BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2023

Linked Data and RDA

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Linked Data and Official RDA

- How are they linked?

Linked Data Benefits

- Computers can more readily manipulate rich accurate library data increasing its flexibility

- Provides opportunities to enhance and optimize discovery services

- Allows OPACs to display data in the format the user prefers

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Added Benefits of Linked Data

- Official RDA friendly
- In the long run, enhances collaboration among libraries and communities
- Data sharing possibilities enhanced and increased
- Minimizes duplication effort in the creation of metadata
- Re-useable data

Original RDA 2012

- Set the stage for cataloging in a linked data environment

- Libraries had not embraced linked data

- Not MARC oriented

- Training in MARC was more difficult due to the WEMI structure

Official RDA Favors Linked Data

- More focused on a linked data environment

- Provides guidance with many options – including the Recording Methods: Recording an identifier and Recording an IRI

- Can accommodate MARC but is not MARC friendly

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Official RDA Structure Favors Linked Data

- Structure follows RDF semantic triple

- Contains thousands of elements

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Official RDA: Four Recording Methods

- Recording an unstructured description

- Recording a structured description

- Recording an identifier

- Recording an IRI

Official RDA Registry

- Linked data vocabularies

- Represents RDA entities, elements, and controlled vocabularies

Teaching Official RDA

- Easier in a linked data environment

- Catalogers can assimilate it more readily

- Application makes more sense

PCC Implementing Official RDA

- May 2024 to May 2027, 3 years

- Exact form of rollout not decided yet

- PCC decisions re: application of Official RDA favor MARC

Impact of MARC on Official RDA

- Currently MARC predominates library bibliographic data scene

- Unfavorably influences some PCC Official RDA data decisions

MARC's Influence on Metadata

- Ignore linked data -- just add URIs to MARC records – this is called "Linky MARC"

- With URIs you can retain Strings and forget about linked data

- Libraries do not need their data to be system friendly

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Catalogers and Linked Data

- Need to leave MARC world behind

- Need to embrace Official RDA with linked data mindset

- Catalog only in linked data

  - Cannot have one foot in MARC and one in linked data

Linked Data Roll Out

- Perfect? – No

- Messy? – Yes

- Attainable? – Yes

- Requirement? -- faith, courage, and determination

Some After Thoughts

Linked Data Decisions

- Are all decisions made solely with linked data in mind?

- Are we making the best possible decision for linked data?

- Are we thinking about linked data best practices?

Influences on Linked Data Decisions

- Do we make decisions because most libraries are working in MARC?
- Do we make decisions based on following RDA?
- Do we make decisions based on an anti-RDA stance?
- Should linked data be less rigidly tied to a cataloging code?

Revisiting Linked Data Decisions

- Linked data implemented

- MARC continues 10-15 years?

- Live in dual environment

- Revisit decisions influenced by MARC environment?

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BIBFRAME Linked Data Decisions for Future Reconsideration -- 1

- Primary contribution to enable conversion to MARC with a 1XX field (Primary contribution needed to become a bflc property)

- Provision Activity complexities to accommodate the MARC 264 field

BIBFRAME Linked Data Decisions for Future Reconsideration -- 2

- Inability to link multiple Instances to one Work. In Marva, the Work elements need to be repeated in each description, even though the model should allow one Work linking to two or more Instances
- Requiring a complete call number in the Work description to populate the 050 field in the MARC description

Thank you!