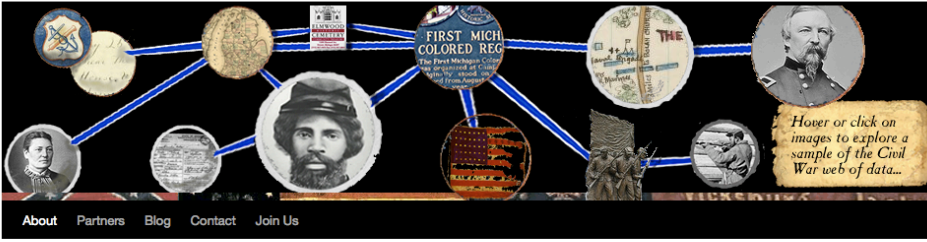


Introducing Use Case Civil War Data 150 [1] [2]
 (W3C Library Linked Data F2F meeting, Oct.23-24, 2010)

Civil War Data 150

Linking Civil War Data Across State and Federal Archives and Libraries



About

Civil War Data 150 ("CWD150"), is a collaborative project to share and connect Civil War related data across local, state and federal institutions during the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, beginning in April of 2011. The project will utilize Linked Open Data to find and create connections between archives and help increase the discovery of these resources by researchers and the general public alike.

"The term Linked Data refers to a set of best practices for publishing and connecting structured data on the Web."
 -LinkedData.org

Recent Posts

- Jews in the Civil War: Exploring Primary Sources
- Possibilities for Creating Weblinks to Individual Soldiers
- Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Richmond Joins CWD150 Partners

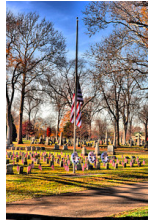
Recent Comments

[1] Use case: http://www.w3.org/2005/Incubator/ld/wiki/Use_Case_Civil_War_Data_150
 [2] About page source: <http://www.civilwardata150.net/>

Background and Current Practice

- Aggregating diverse data sources:
 - Library
 - Museum
 - Archives
 - Individual researchers
 - Existing books, papers, photographs,
 - a renewed effort on the United States federal and state levels to digitize and release even more photographs, journals and ephemera related to the Civil War.

During the initial phases of this project, CWD150 will work with institutions to publish Civil War related collections metadata as structured data with CC-BY or similar licensing, moving in later phases toward the publishing of metadata in linked data formats.



Scenario:
 Visualization of the troop movements and engagements of 102nd Regiment, United States Colored Infantry,

Corresponding timeline showing troop casualties

Goal

- Researchers and the general public alike will be able to discover information about the American Civil War from across multiple institutions, and incorporate that information into their work in new and exciting ways.
- CWD150 will use linked data technology to create connections **based on the strong identifiers and taxonomy** of the Civil War, particularly the regiments, battles, battlefields, officers, and soldiers and sailors.

Related vocabs/sources

plan to work with the United States National Park Service

- to create an **ontology** from their Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database, (dates, places, people, events, etc.)
- with a crosswalk of corresponding **identifiers** in Freebase, DBpedia, and potentially Library of Congress Subject Headings
 - (though subject headings of granular detail are not at this point available through the id.loc.gov project).

Civil War Data 150

- Will use linked data technology to create connections based on the strong identifiers and taxonomy of the Civil War, particularly the regiments, battles, battlefields, officers, and soldiers and sailors.
- Performing vocabulary alignment to an ontology
- Enabling query information about a particular place, regiment, battle, or officer

Problems and Limitations

- involving no small technology
 - ontology development
 - persistent URIs for all of the key entities
 - possible to utilize dbpedia/Freebase identifiers as a proxy until such time as being able to point to the National Park Service as a source.
- copyright and licensing
 - selecting sources
 - differentiating between the licensing and use of metadata about digital assets, and the assets themselves.