IFLA Metadata Standards
Facing With a Fragmented World

The raiders of the lost interoperability

Vincent Boulet

Chair of the IFLA cataloguing section

〈BnF

The IFLA tetralogy …

IFLA-LRM

ICP

ISBD

UNIMARC

⟨BnF

TENSIONS ON THE RING

{BnF

The challenge of consistency

- **Structural** : entity-relationship based model
- **Semantic** : consistent terms and definitions
- **Methodological** : transparency on elaboration, validation and on experts' role
- **Usability :** crucial role of IFLA Namespaces
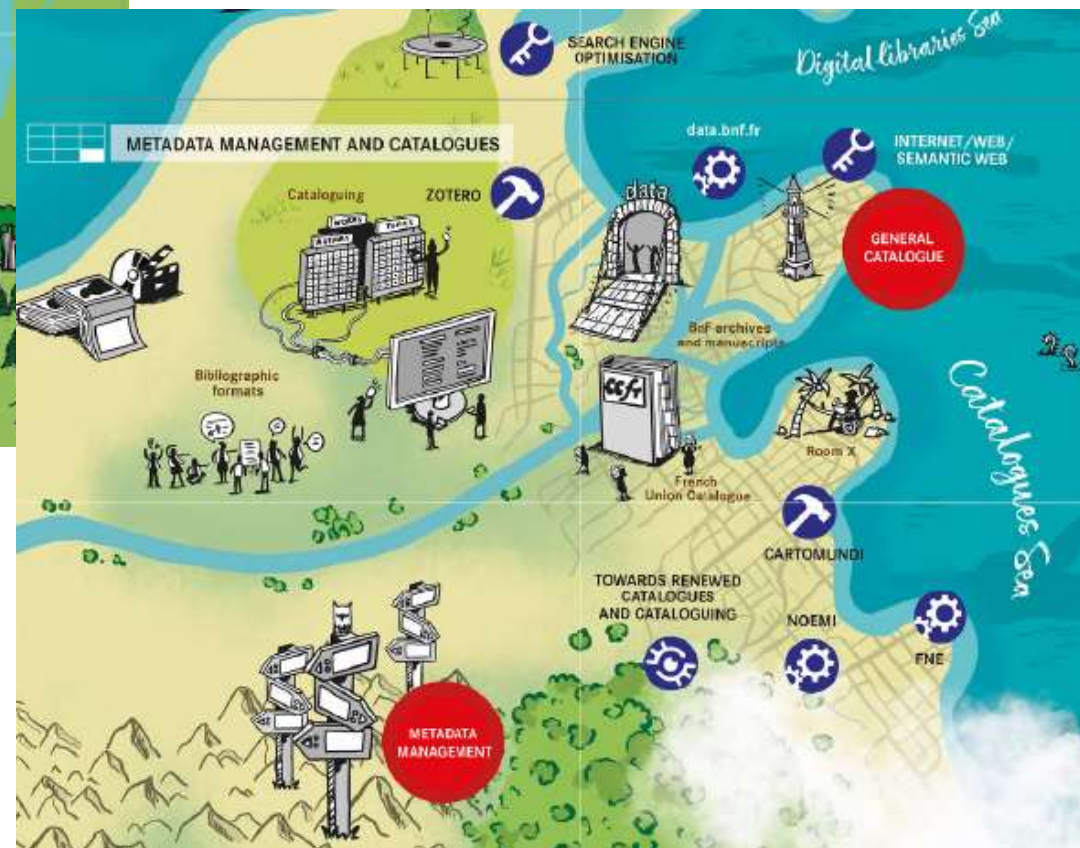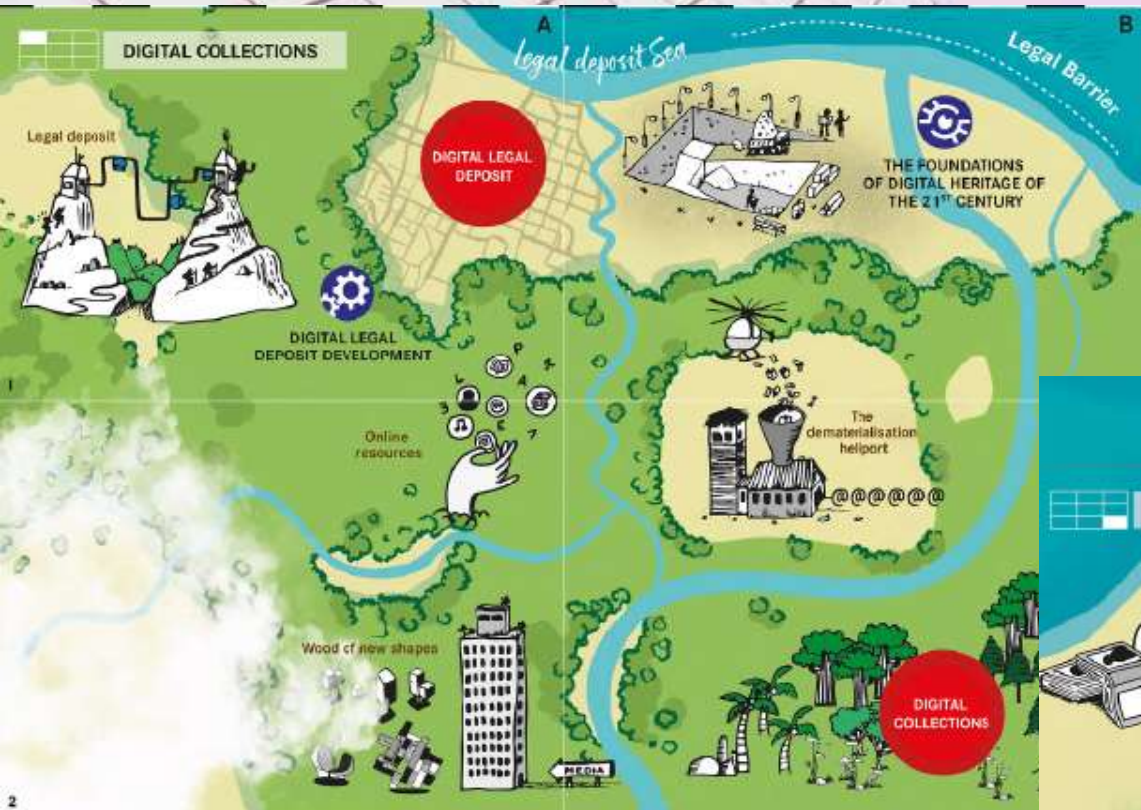- **Economic :** free, open standards

