

Bridging Communities of Practice: Emerging Technologies for Content-Centered Linking

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Abstract: Heritage collections are often dispersed and multifaceted. This presents challenges for users who may have access to only a fraction of extant materials. Heritage professionals, digital humanists and scholars are now investing considerable effort to transcend institutional silos by promoting interoperability. For example, Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) are leveraging Linked Open Data (LOD) as a basis for promoting interoperability. At the same time, computer scientists have been developing techniques for automatically extracting linkable data from the content itself. With support from a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Startup Grant we plan to bring these communities together to explore the potential for enriching current “LODLAM” initiatives, and for inspiring new initiatives that grow out of this intersection. Our poster sketches the structure of relevant research in both LODLAM and in Computer Science, it describes the process that we will employ to initially bring these communities together, it envisions some possible outcomes, and it invites broad input into the process.

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Professor Douglas W. Oard has appointments in the College of Information Studies and the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, a faculty affiliate of the Human Language Technology Center of Excellence at The Johns Hopkins University, and a Visiting Professor at the National Institute of Informatics (Japan). His research focuses on the application of emerging technologies such as machine translation and automatic speech recognition to support information seeking processes, and on automated entity linking and automated document linking, most notably for documents written in different languages.

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