

RDF and Collections

CNI Presentation

Terry Noreault
OCLC Office of Research

Collections

- Collections will be increasingly important for effective access to electronic resources
- The “Web” encourages the decomposition of resources we previously would have thought were atomic (e.g. documents) making documents less useful as a unit of retrieval
- Collections are a mechanism for aggregating these objects

Defining Collections

- Identifying the context of resources, and how it relates to other resources, is important for access
 - ┆ e.g. Subject Classification
 - ┆ Yahoo is most popular search service
- Context can be defined in multiple ways
- Resources can have multiple contexts
 - ┆ e.g. can be in more than one collection at one time

Collection Tools

- Recognizing this, new tools are required to support the
 - ┆ Description...
 - ┆ Navigation...
 - ┆ Discovery...
 - ┆ Retrieval...
 - ┆ Management...
 - ┆ And analysis of these collections

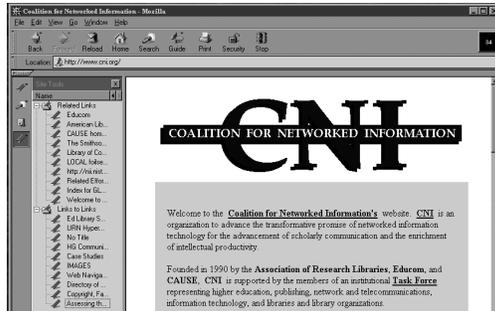
Bookmarks as Collections

- Fine example of an “ad-hoc” collection
- Would like to say some additional “things” about the intellectual content of this collection
- More time spent on maintaining bookmarks than on describing web resources
- Next Generation: More structure, sharable, template for discovery of other things “like it”, etc.

Inadvertent Collections

- Collections that are discovered
 - ┆ Search results (by subject)
 - ┆ e.g. Yahoo
 - ┆ Search results (by relation)
 - ┆ e.g. Alexa
 - ┆ Search results (by explicit query)
 - ┆ e.g. AltaVista

Relations as Collections



Relations as Collections



RDF for Describing Resources

- Web enables distributed publishing
- Uniform syntax, structure and semantics significantly improves interoperability and reuse of web resources
- RDF (Resource Description Framework) is a W3C initiative designed to support the description of web resources
- Collections are Web Resources

RDF Overview

- W3C Initiative
- RDF is a metadata architecture
 - Uses XML (eXtensible Markup Language) as a transfer syntax
 - Allows for semantics to be defined by individual resource description communities
- Enables interoperability between applications that exchange metadata
- Targeted for many resource descriptive application areas (e.g.collection level description)

RDF for Collections

- RDF provides a sound basis for associating properties with resources
- RDF provides a sound basis for defining the relationships between resources
- RDF can be used to define collections
 - Proposed for "site-maps"
 - Proposed for bookmarks

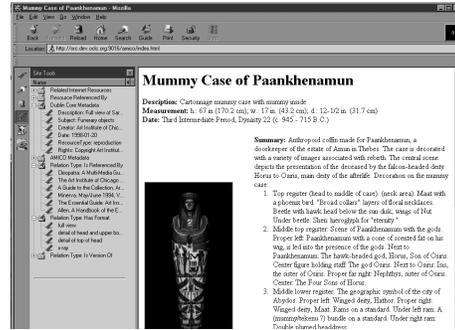
Bookmark Collection in RDF

```
<RDF-RDF>
<RDF:Description id="root" BM:Name = "Bookmarks for Eric Miller">
  <RDF:Description id="888586062RDF.rdf" BM:Name="RDF">
    <BM:Child RDF:HREF="http://www.dstc.edu.au/dc-in-rdf-ex.txt"
      BM:Name="DC in RDF examples"/>
    <BM:Child RDF:HREF="http://www.w3.org/XML/ns-sched.htm"
      BM:Name="Namespace schedule"/>
  </RDF:Description>
  <RDF:Description id="888585984WWW7.rdf" BM:Name="WWW7">
    <BM:Child RDF:HREF="http://www.dstc.edu.au/dday-tracks.html"
      BM:Name="WWW7 Developers Day - Draft Program"/>
    <BM:Child RDF:HREF="http://www7.conf.au/tutorialday.html"
      BM:Name="WWW7 Tutorials Day"/>
  </RDF:Description>
</RDF:Description>
</RDF-RDF>
```

AMICO

- AMICO is an interesting collection for testing these collection tools
- Well-structured data
- Lots of interesting relationships (more than simple parent-child)
- Lots of interesting data
- Rich enough for discovering interesting sub-collections

AMICO Item in Collection



Mummy Case of Paankhenamun

Description: Cartonnage mummy case with mummy inside

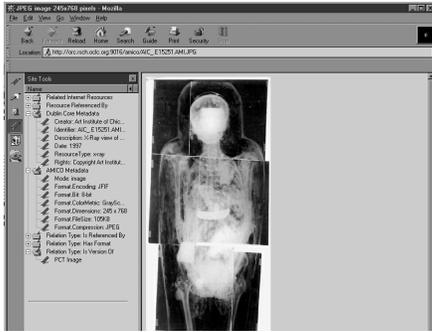
Measurements: H: 61 cm (23.75 in); W: 17 cm (6.73 in); L: 12-10 cm (5.17 in)

Date: Third Intermediate Period, Dynasty 22 (c. 945 - 715 B.C.)

Summary: An undecorated coffin made for Paankhenamun, a descendant of the states of Amen in Thebes. The case is decorated with a variety of images associated with death. The central scene depicts the presentation of the deceased by the falcon-headed deity Horus to Osiris, main deity of the afterlife. Decorations on the mummy case:

1. Top register (head to middle of case) (neck area): Man with a pharaoh's head. 1. "Head of Osiris" (face of Osiris) and a falcon-headed deity (Horus) with a hawk head below the sun disk, wings of Horus. Under register: "Horus, Maat (Justice) and Isis."
2. Middle top register: 3 scenes of Paankhenamun with the gods. Proper left: Paankhenamun with a cone of ram's hair on his wig, is led into the presence of the gods. Middle: Paankhenamun. The hawk-headed god, Horus, son of Osiris. Center figure holding staff. The god Osiris. Man to Osiris. Isis, the sister of Osiris. Proper right: Hehptahy, sister of Osiris. Center: The Four Sons of Horus.
3. Middle lower register: The geographic symbol of the city of Abydos. Proper left: Winged deity, Hathor. Proper right: Winged deity, Maat. Rests on a standard. Under left ram: A (mammal-headed) bird on a standard. Under right ram: Double-headed hawkhead.

AMICO Related Resource



Conclusion

- Collections are increasingly important
 - Metadata to support collection level description is important
 - Tools to support collections therefore are also important
- AMICO is a fine set for testing the utility of these tools
- These are all active topics of research at OCLC