Princeton - Derrida's library

About the Derrida Archive project

In March 2015, Princeton University acquired the personal library of Algerian-born French philosopher Jacques Derrida (1930-2004). Of the roughly 16,000 published books and other items in the library, a significant number have been heavily annotated, and many bear personal dedications to Derrida from other philosophers and theorists. Princeton is creating linked data descriptions for a set of these items, which involves participating in the development of a Rare Materials Ontology Extension with an emphasis on modeling annotations, evaluating linked data creation tools, and making the resulting RDF data set available to scholars who are interested in studying Derrida's social and intellectual networks.

Princeton Project Proposal

Deliverables

- Linked data descriptions of a set of annotated items from the Derrida Archive
- Transform and convert MARC records into BIBFRAME for a representative selection of items in the Derrida collection
- ~~BIBFRAME extension ontology for original resource description of special collections materials~~

Current Activities

Transcribing dedications as a first step toward linked data creation

Team

Joyce Bell (Director, Cataloging and Metadata Services)
Jennifer Baxmeyer (Leader, Electronic Resources Team)
Peter Green (Cataloging and Metadata Technology Specialist)
Lidia Santarelli (Metadata Librarian) (from Feb. 2017)
Luiza Wainer (Metadata Librarian) (from Jan. 2018)
Don Thornbury (Head, Technical Services for Special Collections)
Regine Heberlein (Principal Cataloger and Metadata Analyst)
Timothy Thompson (Metadata Librarian) (until Mar. 2017)

Completed Work

Last updated Jun. 2018

Phase 4/4 (Oct. 2017-Jun. 2018)

Logistics and Planning

- Began linked data related discussions with newly restructured Library leadership
- Welcomed a new core group member, Luiza Wainer (Metadata Librarian, Spanish/Portuguese Specialty)
- Met a second time with interested staff from Library Information Technology to discuss practical linked data related collaboration and pilot projects

Collaboration

- Participated in editor testing (CEDAR + LC BIBFRAME editor)
- Participated in "the Chalet Meeting", to collaboratively envision linked data cataloging workflows, May 21-22
- Attended LD4 workshop May 1-2
- Attended partner meeting at the Library of Congress, November 13-14
- Participated in All-hands, Vitrolib and Tools Coordination calls

Data creation

- Completed and published preliminary dataset (https://github.com/pulcams/ld4p)
- Completed in-house, project-specific annotation editor (https://github.com/pulcams/annotation_editor)
- Thoroughly reviewed and analyzed data creation to date
- Formed Derrida Dedications Encoding Committee, comprised of 10 professional catalogers
- Encoded annotations for 450 dedications
- Began addressing issues within these annotations (e.g. dates without years, illegible text, etc.)

Self-learning / Training

- Held an introductory SPARQL training, open to all professional catalogers

Outreach

- Presentations
    - Public
        - The Role of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) in Linked Data Implementation LD4 2018
        - *Linked Data and Annotations, What We Stand to Gain* ALCTS webinar 3/21/2018
        - *De l'Une à l'Autre: Towards Linked Data in Special Collections Cataloging* SWIB 2017
    - Local
        - *Connecting Derrida: Linked Data @ PUL (two Years and counting...)* for Princeton University Library staff (upcoming in July 2018)
        - *Linked Data and the Semantic Web: Roadshow Presentation* for Princeton Rare Books and Special Collections staff
- Other
    - Met with visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study, Will Hanley (Florida State University), who is working with linked data and an ontology of the historical Middle East, to discuss the potentials and challenges of linked data within the digital humanities

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Phase 3/4 (Apr. 2017-Sep. 2017)

Logistics and Planning

- Met with University Librarian Anne Jarvis to discuss next steps toward linked data initiatives at Princeton University Library
- Met with Systems Application Development Team to discuss linked data related collaboration

Collaboration

- Hosted LD4P ontology extension group April 3-4
- Attended community and partner meetings at Stanford University April 24-28
- Participated in Rare Materials / ArtFrame calls
- Hosted Phil Schreur for a day-long in-person meeting
- Attended Oct SHARE-VDE meeting
- Began working with vitrolib developer at Cornell
    - Provided example record / RDF description
    - Participated in usability testing

