

Princeton's Derrida Project

Princeton's LD4P project focuses on inscribed presentation copies in the personal working library of the Algerian-born French philosopher Jacques Derrida (1930–2004). Our subproject aims to explore and contribute to the development of models, vocabularies, and best practices for the item-level description of rare materials, with a focus on identifying and encoding the relationships found in the personal dedications inscribed on items given to Derrida over the course of his life as a philosopher. Derrida's personal library contains more than 6,770 books inscribed to Derrida with personal dedications, and 500 of these will be used as the testbed for Princeton's LD4P subproject. The ability to analyze and query the inscribed and annotated material in Derrida's library is of great interest to scholars and students of his work. For example, many Derrida scholars are interested in his global social and intellectual network—that is, his connections with other writers and thinkers. The combination of traditional cataloging elements like subjects, publication places, and dates, together with the encoded dedication data, should allow scholars to navigate across relationships over the collection as a whole. Analyzing the items with dedications provides an opportunity to answer interesting research questions, especially about the quality of the relationship between Derrida and a particular dedicator. The personal dedications come in many forms and lengths. Some are brief, courteous, and formal, whereas others are chatty and intimate. Many include dates, and there are occasional references to events, other people, and other works and publications.

Although the Rare Materials Ontology Extension working group has adopted BIBFRAME as a general framework and starting point for its modeling activities, it is also actively exploring other LOD vocabularies that might be more appropriate for specific kinds of data. Both Princeton and Cornell are working to adapt emerging standards like the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Annotation Data Model and Vocabulary in order to expose the different relationships among the people, places, and events identified in the contextual information that is the focus of their use cases.

Progress so far

Data creation

- Digitized sample set of 500 objects
- Transcription
 - Created MS Access data entry form and hired student workers for double-blind data entry. Initial transcription of dedications should be complete in May 2017. Comparison and reconciliation of 235 transcriptions is done.
- Manually created 45 sample annotations in Turtle format
 - Prototyped an annotation creation tool

Modeling

- Participated in ongoing Rare Materials Ontology Extension work

- Participated in [in-person ARTFrame + Rare Materials Ontology Extension Meeting](#)
- Participated in in-person Ontology Extension Meeting
- Worked on modeling of annotations, seeking input from members of the Web Annotation Working Group

Self-learning / Training

- Completed the [Protégé Pizza ontology tutorial](#)
- Inter-departmental study / discussion group
 - Reading [Semantic Web for the Working Ontologist](#)
- Participated in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs):
 - [FUN - Introduction to a Web of Linked Data](#)
 - [FutureLearn: Introduction to Linked Data and the Semantic Web](#)
- Attended [Protege Short Course](#)

Outreach

- Presentations
 - LD4P project update to Princeton's professional catalogers
 - Presented to Princeton Library Management Group (LMG) on "Limitless possibilities: the promise of linked data"
 - [MELA 2016 Presentation on Linked Data and BIBFRAME](#)
 - ["Deframing Derrida: Encoding Annotations from Rare Books and Special Collections" at NISO Virtual Conference: BIBFRAME & Real World Applications of Linked Bibliographic Data](#)
 - ["Pour Jacques"](#) at PCC Participants meeting, ALA annual
 - ["De-"framing" Derrida"](#), BIBFRAME Update Forum, ALA Midwinter Meeting 2016
- Articles
 - Timothy A. Thompson, et al. (2016). From Notes to Annotations: Deconstructing Dedications in the Library of Jacques Derrida at Princeton University, *Journal of Library Metadata*, 16(3-4), 146-165.
doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19386389.2016.1258908>
- Created informational web page on Princeton website and update it regularly:
<https://library.princeton.edu/tsd/cams/ld4p/>

