Connecting Research to Cultural Content Online

The Linked Infrastructure for Networked Cultural Scholarship

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The research knowledge ecosystem
Research and the knowledge ecosystem

Researchers
- digitized cultural content
- metadata
- scholarly outputs
- contextualized, situated data

https://doi.org/10.22230/src.2015v6n2a212
Research and the knowledge ecosystem

Researchers
- digitized cultural content
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contextualized, situated data

scholarship of record
- digitized cultural content
- metadata
- scholarly outputs

Academic publishers

https://doi.org/10.22230/src.2015v6n2a212
Research and the knowledge ecosystem

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LINCS and linking data
The Linked Infrastructure for Networked Cultural Scholarship (LINCS) enables Canadian researchers to create interlinked and contextualized online data about culture to benefit scholars and the public.
What is Linked Open Data?

- A set of standards for contributing data to a **semantic web** (aka the web of data or global knowledge graph)
- Extends WWW standards for data format and exchange

**Structures** data using Resource Description Framework (RDF)

**Formalizes** relationships using Web Ontology Language (OWL)

**Standardizes** by reusing ontologies and vocabularies through identifiers (URIs/PIDs)

**Converts “strings” to “things”**
via URIs, to make web links meaningful, i.e. semantic

**Makes humans and machines partners**
in making sense of data on the Web
The Flip Side

Like a credit card, linked data is both human-readable on front, and machine readable.

Metaphor credit: Gloria Gonzalez, Zapheira
Back and front card by Pham Duy Phuong Hung from the Noun Project (CC-BY)
Linked Open Data promotes

- Findability
- Accessibility
- Interoperability
- Reusability
- sharing
- Inferencing
- contextualization
- provenance
- serendipity
Source Datasets

Data types:
- Structured data (database, spreadsheets, metadata)
- Semi-structured data (XML documents such as Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) ones)
- Natural language
A suite of tools, not a single platform
The LINCS Context Plugin/Extension
A plea for emigration, or, Notes of Canada West: in its moral, social, and political aspect; with suggestions respecting Mexico, West Indies, and Vancouver's Island, for the information of colored emigrants / by Mary A. Shadd.

[Detroit? : s.n.], 1852 (Detroit : G.W. Pattison); 46 images with full-text search
Linking data with its contexts in situ

Named entity recognition (with matching stage if needed)
A PLEA FOR EMIGRATION:

OR,

NOTES OF CANADA WEST,
IN ITS
MORAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL ASPECT:
WITH
SUGGESTIONS RESPECTING MEXICO, WEST INDIES, AND VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
FOR THE
INFORMATION OF COLORED EMIGRANTS.

BY MARY A. SHADD:

DETROIT:
PRINTED BY GEORGE W. PATTISON,
1837.
Mary Ann Shadd Cary

09 October 1823 - 05 June 1893

Journalist and editor of the newspaper *The Provincial Freeman* in the northern US and Canada during the mid nineteenth century, MASC also wrote a short book advocating emigration to Canada for free blacks living in the United States and lectured on abolition, emigration, and women’s suffrage.

Milestones

9 October 1823

Mary Ann Shadd (who published her later writings as Cary) was born in Wilmington, Delaware, USA, the
Cary, Mary Ann Shadd
Journalist and editor of the newspaper *The Provincial Freeman* in the northern US and Canada during the mid nineteenth century, MASC also wrote a short book advocating emigration to Canada for free blacks living in the United States and lectured on abolition, emigration, and women’s suffrage.

**Biography**
Birth Name: *MaryAnnCambertonShadd*
Married Name: *Cary*
Indexed: *Mary Ann Shadd*

There is no consensus on whether she ought now to be known as Shadd, under which name she published her pamphlet and guide to emigration, or Cary, the last name under which she wrote.

**Birth and Background**
Mary Ann Shadd (who published her later writings as Cary) was born in Wilmington, Delaware, USA, the eldest of thirteen children. 

It appears, however, that only five of her siblings lived to adulthood.

Mary Ann Shadd came of mixed white and black (or, in her own word, 'colored') American heritage on both maternal and paternal sides. Her paternal great-grandfather came originally from Germany. The family was economically comfortable, with Cary's father deriving his income from his trade as a shoemaker. She attended a
Researcher-generated links through semantic tagging

http://cwrc.ca
Multi-perspectival views of entities

Mary Ann Shadd in Carole Gerson’s Canada’s Early Women Writers project

Although she was born and died in the US, Mary Ann Shadd spent a significant portion of her life in Canada West, and was known for her pamphlets and journalism promoting racial equality.

Birth: 9 October 1823, Wilmington, DE

Death: 5 June 1893, Washington, DC
What more is possible?

Entities embedded in natural language (not recognizable in page image)

With a “view text” option that exposed the OCR, the plugin could provide much more context

Other possibilities: leveraging existing PIDs, harvesting annotations; reconciliation in context

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A plea for emigration, or, Notes of Canada West: in its moral, social, and political aspect; with suggestions respecting Mexico, West Indies, and Vancouver's Island, for the information of colored emigrants / by Mary A. Shadd.
Merci ! Thank you !

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Visit https://lincsproject.ca/ for more information.
(A bilingual portal to replace this site is launching in early 2023.)
To contribute to testing LINCS tools, click on Take Part and fill out the form!

Many thanks to the LINCS, CWRC/LEAF and Orlando teams and my many collaborators