

# Transitioning to Linked Data



An International Experience

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“Work collaboratively with national and international partners to provide leadership and advance a transition toward open linked data for libraries.”

**University of Alberta Library 2019-20 Strategic Priorities**

# What is Linked Data and Why do Libraries Care about it?

1. Use URIs to name (identify) things.
  2. Use HTTP URIs so that these things can be looked up (interpreted, "dereferenced").
  3. Provide useful information about what a name identifies when it's looked up, using open standards such as RDF, SPARQL, etc.
  4. Refer to other things using their HTTP URI-based names when publishing data on the Web.
- Opens up previously siloed library data and makes it more visible on the web.
  - Lets us make new connections between resources.

# Linked Data Around the World

- Linked Data for Production
  - Academic and special libraries across North America
- Share Virtual Discovery Environment
  - Member institutions from North America and Europe.



Virtual  
Discovery  
Environment



# Challenges

- Not being able to meet face-to-face.
- Lack of control sometimes.
- Scheduling.

“It’s been our involvement in these international projects that has enabled us to really move from a mindset of experimentation to one of implementation.”

-Ian Bigelow, Abigail Sparling, Michele Casalini, Access Conference 2019

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