{BnF

The challenge of users' tasks

Standards : For whom and for what ?

Table 1: A summary of user tasks	
Find	To bring together information about one or more resources of interest by searching on any relevant criteria
Identify	To clearly understand the nature of the resources found and to distinguish between similar resources
Select	To determine the suitability of the resources found, and to be enabled to either accept or reject specific resources
Obtain	To access the content of the resource
Explore	To discover resources using the relationships between them and thus place the resources in a context

The challenge of the massification of information and ressources
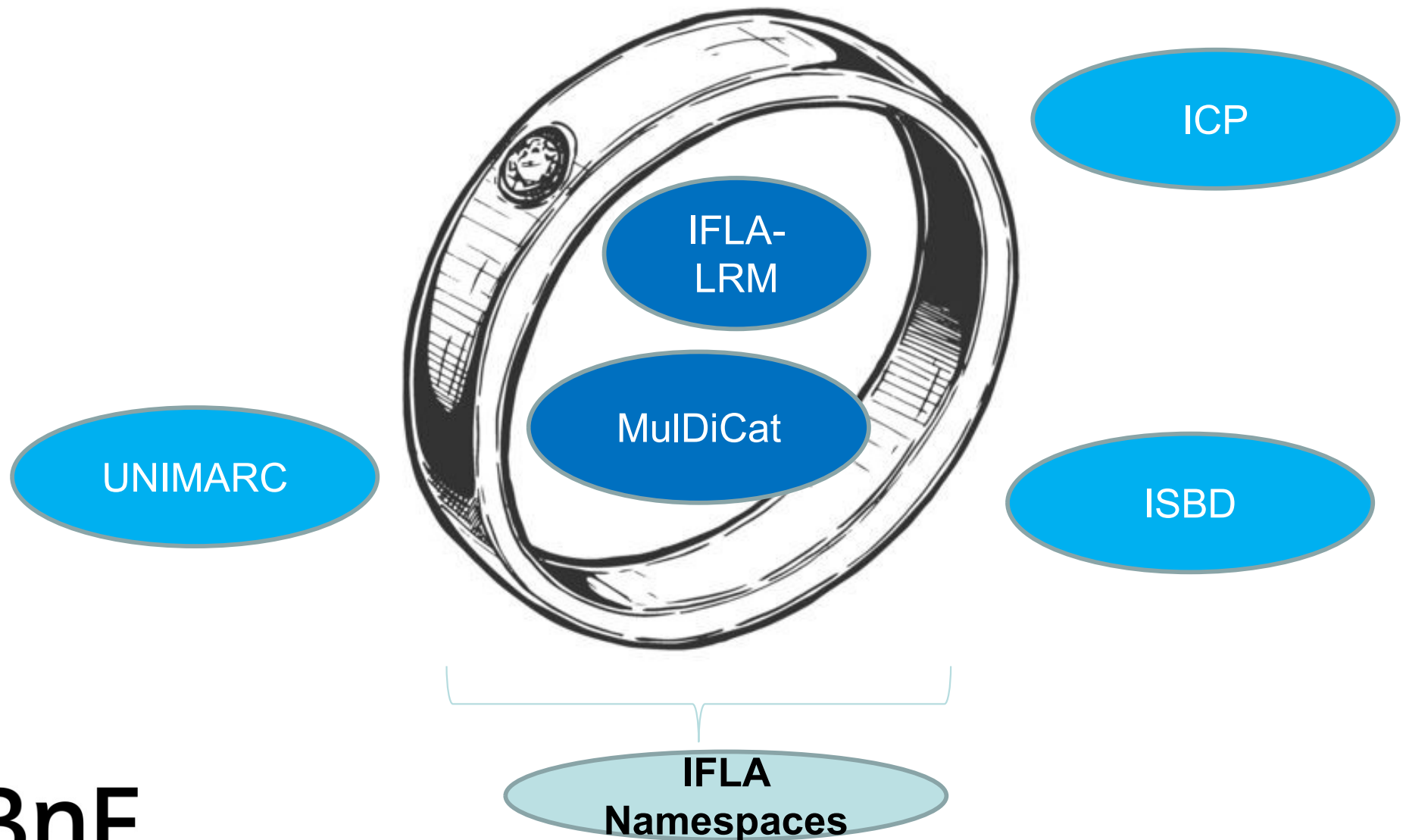

BnF digital roadmap, 2020

https://www.bnf.fr/en/mediatheque/must-see-spots-bnf-digital-roadmap

{BnF

TOWARDS A NEW KIND OF INTEROPERABILITY

〔BnF

The importance of semantics and structure

ICP

IFLA-LRM

MulDiCat

UNIMARC

ISBD

IFLA Namespaces

{BnF

What level on interoperability to be adressed?

- *System :* issues on incompatibilities between hardware and operating systems

- *Syntactic :* enable the exchange of data through common data formats

  UNIMARC, ISBD

- *Structural :* data models, data structures, and schemas

  IFLA-LRM

- *Semantic* : beyond multiple contexts

  https://www.isko.org/cyclo/interoperability by Marcia Lei Zeng

{BnF

Possible actions

- Strengthen the relations between syntactic and structural interoperability

  – *Key-question of the evolution of **UNIMARC***

- Invest the relation between structural and semantic interoperability

  – *Links with **international identifiers***

{BnF

Possible actions

- Internal rules on the elabaration and validation of standards

  - *IFLA Standards Manual (under revision)*

- Needed technical support to be provided by IFLA

  - *The expertise in linked open data technologies offered by Lidatec*

  - *The infrastructure for publishing and maintaining namespaces for specific standards*

  - *The infrastructure for publishing and maintaining online interactive versions of metadata standards and integration with their namespaces.*

{BnF

Thank you for the attention !
Questions? Remarks?

Vincent Boulet

vincent.boulet@bnf.fr

{BnF