

The biennial conference of the [Cataloguing and Indexing Group](#) took place between 31st August and 2nd September at Swansea University's Bay Campus. The conference theme was "Innovation and Discovery," with the aim of demonstrating how libraries, archives and museums are striving to improve the quality of their metadata in order to enhance resource-discovery for their users.

Papers and presentations at the conference covered a range of interesting and pioneering metadata enrichment and improvement projects, including collaborations between various libraries, archives and special collections. These projects demonstrate how many institutions are embracing cooperative methods to work together to enhance discoverability and meet the expectations of their increasingly more connected user groups.

The conference explored how refinements in metadata standards and the adoption of Linked Open Data formats, such as [BIBFRAME](#), can enable librarians to acquire new skills in metadata creation and manipulation, whilst simultaneously improving the discoverability of library-resources on external systems via the web. Projects that transform bibliographic metadata into Linked Data are instrumental in unlocking discovery and ensuring that library collections are no longer hidden away in a library's local catalogue or repository; this is because Linked Data standards are compatible with web-data standards and can be indexed by web-based search engines.

Linked Data standards can also present new opportunities for cross-disciplinary research, as they enable users to further explore the relationships and links between different works, individuals, institutions, events and places. This means that library collections can not only expand their discoverability from local to global audiences, but also have a wider impact upon research and learning communities. As such, Linked Data projects can enable an institution to shift towards a more 'user-centric' approach to resource discoverability, acknowledging the fact that researchers often choose to use external systems, tools and platforms to search for information, rather than just using a library catalogue.

Sun, sand and metadata



Throughout the conference there were examples of the fundamental work that cataloguers and metadata librarians are doing on a daily basis in order to ensure that collections are made discoverable and accessible to library-users. For example, many libraries are investing time and staff resources in upgrading their legacy metadata records from old standards, and are steadily FRBRising their library catalogue in order to make its content more discoverable. Other institutions are striving to meet the added challenges posed by an expanding number of electronic collections that are hosted on a variety of platforms, with cataloguers working hard to maintain the metadata for these resources due to vendors supplying records of varying quality.

Many of the papers demonstrated that without high quality, standardised bibliographic metadata it is impossible for a library-user to know what resources are in a library's collections, whether they are relevant to their research, how they relate to materials they have already accessed, or how to gain physical or electronic access to those resources. As a consequence, cataloguing and metadata practices, together with library systems and discovery layers, ultimately determine the user's experience of a library. Thus, whilst the work of the metadata team is done "behind the scenes" and is not directly visible to the end-user, it is fundamental to a library's functionality and, ultimately, its reputation.

The overall feeling of the conference was that cataloguing and metadata librarianship is in an exciting place, with great opportunities for development and innovation opening up through projects involving Linked Data. However, there was a feeling that cataloguers and metadata specialists need to be more vocal advocates for the work that they do, particularly when demonstrating to their stakeholders the importance of metadata enrichment projects as a means of enhancing the user-experience and improving the discoverability of collections.

Slides, workshop materials and posters from the conference can be found at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/cataloguing-indexing-group/presentations/conference-2016-innovation-discovery>.



Catalogue and index 185 will include a large selection of papers from the conference.