The Promise of BIBFRAME

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THE PROMISE OF BIBFRAME

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ALA Code of Ethics
Principle I

“We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.”

http://www.ala.org/advocacy/proethics/codeofethics/codeethics
What’s Wrong With MARC?

- Not used outside of libraries
- Not very interoperable with other metadata schema
- MARC encodes metadata in textual strings which do not easily translate into a Linked Data environment
- Keeps library catalog data in a silo
What is BIBFRAME?

- Bibliographic Framework
- Work-in-progress by the Library of Congress
- Intended to eventually replace MARC
- Traditional bibliographic records will be replaced by linkages among metadata pieces
- Machine-actionable relationships gather the pieces together for coherent display
Why Linked Data?

- Traditional hyperlinks contain no machine-readable information about the nature of the link
- Linked Data uses RDF data triples, so links have semantic “meaning” that machines can understand and act upon
BIBFRAME is all about RELATIONSHIPS
BIBFRAME Data Model Core Classes

- WORK – “conceptual essence of the cataloging item” (abstract)
- INSTANCE – “individual, material embodiment of a Work” (tangible)
- AUTHORITY – “authority concept which has a defined relationship to a Work or Instance”
- ANNOTATION – “augments another main BIBFRAME class when knowing who asserted the Annotation is vital information”

Annotations Enhance Library Data

• Flexible way to add new information to bibliographic data, including material from beyond libraries
• Established Annotation types include cover art, reviews, and summaries
• Potential Annotation types include user-contributed photographs
"We are not far off from me being able to browse my discography and see related books that are from the library."

--Eric Miller, November 2013

"It was so satisfying being able to add an additional property to this and being able to use the existing tools and infrastructures the library community has provided to allow me to connect various different vinyl assets to the recording engineers they care about."

--Eric Miller, January 2014


BIBFRAME Authority and the “Lightweight Abstraction Layer”

• BIBFRAME Authorities do not replace existing authorities, but facilitates access to many authority types
• A BIBFRAME Authority may link to one or more existing authorities, like LCSH or the Getty Thesaurus
• If no other authorities exist, the “lightweight abstraction layer” itself provides the authoritative URI

Faster, Easier Authority Creation

1. The cataloger has a book *100 Tips for Supporting Campers with Autism*

2. BIBFRAME Authority has two existing authority topics: “Camps for children with mental disabilities” and “Autism spectrum disorders”—an ill fit for the book in hand

3. The cataloger creates a new URI for “Camps for children with autism spectrum disorders”—a perfect fit

4. The Library of Congress is automatically notified of the proposed topic refinement

The Future of Bibliographic Control


QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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