

Summarize and discuss at least one of the metadata, semantic web/linked data readings. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of a linked data environment in libraries?

I have read Philip Schreur's article with great interest. Since LIS 703 we have been talking about the Semantic Web and Linked Data. I was really curious to know how this idea could work in practice. As with all things new it seemed a little bit frightening. This article has given me a more or less clear idea about how the Linked Data environment could work and what it will mean to be a cataloger in this thrilling new environment.

I agree with the author that the switch of the library and academic world from a current discovery environment to Linked Data will be a revolution. My conviction is that this revolution will affect not only library and academic institutions around the world, but also our everyday life and the way people are thinking. This change will be comparable with the invention of the Internet and I agree that libraries should not miss this opportunity to be leaders in the process. Philip Schreur has done a good job explaining why it is important to take Linked Data seriously. He objectively showed four main drawbacks of the library catalog as a tool compared to the free and flexible Linked Data environment.

- First of all, large library collections which are a part of special collections are not reflected in a library catalog and hidden from the user.
- Second, the purchase of large e-book packages makes the collection of a library generic. It loses its uniqueness formed on the base of the served population's interest and its connection with the community gets weaker.
- Third, loading bibliographic records created with the usage of nonstandard metadata makes those records isolated at the data level.
- Fourth, indexing library catalog records by Google helps users find those materials on the web, but not on the contrary. A user cannot find information available on the web in a library catalog.

The two processes go in a parallel way. Library collections are getting more generic and data on the web becomes more pervasive. All the above means that libraries "must move beyond curated catalogs and provide discovery environments based on the web and its architecture" (Schreur, p.229).

I was very impressed by the job that so far has been done by Bibliotheque national de France. I visited its website at <http://data.bnf.fr/> and found the Edgar Allan Poe entry and examined all the links in the entry. This is absolutely extraordinary because the entry presents a pool of information from many different data sources worldwide. It's very easy to orient there. The main tabs are in three languages: French, English, and German. I like the way the information is organized. I clicked on the title of one of Poe's works. It took me on the page below. There are five elements that present the necessary information. Words in blue are clickable and if you click on one of them, you will go on a long trip in the ocean of information. Below are four big tabs that give related information. Music, translations, movies, and theater performances are all together.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)



Country : [États-Unis](#)
Language : [anglais](#)
Gender : masculin
Birth : [Boston, 19-01-1809](#)
Death : [Baltimore, 07-10-1849](#)
Note : Homme de lettres
ISNI : [ISNI 0000 0001 2135 4025](#)

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I think the Linked Data environment unconditionally has advantages compared to a traditional library catalog. All information is on the web and its discoverability is extraordinary. It creates a store of machine-actionable data and allows for its continuous improvement. It will provide free direct access to data in ways that currently are not possible. The amount and depth of information available to the user will be amazing. This is a chance for libraries to move from solely creating records to capturing data at its source. The library function will be more global because its focus will be to manage statements in triple stores. I like the final thought of the article: “The time has come for a pivotal change in the entire information ecosystem and libraries cannot afford to let history simply repeat itself” (Schreur, p.237).

Schreur, P.E. (2012). The academy unbound: Linked data as revolution. *Library Resources & Technical Services* 56(4), pp. 227-237.
