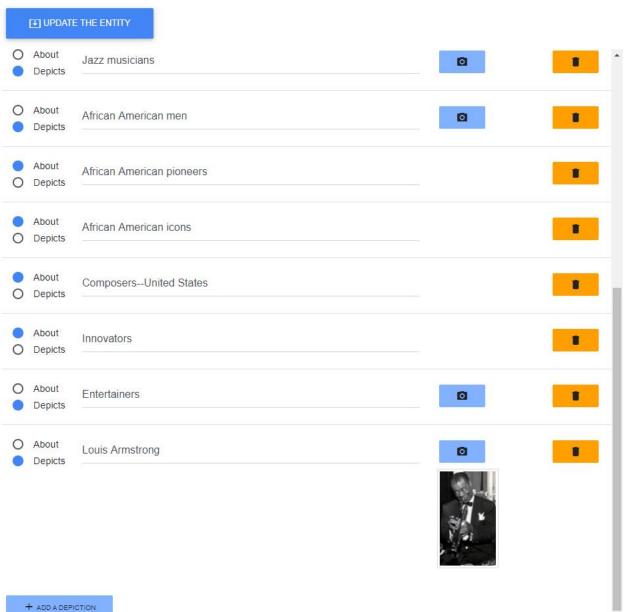




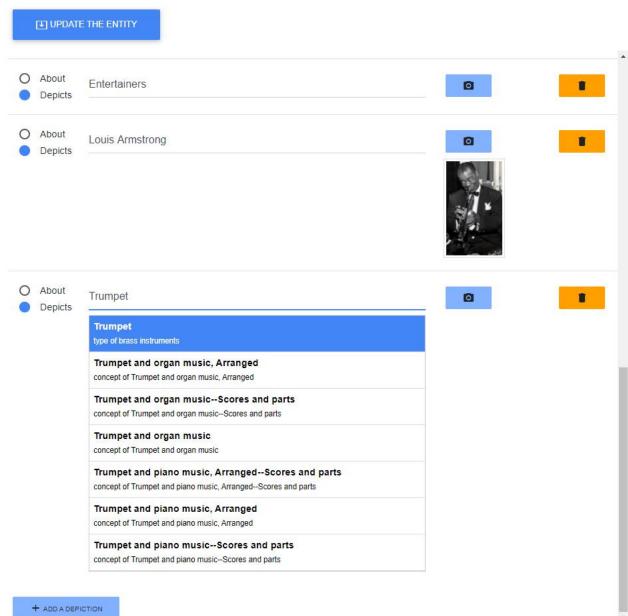


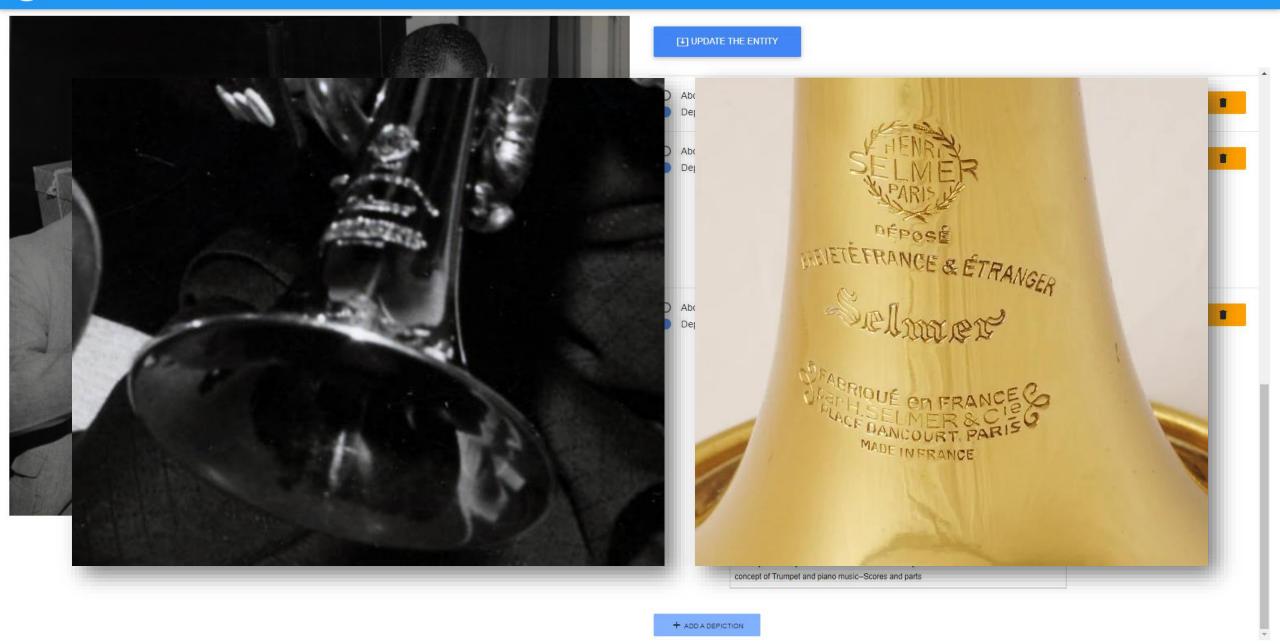




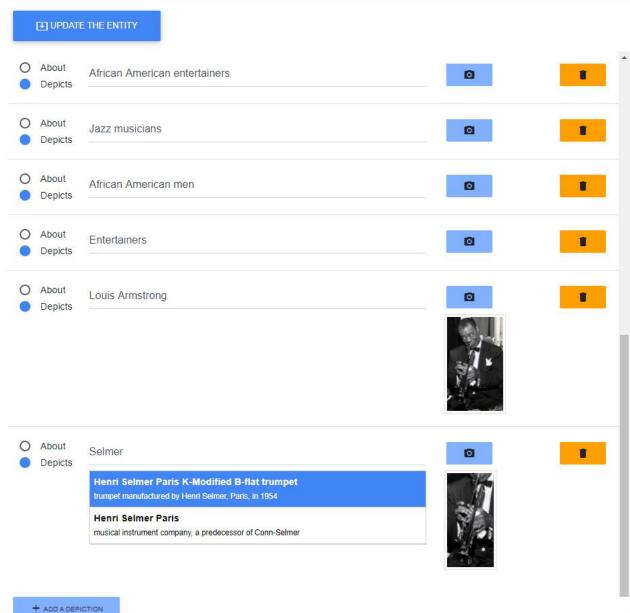












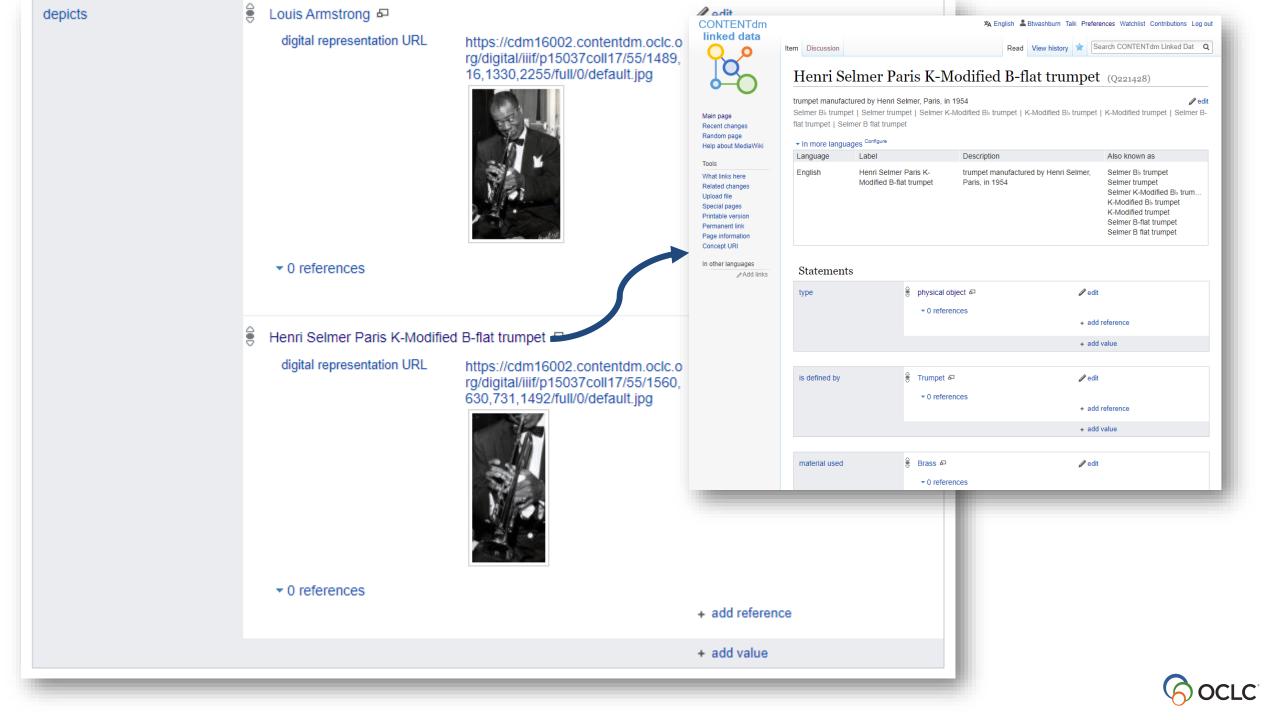


Image Annotator Findings

"Think Aloud" user study results were mostly positive.

Subject matter expertise adds new access points and enriched relationships.

"About" vs. "Depicts" remains a puzzle.





