

Statement of Interest

The Harvard Library Innovation Laboratory would like to build a system that provides a single entrance to a graph of Linked Library Data. This graph will be constructed of data that has already been contributed by the Harvard University Library system and many partner libraries to the LibraryCloud project (see below for information on LibraryCloud).

The best approach to build this system is unclear. At least two design architectures are immediately recognizable: centralized and federated.

The centralized architecture model seems straightforward to implement (although there are sure to be challenges related to data freshness, scaling, and so on), but this approach seems less than ideal. A better approach might be to ask each partner library to stand up its own Linked Data end-point that can be queried against in a federated manner.

Theoretically, the federated query model could fit the needs of LibraryCloud better, but it instantly raises some questions include:

- How do we address latency issues? Is a user's query response as slow as the slowest system in the federation?
- Does each end-point simply run a SPARQL instance that a federated query client runs against?
- Library A provides data under CC0 (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) but Library B provides data under ODCAL (<http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/by/>), how do we expose these licensing restrictions to the user that issued the query?
- And many, many more questions beyond the scope of this document

Working through the above *Federated Linked Library Data* use case at the *Linked Enterprise Data Patterns Workshop* will help answer these questions and focus expert input on how to provide Linked Data access to the wealth of library related information held in LibraryCloud. Thank you for your consideration.

About LibraryCloud

LibraryCloud is an open, multi-library data service that aggregates and delivers library metadata. We hope it will serve as a platform for the development of Web applications that help all library users (including scholars and researchers) find and understand materials.

LibraryCloud currently contains about 15 million bibliographic records from five partner libraries spread across the US. It exposes its bibliographic data through a RESTful API, but is making efforts to expose all data as Linked Data.

Find more information on LibraryCloud at <http://LibraryCloud.org>

About the Harvard Library Innovation Lab

We are a small group within the Harvard University Library system that implements in software ideas about how libraries can be ever more valuable.

Find more information on the Library Innovation Lab at <http://www.librarylab.law.harvard.edu>

Contact

Matthew Phillips
mphillips@law.harvard.edu
617-495-4815

142 Langdell Hall
1545 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138