

Title

Using easyLOD to Expose Your Repositories as Linked Data

Abstract

easyLOD (<https://github.com/mjordan/easyLOD>) is a simple, extensible open-source framework for exposing Linked Data. It uses a flexible plugin architecture to connect to a variety of sources such as relational databases, static files, and repository back ends. This presentation will demonstrate how easyLOD works, provide several examples of how it can be used to enhance common repository platforms, and speculate on opportunities in the LODLAM (Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives, and Museums) community for increasing the value of our content by exposing it as Linked Data.

Proposal

Exposing repository content as Linked Data - data published on the Web using techniques that make its relationships to other data explicit and actionable - facilitates reuse of that content and allows for exciting mashups that have the potential to add immense value to our repositories. easyLOD (<https://github.com/mjordan/easyLOD>) is a simple and flexible framework for exposing repository and other types of content as Linked Data. It offers an effective, low-barrier-to-entry mechanism for increasing interoperability between repository platforms and for making it possible to allow any repository to become part of the Semantic Web.

easyLOD strives to remain simple while implementing as many Linked Data best practices as possible, including cool URIs and content negotiation. So far, focus has been on practices described by Tom Heath and Christian Bizer in *Linked Data: Evolving the Web into a Global Data Space*.¹ Because easyLOD implements general best practices, it can be implemented in a variety of contexts. However, the primary audience for easyLOD is the LODLAM (Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives, and Museums) community, and its development is motivated by a desire to enrich and encourage that community's participation in the Web of Data, as the global aggregation of Linked Data is sometimes called.

Since easyLOD is lightweight and flexible, it is a useful tool for rapid prototyping and testing of Linked Data concepts and mashups. Currently, easyLOD can expose metadata managed by Islandora and CONTENTdm as Linked Data but adding other repository back ends and data sources is trivial as long as their data can be represented in RDF.

¹ Tom Heath and Christian Bizer (2011) *Linked Data: Evolving the Web into a Global Data Space* (1st edition). Synthesis Lectures on the Semantic Web: Theory and Technology, 1:1, 1-136. Morgan & Claypool.