

# Connecting Collections: Using Linked Data in Libraries, Museums and Archives

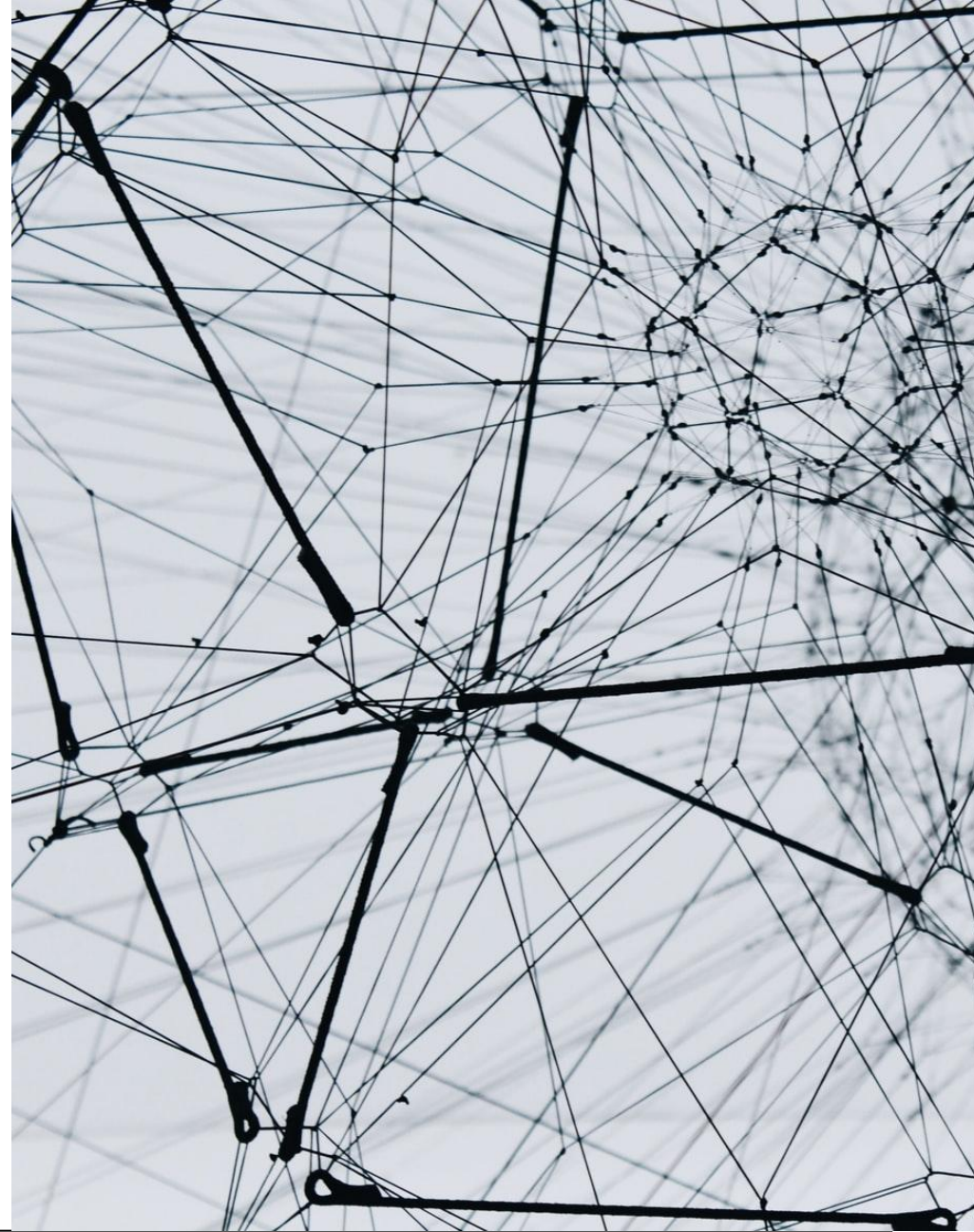
Unlock the Libraries : VÖB event, 24 May 2022



