

EXPLORING THE BENEFITS FOR USERS OF LINKED OPEN DATA FOR DIGITIZED SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Advisory Board Meeting - March 2017

Project Goals & Research Questions (from proposal)

Further our understanding of four translational research questions:

1. As compared to general collection catalog records, item-level metadata for digitized special collections are frequently more granular, richer in non-bibliographic entities, and expressed using custom vocabularies and schemas. What differences and additional challenges are encountered when transforming legacy special collections metadata records into LOD?
2. Typically interfaces used to discover and view digitized special collections are disconnected from the online public access catalogs and ancillary services used to provide user access to general library collections. Can LOD reconnect library special and general collections?
3. Digitized special collections are also disconnected from external, non-library information resources on the Web. How can LOD be leveraged to help identify and establish useful connections to these resources, and do non-library sources have the potential to enrich item descriptions and provide context for discovering and interpreting digitized special collections?
4. Often descriptions of special collection items include extensive references to people and relationships. Can emerging visualization and annotation technologies add a social network view of a special collection that usefully complements traditional bibliocentric perspectives?

Deliverables

- i. White Paper describing reconciliation & transformation, workflows implemented, resources required and lessons learned;
- ii. White Paper describing strategies and early user feedback for use of LOD descriptions of digitized special collections to connect collections to the larger semantic Web;
- iii. Scripts & code used in reconciling and transforming legacy metadata (Released via GitHub, UIUC/NCSA license);
- iv. Extensions to XTF (i.e., XSLTs) to accommodate transformed Kolb-Proust LOD (Released via GitHub, as above.)
- v. Extensions to special collection image services to accommodate LOD - initially CONTENTdm, but also for locally-developed system (Released via GitHub, as above).
- vi. Prototype interface for viewing the social network of Proust: Code may not be easily adaptable, but will be useful to demonstrate proof-of-concept. (Released via GitHub, as above.)

Advisory Board Meeting Goals

1. Review overall project progress, and individual progress on each deliverable.
2. Feedback on early draft of first white paper components. Specifically, thoughts on metadata remediation, reconciliation and mappings to schema.org?
3. Feedback on mapping and enrichment methods and workflows. Suggestions for other sources of LOD, or other methods of automating identification of LOD and record enrichment? Suggestions for ways to save time or increase accuracy?
4. Feedback on preliminary interface re-design and user testing. Suggested changes to interface or information generated? Suggested graphical aesthetic changes with an eye to UX?
5. Suggestions for developing use cases and approach to Kolb-Proust social network visualization. What potential tools and features could be employed to meet needs of use cases? What are the interesting name / relationship attributes to visualize?
6. Suggestions for prioritizing and organizing remaining work. Any synergistic projects/groups with which it could be valuable for project team to engage? Any other thoughts on work in this realm with respect to your own?
7. Suggestions for action items and follow-on tasks. Discussion of next steps to recommend to Mellon, or other interested funders, as part of potential new projects for this, or other, groups.