Linked data refers to data published in accordance with principles designed to facilitate linkages among datasets, element sets, and value vocabularies. ~ Library Linked Data Incubator Group, 2011

Some linked data projects of interest to the library world

- Open Library: [http://openlibrary.org/authors](http://openlibrary.org/authors) allows users to merge records, points users directly back to libraries at the book-level
- NNDB Mapper: [http://mapper.nndb.com/](http://mapper.nndb.com/) connections between 34,000 individuals are listed
- Library of Congress (LOC) Names: [http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names](http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names) Library of Congress name authority file as linked data
- Virtual International Authority File (VIAF): [http://viaf.org/](http://viaf.org/) “joint project of several national libraries plus selected regional and trans-national library agencies”
- Freebase: [http://www.freebase.com/](http://www.freebase.com/) “An entity graph of people, places and things, built by a community that loves open data.” Entries may not be disambiguated, and link when possible to all other vocabularies mentioned here plus many more

RESULTS

**OPAC queries and linked data**

- Of the retained OPAC queries (n=462), nearly two-thirds had some degree of success.
- Over one third, (34.4%, n=159) yielded zero hits in the OPAC (=fail)
- Of the failed searches (n=159), 72% (n=115) overall matched entries in two linked data repositories
  - Freebase
  - VIAF
- Other repositories used as source data for these two (e.g. DBpedia and LOC names) had similar, relevant content

**Formulation of OPAC queries**

- Of the retained OPAC queries (n=462),
  - 16 were searching corporate bodies (3.47%), all had a plausible left-anchor
  - 438 were searching personal names (94.8%)
  - Of these, 99 had “incorrect” left-anchors
  - 7 were unknown or searching in the wrong index (1.5%)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Promote linked data in the OPAC when possible**

- Provide access to Freebase-like lists of current resources in response to patron queries through linked data
- Help users disambiguate names based not only on library holdings, but on LD entries
- Take advantage of linked information in LD repositories to help patrons explore authors further (access to videos, MySpace pages, etc.)

**Continue to work on providing a patron-centered OPAC**

- To accommodate the over 20% of the retained author index queries that were incorrectly formulated, libraries might want to consider doing away with left-anchored searches
  - Avoid issues of searching the “right way” vs. the “natural way”
  - Make authority records and the whole MARC format more granular (i.e. implement RDA)
- Link out to LD resources (that link back to libraries!) when faced with providing zero hits or to supplement information in the OPAC
- Libraries have been doing authority work well for a long time - All locally created authority records should be exported and shared to enrich the data available in general
  - Some of the records won’t be perfect, but that’s ok
  - Consider crowdsourcing authority work

**Explore the use of discovery layers with your OPAC**

- Summon now utilizes the linked data repository Freebase in their records.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