TOOLS FOR DISCOVERY



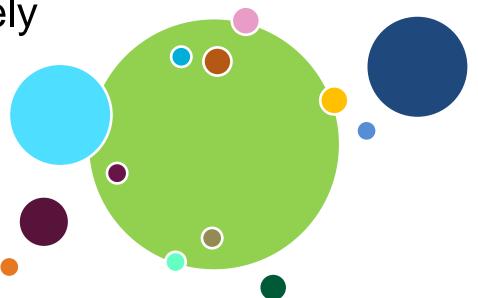
Discovery Tools

CONTENTION sites are individuals

Searched separately, not collectively

Faceted searching has challenges

Content overlaps separate sites

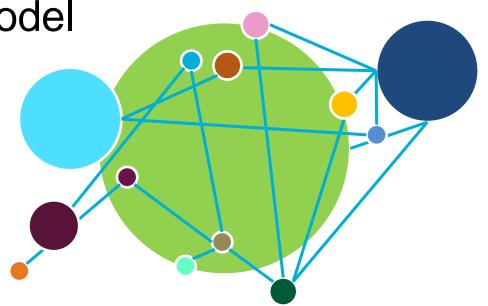


Discovery Tools

Opportunity to test cross-site discovery

Descriptions use a shared data model

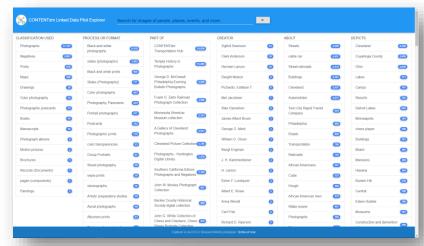
- Browse a graph of linked entities
- Reveal related content from decentralized sources

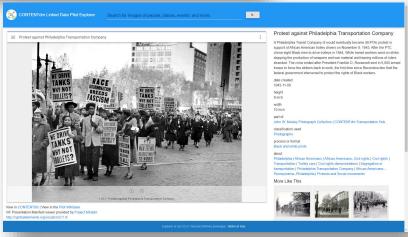




The CONTENT dm Explorer

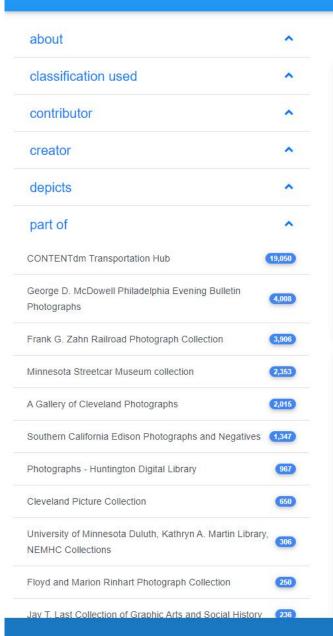
- Focus on the most frequently occurring connections.
- See relationships described by different institutions, for different items, in different collections.
- Look for thematically related content.
- Follow links to related entities.













