

To: UC Linked Data Project Team
From: Direction & Oversight Committee
Date: June 21, 2019
Re: UC Linked Data report

In September 2017, DOC charged the UC Linked Data Project Team with the objective of developing a deeper understanding within the UC Libraries of the potential benefits of adopting a Linked Data approach to exposing and/or managing metadata in various environments, and the infrastructure required to support implementation of Linked Data systemwide projects in the future.

The project team submitted its final report in October 2018, including a valuable collection of use cases, projects within the UC Libraries' and beyond, and systemwide opportunities. The team proposed four recommendations, focused on developing a shared infrastructure, common practices and mechanisms for collaboration. The remainder of the charge was completed in early 2019 when the team hosted two well attended webinars, with the goal of raising library staff's awareness of the potential and application of Linked Data within UC Libraries.

The project team's recommendations included:

- R1. Form a standing UC Linked Data Leadership Group
- R2. Develop functional requirements for shared local authority infrastructure
- R3. Include Linked Data requirements in consortial engagement with vendor services
- R4. Ensure Linked Data expertise in other related systemwide initiatives

DOC Response

DOC recognizes the tremendous work of the Linked Data Project Team, as evidenced in your report and webinars. Your team was successful in increasing our collective awareness of the possibilities of Linked Data and meaningful projects the UC Libraries could undertake. DOC reviewed the recommendations proposed by the project team, including consulting with experts and leadership at the local campus level.

Not unexpectedly, there is a range of experience with Linked Data across the campuses, from deep expertise to limited knowledge and experience. Several campuses expressed strong support for undertaking a systemwide project, e.g., a system to support shared local authority management, that is useful by itself and that might also someday support a broader Linked Data initiative. Some campuses expressing support for undertaking a Linked Data project also acknowledged having very few local resources, if any, to contribute. Overall, support primarily rested on meeting immediate needs, such as improving efficiency in metadata management.

The UC Libraries have limited resources available to commit to systemwide projects, and for the foreseeable future the SILS endeavor will remain a priority, requiring significant staff time and expertise to succeed. In fact, many of the individuals with Linked Data expertise are already committed to SILS, the IMS implementation, and/or Project Surfliner, leading us to conclude that the UC Libraries' lack the bandwidth and broad support to dive deeply and effectively into

a major Linked Data initiative. In the same vein, we see the potential in selecting a focused project, ideally connected to a current initiative (e.g., SILS or IMS implementation) that supports systemwide priorities *and* expands systemwide knowledge of the potential of Linked Data.

DOC utilized the “Decision Making Rubric for UC Libraries Projects” as a tool to record local campus responses to the Linked Data Project Team’s recommendations, and subsequent discussion informed our responses to each recommendation:

R1. Form a standing UC Libraries Linked Data Leadership Group

Decision: Not accepted.

The current UC Libraries Advisory Structure has the flexibility to add leadership groups when a need emerges that both CoUL and DOC agree meets a level of strategic importance to the UC Libraries; activities related to Linked Data do not yet meet this standard. The UC Libraries Advisory Structure supports the creation of Common Knowledge Groups in areas of shared interest. The UC Linked Data Project Team membership is welcome to explore launching a CKG.

R2. Develop functional requirements for shared local authority infrastructure

Decision: Not accepted.

While DOC is supportive of undertaking a small, well-defined project with practical applications that would benefit the UC Libraries’ at an operational level, both DOC and CoUL feel we do not have the organizational bandwidth to do so at this time. We anticipate that there will be opportunities to explore such a project following the SILS go-live date when many of the people with the necessary expertise will have the time to focus on this effort.

R3. Include Linked Data requirements in consortial engagement with vendor services

Decision: Support with modification.

DOC supports sharing this recommendation with CDL, requesting that when appropriate, CDL identify fruitful directions for addressing Linked Data issues with vendors.

R4. Ensure Linked Data expertise in other related systemwide initiatives

Decision: Support with modification.

DOC endorses the proposal that it commit itself to consider including Linked Data expertise/representation on future systemwide initiatives, as appropriate (for groups/projects that DOC oversees or proposes candidates for). This includes the future phases of work for the SILS where linked data is relevant.

Key Documents:

Charge

<https://ucmerced.app.box.com/s/1kahais968uuvttz4atmmkxm3mxdhojo>

Final report

https://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/groups/files/doc/docs/UC%20Linked%20Data%20Final%20Report_01Oct2018.pdf

Webinars

<https://github.com/ucsdlib/uc-linked-data/wiki/Linked-Data-Project-Group-Webinars>

Decision Making Rubric for UC Libraries Projects (January 2017)

<https://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/key-documents>