

Ontologies, BIBFRAME, and Linked Data for Performed Music: MLA's Role in It All

This plenary session was presented on Friday, February 25 at 9:00 am at the Orlando, Florida 2017 Music Library Association meeting. The presenters included Kimmy Szeto of Baruch College, Nancy Lorimer and Kevin Kishimoto from Stanford University, Michael Colby from University of California, Davis, James Soe Nyun from University of California, San Diego, and Kirk-Evan Billet, from Johns Hopkins University. The program began with Kimmy Szeto's presentation on "Linked Data Ontologies: Towards a Fusion of Worldview". Kimmy's portion included a discussion of how to move libraries out of the silo approach and begin to share resources on the internet. The metadata building blocks include content rules, schema, serialization, and exchange. These all need to feed into some type of data model. Libraries still need a data model that works in a linked data world. The current situation is mixing and matching ontologies. There is everything from MARC data to linked data (BIBFRAME, etc.). Eventually there will be other ontologies in the future.

Nancy Lorimer and Kevin Kishimoto presented on "Linked Data for Performed Music." They both represent Stanford University, which is part of a Mellon funded grant including five institutions (Stanford, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton) with LC. The project hopes to create a BIBFRAME based ontology for performed music in all formats. It will consist of domain specific enhancements and/or extensions of BIBFRAME and will hopefully establish a model by which standards can be created, endorsed and maintained by the community. This will be accomplished by partnering with domain communities such as MLA and Association for Recorded Sound (ARSC), and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). The Linked Data for Production (LD4P) has developed an ontology for performed music in all formats. This ontology is still being updated by working on adding new classes, subclasses and properties, as well as thematic catalog numbers and opus numbers and vocabularies outside BIBFRAME to assist with providing relationships. Domain community is an important part of this project.

Kirk Evan-Billet and James Soe Nyun gave a summary of the Linked Data Working Group (LDWG). The group was formed in May of 2016 to develop a BIBFRAME based ontology. The group partnered with domain communities, Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), and Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC). The main task was to develop use cases for the ontology. The group established eighty-nine cases. These included medium of performance, which allows the user to discover works by a subset. The cases also personified the work, by looking at what is necessary to perform the work and instrument substitution. The group is also reviewing event models such as Doremus, European data model, music ontology and event ontology. The group will be reviewing and commenting on work in the ontology development. The next steps involve future developments and trying to develop a more sustainable model.

Michael Colby described the UC Davis Bibflow project. This research project will address what the impact of BIBFRAME might have on technical services. It is a two-year grant project with UC Davis and Zepheira to review catalog processes and involves major stakeholders such as vendors, machine discovery, ILS, and human discovery. The display would be a knowledge graph, rather than a regular bibliographic record. The graph building would include user inquiry, have a triple store for data, and bibliographic and authority record information. The cataloging process would be similar to current processes and would have to include basic bib features like author, title, and item number for circulation

purposes. Authority work would involve linking to a unique URI. The project hopes to achieve a roadmap as a bridge from MARC to linked data and provide steps for libraries to follow.

Some of the questions involved issues with radio show data and such things as how do catalogers determine what records to link to. Also, where would triple stores be located and how the FRBR model is not adequate for performed music.

Summary submitted by Patty Falk, Bowling Green State University