Linked Data: Avoiding “Breaks of Gauge” in your Web Content

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About Me (In A Nutshell)
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Tom lives in Bristol

Tom works for Talis

Talis is based in Birmingham
Let's go to Work!
Edward W. Godwin
1833 - 1886

Bristol born architect, furniture and fabric designer. His work includes the Carriageworks, Stokes Croft and Highbury Chapel, St. Michael's Hill.

Lived here from 1862 to 1865
How to find Talis
What Makes This Possible?
The Historical Perspective
“At that time, the canal journey from Birmingham to Bristol took almost a week, and the road journey, which due to expense and road quality was only really suitable for passengers, took the best part of four days.”

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“The 'break-of-gauge' at Gloucester was a major problem. It caused pandemonium as whole trainloads of passengers, and their luggage, changed from one to another, together with the transshipment of goods.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_and_Bristol_Railway
If Cities Were Data
Courses and Modules Database

Staff Directory

Registrations Database

OER

Student Satisfaction

Courses and Modules Database
Gloucester is a Mashup
Linked Data is the Web
http://www.flickr.com/photos/apenguincalledelvis/

http://dbpedia.org/resource/Birmingham_New_Street_railway_station
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Take Home Messages
Take Home Messages (1)

• Building physical networks adds value to the places which are connected
  – Why was the Birmingham and Bristol Railway built?
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  – Adds value to the connected data sets

• Using the Web infrastructure means no 'break of gauge' at Gloucester
  – Cheaper, faster journeys between data sets
Take Home Messages (2)

• How?
  – No need for a Big Bang
    • Exploit existing infrastructure
    • Build a backbone

• Costs?
  – As for any infrastructure investment
    • Bootstrapping cost vs cost savings and value of things that wouldn't otherwise get done
Questions?

• Slides

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