Data creation

- Completed double-blind transcription of sample dedications
- Completed reconciliation of both transcriber's dedications
- Completed first steps toward entification / data cleanup
- Converted titles with existing MARC records to BF2
- Created MARC for titles without existing records
- Prepared an in-house annotation editor for use in Phase 4

Self-learning / Training

- Completed *Semantic Web for Working Ontologist* in our linked data discussion / reading group
- Read *BIBFLOW Roadmap* in our linked data discussion / reading group

Outreach

- Presentations
    - *Linked Data at Princeton!* presented to Princeton University Library Dept. Heads
    - *Linked Data and the Semantic Web: Roadshow Presentation*, Princeton University Library Collection Development
    - *The Future of Library Cataloging: a View from Technical Services*, four repeat presentations open to all library staff
- Articles
    - Program for Cooperative Cataloging Linked Data Advisory Group. (2017). Linked Data Infrastructure Models: Areas of Focus for PCC Strategies. Washington, D.C. : Program for Cooperative Cataloging. https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/documents/LinkedDataInfrastructureModels.pdf
- Other
    - Met with faculty stakeholder, Claude Willan, to discuss use cases and areas of overlap with digital humanities projects

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Phase 2/4 (Oct. 2016-Mar. 2017)

Collaboration

- Attended second LD4P All-Hands meeting in Washington D. C.
- Met with the Princeton Digital Humanities Center's Derrida project management team (regarding their separate but potentially related project)
- Participated in brainstorming about a second LD4P grant

Data creation

- Digitization
    - Arranged for digitization of the sample set of 500 objects
- Transcription
    - Created MS Access data entry form
    - Hired student workers for double-blind data entry
    - Began transcription of dedications
    - Completed comparison and reconciliation of 235 transcriptions

Modelling

- Participated in ongoing Rare Materials Ontology Extension work
- Followed developments in LD4All Ontology Alignment Calls
- Participated in in-person ARTFrame + Rare Materials Ontology Extension Meeting

Self-learning / Training

- Completed the Protégé Pizza ontology tutorial
- Inter-departmental study / discussion group
    - Read 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 Protégé 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

- 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

Phase 1/4 (Apr.-Sept. 2016)

Logistics and Planning

- Created private GitHub wiki for Princeton internal documentation
- Scheduled bi-weekly LD4P workshops for the core group
- Outlined plans for Oct.-Dec. 2016, the first half of Phase 2

Collaboration

- Expanded core group to include local Rare Books staff
- Consulted with library IT staff
- Consulted with faculty stakeholder in French and Italian Dept.
    - Explored the possibility of coordination with related CDH Derrida project
- Met with the LD4P Project Manager during on-site visit

Data creation

- Created proposal for imaging relevant pages from a sample of ~500 annotated books
- Selected 525 objects from Derrida's library for digitization
- Initiated process of hiring student help for the transcription of annotations in Phase 2

Modelling

- Participated in collaborative LD4P Rare Materials ontology calls
    - Contributed to the creation, categorization, and prioritization of use cases
- Participated in LD4All Ontology Alignment Calls
- Worked on modelling of annotations, seeking input from members of the Web Annotation Working Group

Self-learning

- Studied ontology modelling by way of a Protégé Pizza ontology tutorial
- Followed wider linked data-related activities

Outreach

- Discussed idea of training a select group of staff in linked data concepts

- Created informational web page on Princeton website and updated it regularly: https://library.princeton.edu/tsd/cams/ld4p/
- Presentations
    - "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
- Articles
    - Submitted article to the Journal of Library Metadata entitled "From Notes to Annotations: Deconstructing Dedications in the Library of Jacques Derrida at Princeton University"

Pre-project activities (prior to Apr. 2016)

- Formed core group within Library Technical Services Dept. and scheduled weekly meetings
- Did initial modelling for annotations, investigate applicability of World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Annotation Data Model
- Manually created 45 sample annotations in turtle format
    - Prototyped an annotation creation tool
- Consulted with Princeton University Center for Digital Humanities (CDH)
- Presentation:
    - "De-"framing" Derrida", BIBFRAME Update Forum, ALA Midwinter Meeting 2016