

Making library linked data using the Europeana Data Model

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Europeana¹ provides a common access point to digital cultural heritage objects across different cultural domains among which the libraries. The recent development of the Europeana Data Model (EDM)² provide new ways for libraries to experiment with Linked Data. Indeed the model is designed as a framework re-using various well-known standards developed in the Semantic Web Community, such as the Resource Description Framework (RDF), the OAI Object Reuse and Exchange (ORE), and Dublin Core namespaces. It provides new opportunities for libraries to provide rich and interlinked metadata to the Europeana aggregation.

However to be able to provide data to Europeana, libraries need to create mappings from the library-standard to EDM. This step involves decisions based on domain-specific requirements and on the possibilities offered by EDM. The cross-domain nature of EDM limiting in some cases the completeness of the mappings, extension of the model have been proposed to accommodate the library needs.

The "Digitised Manuscripts to Europeana" project (DM2E)³ has created an extension of EDM to optimise the mappings of library-data for manuscripts. This extension is in the form of subclasses and subproperties that further specialise EDM concepts and properties. It includes spatial creation and publishing information, specific contributor and publication type properties and more.

Furthermore the granularity of the mapping has been extended to allow references and annotations on page level as required for scholarly work. As part of this project the metadata of the Hebrew Manuscripts as well as of the Medieval Manuscripts presented in the Digital Collections of the Frankfurt University Library⁴ have been mapped to this extension. This includes links to the Integrated Authority File (GND)⁵ of the German National Library with further links to the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF)⁶.

Based on this development a new comprehensive mapping from the digitalisation metadata format METS/MODS to EDM has been established for all materials of the Frankfurt Judaica in "Judaica Europeana"⁷. It demonstrates today's capabilities of the creation of linked Data structures in Europeana based on library catalogue data and structural data from the digitalisation process.

¹ <http://www.europeana.eu/>

² <http://pro.europeana.eu/edm-documentation>

³ <http://dm2e.eu/>

⁴ <http://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de>

⁵ <http://www.dnb.de/EN/gnd>

⁶ <http://viaf.org/>

⁷ <http://www.judaica-europeana.eu/>