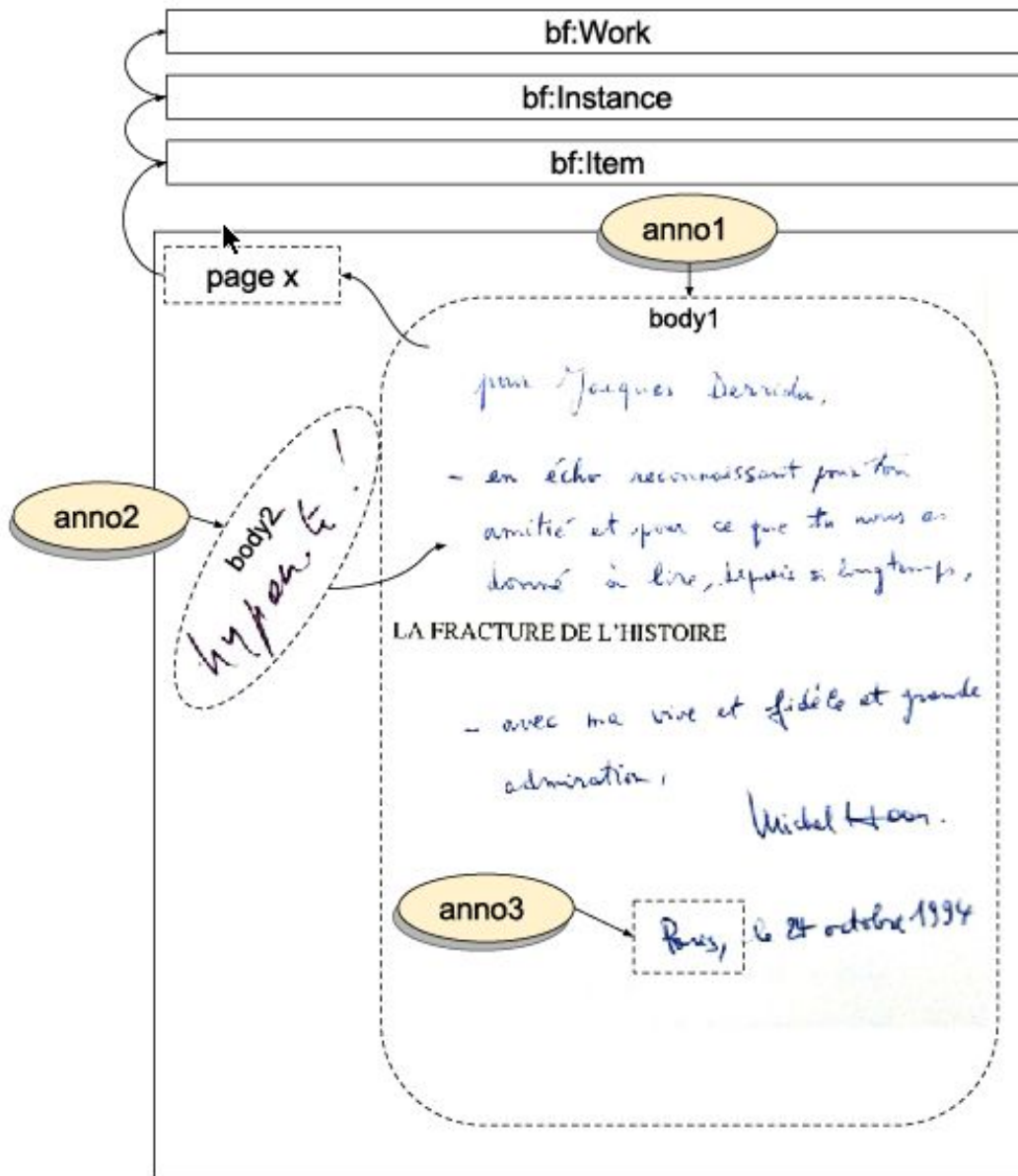
Feedback requested

During the meeting we are very interested in feedback, suggestions, sympathy about concerns and questions we are grappling with:

- How do we "sell" linked data? Lacking a presentation layer, what are ways we can demonstrate the benefits of linked data and garner excitement?
- Are you aware of projects similar to ours?
- How are others modeling drawings, images, symbols, illegible text, signatures, things that aren't text?

Appendix -- annotation model example

Below is a sample of an interesting multi-layered dedication--an example of an annotation which was in turn annotated by Derrida. It is modeled based on W3C's [Web Annotation Model](#).



```

ex:anno1
  dcterms:creator <https://library.princeton.edu/tsd/cams/ld4p> ;
  a oa:Annotation ;
  oa:hasBody ex:body1 ;
  oa:hasTarget [
  oa:hasScope ex:item1 ;
  oa:hasSource ex:pageX
  ] ;
  oa:motivatedBy oa:describing .

ex:anno2
  dcterms:creator <https://library.princeton.edu/tsd/cams/ld4p> ;
  a oa:Annotation ;
  oa:hasBody ex:body2 ;
  oa:hasTarget [
  oa:hasScope ex:anno1, ex:item1, ex:pageX ;
  oa:hasSource ex:body1
  ] ;
  oa:motivatedBy oa:describing .

ex:anno3
  dcterms:creator <https://library.princeton.edu/tsd/cams/ld4p> ;
  a oa:Annotation ;
  oa:hasBody [
  oa:hasPurpose oa:tagging ;
  oa:hasSource <http://sws.geonames.org/2988507/>
  ] ;
  oa:hasTarget [
  oa:hasSelector [
    a oa:TextQuoteSelector ;
    oa:exact "Paris" ;
    oa:prefix "Michel Haar. " ;
    oa:suffix ", le 24 octobre 1994"
  ] ;
  oa:hasSource ex:body1
  ] ;
  oa:motivatedBy oa:identifying .

ex:body1
  dcterms:created "1994-10-24"^^xsd:date ;
  dcterms:creator <http://viaf.org/viaf/46762227> ;
  dcterms:language "fr" ;
  rdau:P60455 <http://viaf.org/viaf/88958529> ;
  a ex:AuthorsPresentationInscription, dctypes:Text, oa:TextualBody ;
  rdf:value "pour Jacques Derrida, - en écho reconnaissant pour ton amitié et pour ce
  que tu nous as donné à lire, depuis si longtemps, LA FRACTURE DE L'HISTOIRE - avec ma vive
  et fidèle et grande admiration, Michel Haar. Paris, le 24 octobre 1994" ;
  oa:hasPurpose ex:dedicating .

ex:body2
  dcterms:creator <http://viaf.org/viaf/88958529> ;
  dcterms:language "fr" ;
  a ex:Annotation, dctypes:Text, oa:TextualBody ;
  rdf:value "hypocrite!" ;
  oa:hasPurpose oa:commenting .

```