East 6th Street 1930 CP06024

READ MORE

< PREVIOUS



Public Square 1896 CP04167

READ MORE

4061 to 4080 of 10,000 results for part_of:Q202314.



Public Square 1915 CP04217

READ MORE



Chevrolet Truck 1928 CP0102

READ MORE



Public Square 1905 CP04189

READ MORE



Carnegie Avenue 1940 CPO5932

READ MORE



Superior Avenue 1896, CP06853 Centennial Celebration

READ MORE



Euclid Avenue 1912 CP06258

READ MORE



about	^
classification used	^
depicts	^
part of	^
CONTENTdm Transportation Hub	218
George D. McDowell Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Photographs	203
Cleveland Picture Collection	0
John W. Mosley Photograph Collection	6
Temple History in Photographs	5
A Gallery of Cleveland Photographs	2
Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History	0
University of Minnesota Duluth, Kathryn A. Martin Library, NEMHC Collections	0
Lake County Historical Society	0
Guillermo "Willy" González Collection	0
photographer	^
process or format	^

1 to 20 of 226 results for strike.



Truck brings employees home during P.T.C. walkout

READ MORE



"Strike Pickets"

READ MORE



"Trolley strike"

READ MORE



Crowded train station during the PTC strike

READ MORE



Crowded train station during the PTC strike

READ MORE



PTC employees photographed with strike signs

READ MORE



Attempted strike break

READ MORE



Workers end strike

READ MORE



View in CONTENTdm | View in the Pilot Wikibase
IIIF Presentation Manifest viewer provided by Project Mirador

Truck brings employees home during P.T.C. walkout

A man helps several women into the back of a truck at 25th and Hunting Park Avenue. The truck is picking up employees from Budd Manufacturing Company in order to get them home during the P.T.C. walkout. With clipping

part of

CONTENTdm Transportation Hub | George D. McDowell Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Photographs

classification used

Photographs

about

Philadelphia transit strike of 1944 | Philadelphia

depicts

Trucks | Persons

More Like This





















View in CONTENTdm | View in the Pilot Wikibase IIIF Presentation Manifest viewer provided by Project Mirador http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/lnC/1.0/

Protest against Philadelphia Transportation Company

A Philadelphia Transit Company (it would eventually become SEPTA) protest in support of African American trolley drivers on November 8, 1943. After the PTC chose eight Black men to drive trolleys in 1944, White transit workers went on strike, stopping the production of weapons and war material and leaving millions of riders stranded. The crisis ended after President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent in 5,000 armed troops to force the strikers back to work, the first time since Reconstruction that the federal government intervened to protect the rights of Black workers.

date created

1943-11-08

height

8 inch

width

10 inch

part of

John W. Mosley Photograph Collection | CONTENTdm Transportation Hub

classification used

Photographs

process or format

Black and white prints

about

Philadelphia | African Americans | African Americans--Civil rights | Civil rights | Transportation | Trolley cars | Civil rights demonstrations | Segregation in transportation | Philadelphia Transportation Company | African Americans--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia | Protests and Social movements

More Like This











View in CONTENTdm | View in the Pilot Wikibase IIIF Presentation Manifest viewer provided by Project Mirador http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NoC-US/1.0/

Public Square 1899 CP04179

Showing the crowds surrounding the first cars to reach the downtown section during a street car strike. These cars were on the Euclid Line. The clock at the extreme right housed the store of Wm. Taylor, Son and Co.

date created 1899

height

6.125 inch

width

8.125 inch

part of Cleveland Picture Collection | CONTENT dm Transportation Hub

classification used

Photographs

depicts Cleveland

CONTENTIAM Linked Data Pilot Explorer Search for images of people, places, events, and more.

