Linked Library Data Interest Group Business Meeting, ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 25, 2014

In attendance: Theo Gerontakos (co-chair) and Sarah Quimby (co-chair) convened the meeting. At various times during the meeting, Suzanne L. Thomas, Thomas Dukleth, Jim Morris, Annie Glerum were also in attendance.

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.

2. Reports and announcements:

a. Reports from past webinars:

(i) December 5: Linked Data Primer, Jackie Hsieh.

(ii) January 14 Coding experiments to transform MARC to linked data, Jeremy Nelson.

Theo Gerontakos attended both webinars. They each had 72 registered attendees. The December 5 webinar provided a broad overview of RDF, and the second was a very advanced session on transforming MARC with Python.

b. Upcoming events:

(i) January 26: LLD IG managed discussion January 26 at Midwinter.

The two co-chairs spent some time discussing how best to manage the table discussions during the LLD IG meeting on Sunday, January 26.

(ii) February 11: webinar on SKOS, SPARQL, and vocabulary management, Bob DuCharme.

There was some discussion on how best to advertise this webinar more broadly. It would be nice to see more than 72 attendees for these webinars. Perhaps the IG could take the initiative by posting the information on ALA Connect and other listservs.

(iii) End of June: Pre-conference at ALA annual: (Title, date TBD; presenters: Galen Charlton, Jodi Schneider, Dan Scott, Richard Urban.

Action items for the June 27 pre-conference were discussed, among them the possibility of getting a sponsor to pay for photocopying costs. Also discussed was the audience for the pre-conference, which is likely to be a mixture of beginners and advanced programmers. The deadline for a final program description is February 24.

(iv) Co-sponsoring with the ALCTS International Relations Committee a session at ALA annual:
 International Developments in Library Linked Data: Think Globally, Act Globally.

Theo Gerontakos will check into some of the remaining questions about this session, such as a proposed virtual preconference and who the speaker might be.

(v) LLD IG session (managed discussion?) at ALA Annual, Las Vegas. Do we want to continue with this format?

The two co-chairs contrasted the merits of the managed discussion session format versus the 90-minute uni-directional presentation. Uni-directional presentations lend themselves better to recording and making freely available on the web; whereas managed discussions are easier to put together and involve the audience more. It was noted that it is difficult to capture the entire content of the table discussions; perhaps at a future discussion table facilitators could be recruited beforehand.

3. Future event ideas: preconferences, webinars, co-sponsorships -- something else?

No-one proposed any future events at this time.

4. Volunteers needed for co-convener after Annual.

5. Open discussion

A question: what is the audience for the LLD IG? Those interested in the IG include those who have been working with linked data since 2003 and brand-new beginners. Gerontakos and Quimby discussed ways to reach both audiences while at the same time staying true to the intended audience for the IG, which is the linked data community of practice: linked data practitioners and programmers. One possible way would be to work with other sections to get more cross-sponsored sessions; another suggestion was to have two separate tracks for LLD IG programming. The possibility of co-ordinating a program with an organization or event such as LibHack was also discussed.

The meeting wrapped up with a discussion about how to get people more involved in the IG. Is there a way to ask for volunteers for web coordinator or other IG officers? Is it possible to start talking to others and delegating tasks?

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39am.