Getting started with Linked Open Data

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

17 September 2021

Welcoming Speech

by Sara Lammens, General Director of KBR

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

Good morning and welcome in the virtual venue of the Royal Library of Belgium, KBR.

Thank you very much for attending this study day on "Getting started with Linked Open Data".

We are delighted to see the wide interest for this event, both in Belgium and abroad, and covering a variety of organizations and people. You represent libraries, archives, universities, museums, public institutions, cultural heritage institutions, research institutes, music academies, book professionals, and much more.

Today, five speakers will be discussing a hot topic in our community: Linked Open Data. Some of you may perfectly know what it is all about, but are still eager to discover new applications; others may wonder why there is so much to do about Linked Open Data; and still others might find it very technical and have no idea why it is needed to change current practices.

Whatever your background, attitude and your expectations are: we hope today will be a true eye opener. In the morning you will discover wonderful opportunities that new technologies are offering, and after the lunch break we will give you practical guidance on how to implement and use them, step by step.

Organizing a seminar like this and seeking synergies is very important to KBR. Improving public access to our collections remains a key priority: we are firmly committed to improving the user's experience in finding, identifying, selecting, obtaining and exploring our resources. The Library of the Dukes of Burgundy is not our only pot of gold; we still have plenty of other hidden treasures to disclose.

We also have the ambition to systematically connect our research to the so-called Digital Humanities, not as a stand-alone, but in developing partnerships with other research and heritage institutions.

We are there for very grateful that the Federal Science Policy has granted the LOD-ISNI networking project, that hosts this webinar.

Since December 2020, this project allows KBR to organize activities aimed at strengthening the long-term cooperation with national and international partners, and at promoting the use of Linked Open Data and the International Standard Name Identifier as a crucial bridge identifier for cultural heritage materials.

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The project addresses both organizations that are already active implementing Linked Open Data, as well as those that are just starting this transition. We are sharing knowledge through regular meetings and workshops and block in your agenda already the 17-18th of March 2022, when we will organize an international conference where actors can share their work and progress. We will soon invite you to submit proposals.

The network was initially launched as a partnership between KBR and 8 partners: the Library of Congress, the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, the British Library, the ISNI International Agency, OCLC, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek of the Netherlands and Ghent University, with both the Internet technology and Data science Lab and the Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities.

But as you may have noticed while looking at the program, in the meanwhile, we have reached out to other actors in the cultural heritage or public sector and our learning network is open to any organization who wishes to join us.

I would like to thank all our partners for animating the network, and I'm of course very grateful to all colleagues and speakers involved in the organization of this study day.

I hope you will enjoy your virtual stay in KBR and I wish you an interesting day, many new ideas and a lot of fascinating discussions. Thank you very much!