

[Linked Data for Cultural Heritage \[Book Review\]](#)

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Henry, T. (2018). Linked Data for Cultural Heritage, Ed Jones and Michele Seikel, eds. [Book Review]. *International Journal of Librarianship*, 3(1), 104. doi:10.23974/ijol.2018.vol3.1.61

Made available courtesy of Chinese American Librarians Association:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.23974/ijol.2018.vol3.1.61>

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Abstract:

This article is a review of the book “Linked Data for Cultural Heritage” edited by Ed Jones and Michele Seikel.

Keywords: Book review | Linked data | Libraries | Cultural Heritage Institutions | BIBFRAME

*****Note: Full text of article below**

Linked Data for Cultural Heritage. eds. Ed Jones & Michele Seikel, Chicago: ALA Editions, 2016, \$75. ISBN 978-0-8389-1439-7.

Linked Data for Cultural Heritage is a collection of chapters on linked data and its application in cultural heritage institutions such as libraries, archives, and museums (LAMs). The editors, Ed Jones and Michelle Siekel, are both experienced LIS professionals and this curated collection provides a succinct overview of the state of linked data in LAMs.

Each of the six chapters covers a different aspect of how linked data can be utilized in LAMs with case studies and project highlights, with some conceptual overlap in chapters three and four. The first chapter provides a wealth of information on large, ongoing linked data projects, such as Europeana and DPLA, while taking time to explain the background and scope of each highlighted project. The second chapter explores the benefits of utilizing linked data and RDF triples due to its flexibility. Chapter three delves into linked data for authority control, covering the ways thesauri and controlled vocabularies can be enhanced; chapter four focuses on controlled vocabularies for Science, Technical, and Medical resources. Chapter five describes the uses of schema.org and the ways that OCLC Research has utilized the ontologies found there. To conclude, the last chapter discusses BIBFRAME and the Library of Congress' efforts with linked data and provides some insight as to where it stands as a potential replacement for MARC21.

This book is very timely, written when the profession is looking to the future and possesses a greater need to openly share the rich bibliographic data generated by LAMs. Aimed at practitioners, *Linked Data for Cultural Heritage* is written in a manner that is accessible to someone who may not specialize in cataloging or be a metadata expert. The purpose of this book is to serve as a detailed introduction to linked data. Professionals who want more details on what exactly a RDF triple might be or how an ontology fits into the larger linked data picture will find this text useful. *Linked Data for Cultural Heritage* is more informational and less of a how-to guide on implementing similar linked data projects—unlike the van Hooland and Verborgh 2014 text, *Linked Data for Libraries, Archives and Museums*.

Linked Data for Cultural Heritage is ideal for busy librarians or archivists who may have heard a presentation on linked data or have minimal experience with the topic and desire an easy to digest text that will increase their familiarity. I highly recommend this book as a part of a collection that supports an information and library science degree program and for any library with a collection of professional texts to be used by their faculty and staff librarians.

References

Van Hooland, S., & Verborgh, R. (Eds.). (2014). *Linked Data for Libraries, Archives and Museums: How to Clean, Link and Publish Your Metadata*. Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman.

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