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Abstract:

Title: Litmus: Developing a Linked Data Ontology for Irish Traditional Music and Dance

The Linked Irish Traditional Music (LITMUS) project beginning at the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) seeks to improve searching and access to web-based Irish traditional music, song and dance resources through the development of a linked data ontology, and eventual framework. While tailored to Irish traditional music, the project will provide a model for other European / non-European traditional musics with similar considerations. The LITMUS project faces challenges of documenting and describing relationships and terminology due to the informal nature of oral transmission.

This presentation gives an overview of LITMUS and describes the approach towards developing properties for the ontology—one of the more challenging components of the project due to the informal nature of how music practitioners describe their music and dance relationships. Properties are derived from representative samples of Irish traditional music (song and instrumental) album notes using textual analysis. From ITMA's commercial recordings collection, over 30 albums spanning instrumental, vocal, stylistic, and geographic differences from the past 60 years were analysed for relationship data.

Taking this approach to developing properties for the ontology allows us to analyse language used by practitioners over time to express relationships found in transmission and learning of Irish traditional music. Anecdotally, the language contained within the album notes mirrors language used when introducing tunes and songs in both formal and informal performance settings. Using practitioners' own language will benefit the application of the ontology within traditional music collections in Ireland, as well as when applied to other European and non-European music collections.

Bio:

Lynnsey Weissenberger is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the Irish Traditional Music Archive, Dublin, where she leads the EU-funded LITMUS (Linked Irish Traditional Music) ontology project. She received her Ph.D. in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University, U.S.A. Her research focuses on traditional music information, organisation, access, and technology.