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Job title: Computer Scientist & Head of Digital Library Services

Organisation: University Library JCS Frankfurt am Main & University Library Mainz

Abstract:

Title: Exploring Performing Arts

In the performing arts domain, the main focus lies on theatre and dance performances whose ephemeral character makes documentation and preservation challenging. Performance-related artefacts like photos, videos, theatre bills and playbooks are closely linked to the performance event as well as the contributors to the performance such as the actors, costume designers or choreographers. The relations between the event and the performance-related entities, i.e. agent, venue and timespan allow for another conception of how a search can be approached.

At the University Library Frankfurt am Main, the Specialised Information Service (SIS) Performing Arts is aggregating metadata from German-speaking cultural heritage institutions within the performing arts domain. It presents the metadata in a VuFind-based search portal providing a standard research interface for the metadata fields. However, the integration of alternative ways to explore the data is intended, demanding for a flexible and structured data model. By implementing a linked data model based on the Europeana Data Model (EDM) new possibilities for the user experience is opened up. An event-centric view reflects the specific structure of data in the performing arts domain where entities are interlinked via the performance.

In the presentation, we will report about the challenges we have faced in the modeling of performance-related events and the progress we made in preparing the data for exploration.

Examples show the large variety in structure and quality of the actual metadata. We discuss the potential for the presentation and visualization of the data in the user interface.

Bio:

Julia Beck holds a Master's degree in Computer Science and Language Documentation (Corpus Linguistics) from Kiel University. She is currently developing a VuFind-based search portal for the "Specialised Information Service Performing Arts" at the University Library Frankfurt am Main. In this context, she is modeling Linked Open Data from heterogeneous metadata gathered by libraries, archives and museums from the performing arts domain. Her research interests include the development of Linked Open Data applications.

Marko Knepper is head of the Digital Library Services department of the University Library Mainz. He was graduated from the University of Göttingen after having studied physics and computer science. Earlier positions include the Hessian State Library in Wiesbaden and the University Library Frankfurt am Main. He is involved in various digitization and aggregation projects where his focus is on the modeling and enrichment of metadata in order to improve the visibility and usability of the content.