

Applying Linked Data Approaches to Archival Description

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Abstract: This platform session will provide an update on the LiAM (Linked Archival Metadata) planning project. LiAM, funded by IMLS, is focused on planning for the application of linked data approaches to archival description. Our goal is to better understand the benefits that linked data could bring to the management, discovery, and use of archival collections while also investigating the efforts required to implement these approaches. Central to this planning project is identifying graduated approaches that will enable archives to build on existing description as well as mapping out a more ambitious vision for linked data in archives. The focus of the presentation will be a preview of "Linked Archival Metadata: A Guidebook," the primary project deliverable. The Guidebook, as the title suggests, is intended to provide a roadmap for archivists to implement linked data. Whether new to linked data or already knowledgeable about it, the Guidebook will provide a conceptual overview as well as specific implementation strategies. Slated for release early in 2014, the Research Forum presentation will be an important opportunity to solicit feedback from the community on the draft Guidebook.

About the author:

Anne Sauer, MA, MLIS, is Director of Digital Collections and Archives (DCA) and University Archivist at Tufts University. DCA has primary responsibility for management of the university's permanent records and other historical collections, records management consulting services, and the Tufts Digital Library. Sauer is a regular instructor of workshops on digital project management, sustainability of digital collections, and description strategies for archives.