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European
BIBFRAME
Workshop

BIBFRAME: a sign of the epochal change of library services

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Dear colleagues,

Welcome to Fiesole and Florence.

As a professor of the University of Florence, dean of LIS courses, I recall the usefulness of updating and comparing information with colleagues from different countries on topics of fundamental importance such as this workshop dedicated to BIBFRAME.

The topic of this workshop is framed by epochal changes for libraries in terms of standards, cataloging rules, and above all in terms of integrated *library* system (ILS) evolution.

This opens up new opportunities for collaboration, for example in the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums).

The need for change has been formulated by libraries and communicated worldwide in various ways.

One of the most significant factors in this evolutionary process of libraries in the direction of the Semantic Web is, as we know, the publication *On the record*, the report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, published on January 9, 2008.

The orientation of this report towards the Semantic Web is clear, confirming what has been anticipated with the publication of data schemas and ontologies in RDF, Resource Description Framework, since 2005.

In the context of the Semantic Web, the single elements can regain the meaning that the entire MARC record gave them with tags, transforming the data into linked open data.

The adoption of the logic and technologies of the Semantic Web can have a different impact depending on the various contexts of adoption.

In the case of libraries, passage into the Semantic Web generated a profound rethinking of familiar models of the catalog, producing the re-foundation of principles (ICP) and standards (RDA).

Starting from this basis, the Library of Congress announced the Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative on May 2011, declaring, in October 2011:

"The new bibliographic framework project will be focused on the Web Environment, Linked Data principles and mechanisms, and the Resource Description Framework (RDF) as a basic data model."

With the report *Bibliographic Framework as a Web of Data: Linked Data Model and Supporting Services (BIBFRAME)*, edited by The Library of Congress on November 21, 2012, the perspective is traced.

BIBFRAME has defined a roadmap for the definition of a new bibliographic environment that provides for the interconnection of entities generated from different sources, and the enunciation of strategies and tools capable of supporting the evolution underway in the global communication circuit.

In fact, it has enunciated a new bibliographic ecosystem.

BIBFRAME, therefore, is a fundamental reference model for libraries, although not unique.

The use of ontologies and models of equipment and completion, where useful or necessary, is widely used in the practice of conversion into linked data.

This is even more so for the translation of such traditionally rich and complex data, as those of GLAM.

The adoption of ontologies and vocabularies for the conversion into linked data allows catalogs to be an integral part of the web, which has meanwhile evolved from a network of documents to a network of data linked by qualified relationships.

BIBFRAME is growing thanks to international cooperation. In Europe, in particular, we have the example of the linked open data version of the British National Bibliography (BNB), and the authority file model of the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek.

Also in Europe, the Swedish Kungliga Biblioteket was the first library to make a complete transition of data from MARC to BIBFRAME with the development of the new LIBRIS national catalog.

The National Library of Sweden, in its announcement of the transition to BIBFRAME, writes:

"The National Library of Sweden (KB) has deployed a new version of the Swedish Union Catalog, Libris. catalogs can now be used by web services outside the library community."

Italy is participating in the development of BIBFRAME, thanks to the joint expertise of Casalini and AtCult. This is a point of pride for all of us, and an invitation for the Italian library community to take this path.

For information managers, the challenge is to harmonize tradition with innovation, the old with the new, in an enlightened way, thus creating a new information management system that is both advanced and economically sustainable.

In this way, the representation of information enables its re-use in multiple ways, while following the principle of user convenience.

The issues to be discussed in this seminar are, therefore, many and complex and as yet to be developed and defined in detail.

I wish everyone success in this good work.