Why libraries should embrace Linked Data

Anders Söderbäck National Library of Sweden

Why LIBRIS likes Linked Data

Anders Söderbäck National Library of Sweden

LIBRIS

- Swedish National Union Catalog
- 170 libraries
- 6 million bib records
- 20 million holdings
- 250k authority records
- National bibliography

LIBRIS

- Library directory
- Library infrastructure ("metadata switch")
- Online public access (for humans) since 1997
- Marc21 since 2001
- Linked Data since 2008

What is Linked Data?

From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linked_Data:

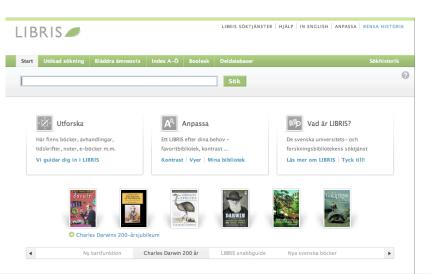
Linked Data is a term used to describe a method of exposing, sharing, and connecting data on the Web via dereferenceable URIs.

Four principles of Linked Data (TBL 2006)

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

Why use Linked Data for your library catalog?

New LIBRIS, dec 2007



Design a thing by considering it in its next largest context—a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, environment in a city plan.

- Eliel Saarinen

This means...

A library catalog must be designed by considering its context of the Web.

The question is not "What is a catalog?" but "What can a catalog become?"

What is the Web?

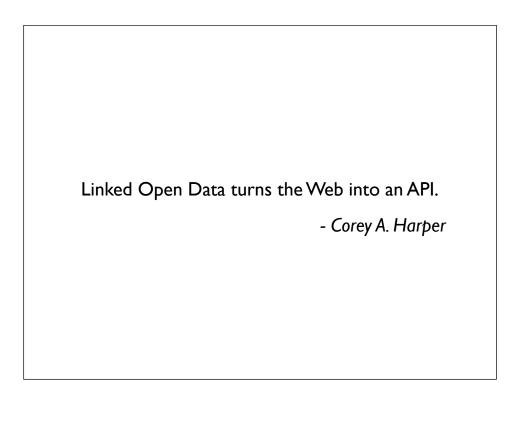
- An infrastructure for moving bits
- An environment for communication, information dissemination, etc...
- The Web is social
- The Web is a network
- The Web is made of links
- Open system, anyone can join / link

Catalogs in Web context

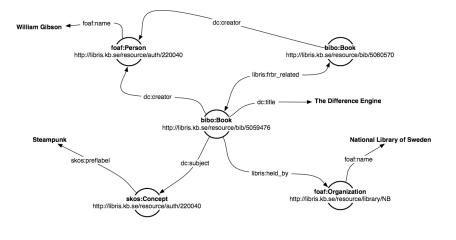
- Need to be open (Get your data out!)
- Need to be linkable
- Needs to provide links
- Must be part of the network
- Can not be an end in itself
- Allow for hackability

Why APIs suck

- Context specific / differ from each other
- Too much control in the hands of the producer (too dependant of the producers world view)
- Not hackable enough
- Not really weaved into the Web
- Despite this, we have built some APIs...



So what does it look like?

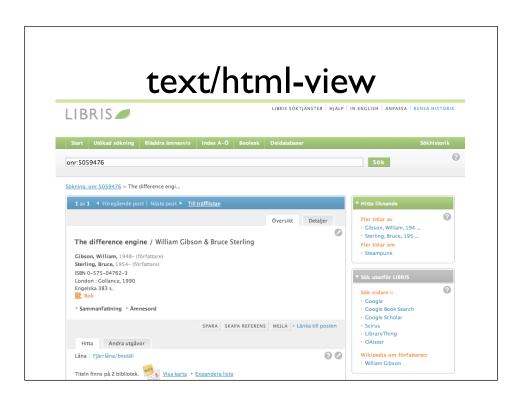


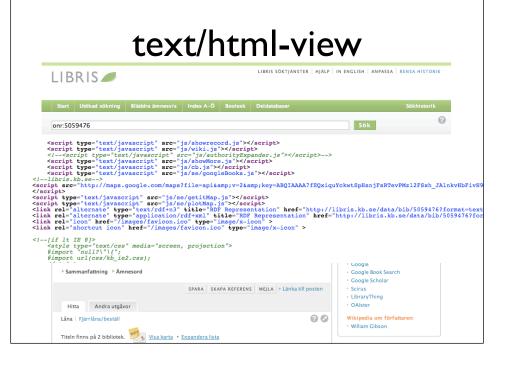
How do I find it?

 HTTP URI for every resource, ex: <u>http://libris.kb.se/resource/bib/5059476</u> <u>http://libris.kb.se/resource/auth/220040</u> <u>http://libris.kb.se/resource/library/S</u>

HTTP content negotiation

- HTTP 303 See other
- text/html -> http://libris.kb.se/bib/5059456
- text/rdf+n3 -> http://libris.kb.se/data/bib/5059456





text/rdf+n3

text/rdf+n3 again

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\mathsf{Terminal} - \mathsf{bash} - \mathsf{106}{\times}\mathsf{31}
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Lost login: Twe Feb 24 82:59:39 on thys000
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9prefix for: <a href="http://wlb.com/roof/0.1/">http://wlb.com/roof/0.1/</a>

9prefix dspedia: <a href="http://dbedia.org/property/">http://www.ds.org/2009/03/rdf-schead="http://dbedia.org/property/">http://dbedia.org/property/</a>

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Strategies

- Data first
- Represent ILS state
- Use existing vocabularies if possible (DC, SKOS, FOAF, Bibliontology, Geo)
- Make up vocabularies if needed
- Learn by doing

Read

- "Making a Library Catalog Part of the Semantic Web", Martin Malmsten 2008 http://libris.kb.se/resource/bib/11306748
- "LIBRIS Linked Library Data", Anders Söderbäck and Martin Malmsten 2008, in Nodalities #5, www.talis.com/nodalities

Coming up next...

- Dbpedia links
- Open Source project for turning ILS:s into linked data (e-mail <u>martin.malmsten@kb.se</u>)
- Hope for network effects

Contact

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