Q

■ Streetcars parked on street during a strike



Streetcars parked on street during a strike

Written on slide frame: "Tranvías, calle Reina, huelga

CONTENTdm Transportation Hub | Guillermo "Willy" González Collection

classification used Photographs

process or format slides (photographs)

cable car | Cuba | Havana | General strikes | Pedestrians

depicts Havana

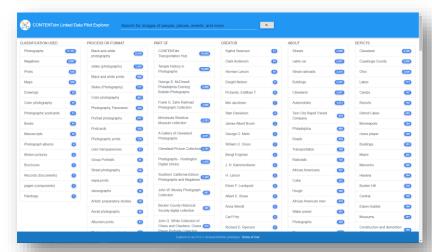
View in CONTENTdm | View in the Pilot Wikibase IIIF Presentation Manifest viewer provided by Project Mirador http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/

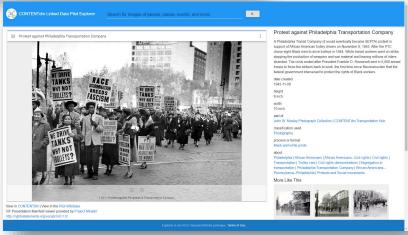
CONTENTdm Explorer Findings

Aggregation adds value.

The 80/20 rule was about right for automated reconciliation.

Completing the 20% will be challenging.







CONTENTdm Linked Data pilot findings



Testing the Linked Data value proposition

A Linked Data strategy can succeed when descriptions use a shared data model, headings are replaced with identifiers for entities, and entities and their relationships are presented in a single discovery system.



Evaluating a shared data model

A solid set of initial classes and properties can be generated from existing standards, and then responsively extended as more data needs arise.



Selecting and transforming metadata

Tools should be shared, and workflows decentralized.

Domain expertise is needed for accurate data transformations.



Continuing the journey to Linked Data

Substantial resource commitments are required.

Benefits accrue long before the journey is completed.

It's a paradigm shift; takes time and long-term strategies.



oc.lc/transform-linked-data



Working partnerships represent strength in numbers







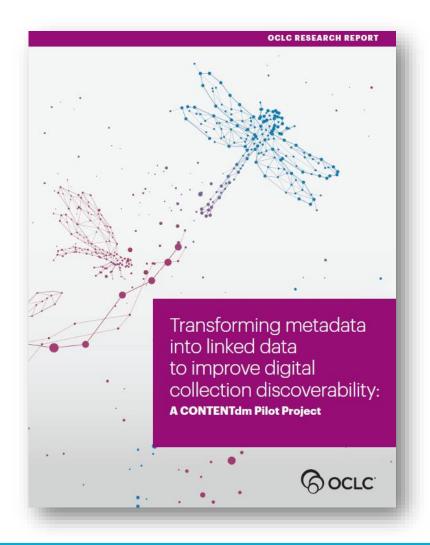






Resources and Contacts

- The Pilot Project report
 - oc.lc/transform-linked-data
- Jeff Mixter, OCLC Research
 - jeff_mixter@oclc.org
- Bruce Washburn, OCLC Research
 - pruce_washburn@oclc.org





Shared entity management infrastructure



- Address infrastructure needs identified by libraries
 - Start with Persons and Works…
 - Expand on "native" metadata management
 - Link library data to non-library data...
 and shared data to local data
 - Provide ID creation services to help "at the point of need"
 - Persistent and maintained entity URIs
- Operate at a large scale and be sustainable
- Complement other efforts—LD4, PCC, DCMI, etc.

oc.lc/sharedentitymgmt

OCLC awarded Mellon Foundation grant to develop infrastructure to support linked data management initiatives

'Entity Management Infrastructure' will advance use of linked data and ultimately improve discoverability of scholarly materials on the web

DUBLIN, Ohio, 9 January 2020—<u>OCLC</u> has been awarded a grant from The Andrew W. Melion Foundation to develop a shared "Entity Management Infrastructure" that will support linked data management initiatives underway in the library and scholarly communications community. When complete, this infrastructure will be jointly curated by the community and OCLC, and will utilimately make scholarly materials more connected and discoverable on the web.

The two-year grant, for \$2.436 million, will support work on the project that will run from January 2020 to December 2021. The Mellon grant funding represents approximately half of the total cost of the Entity Management Infrastructure project. OCLC is contributing the remaining half of the required investment.

"OCLC has been a leader in library linked data research for years, and we have developed prototypes, innovative pilot programs and partnerships that continue to inform our work," said Skip Prichard, OCLC President and CEO. "OCLC enables libraries to work together to achieve economies, efficiencies, and consistency in metadata creation. We're grateful to The



Convene, Understand, Share





















