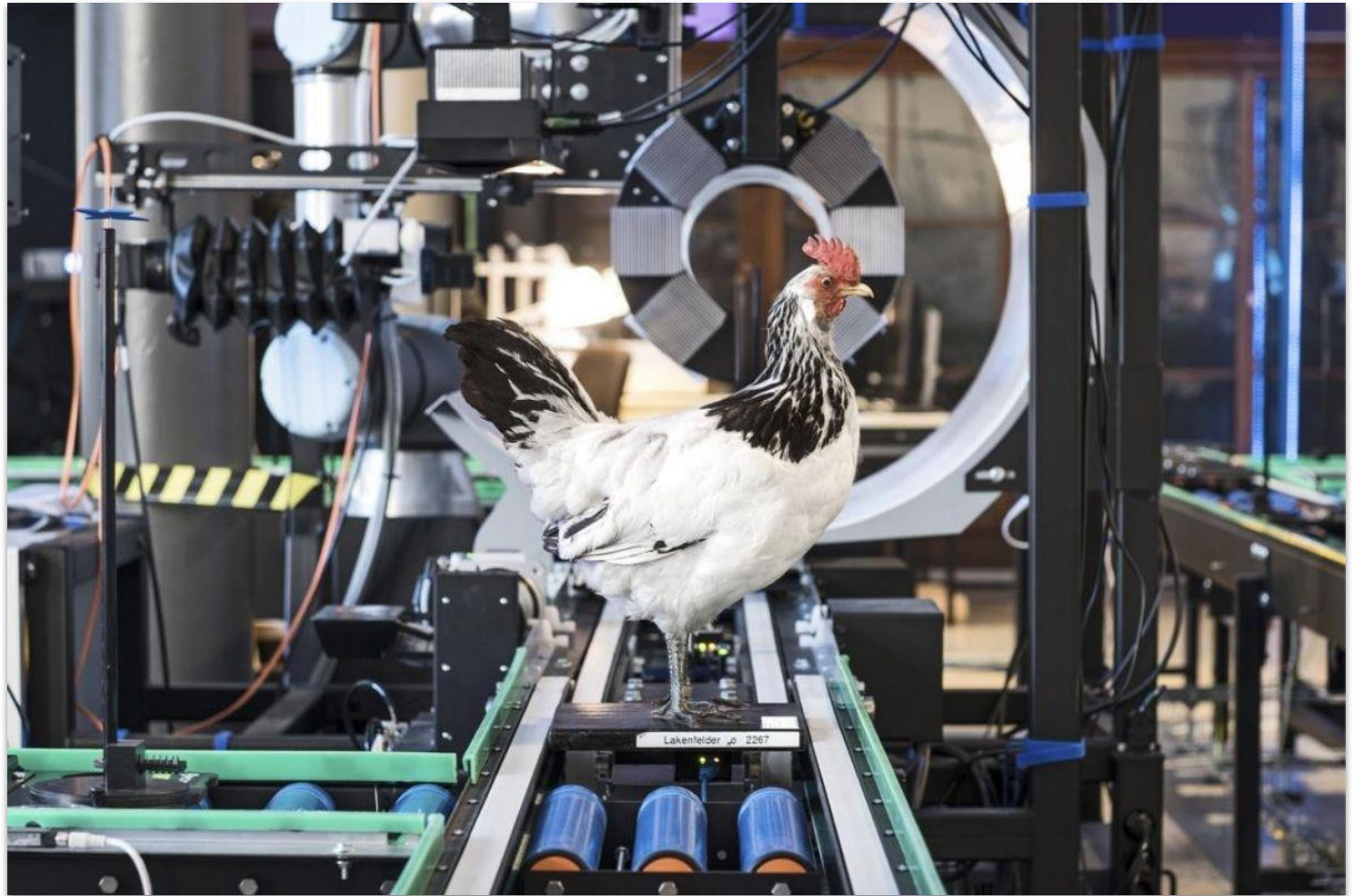


## Overview

- Part 1: What is Linked Data - and how big is “Big”
- Part 2: What does Linked Data for GLAM look like?
- Part 3: Collections Data vs Collections as Data
- Data Part 4: Linked Data in the wild: the good, the bad & the ugly
- Part 5: Looking forward



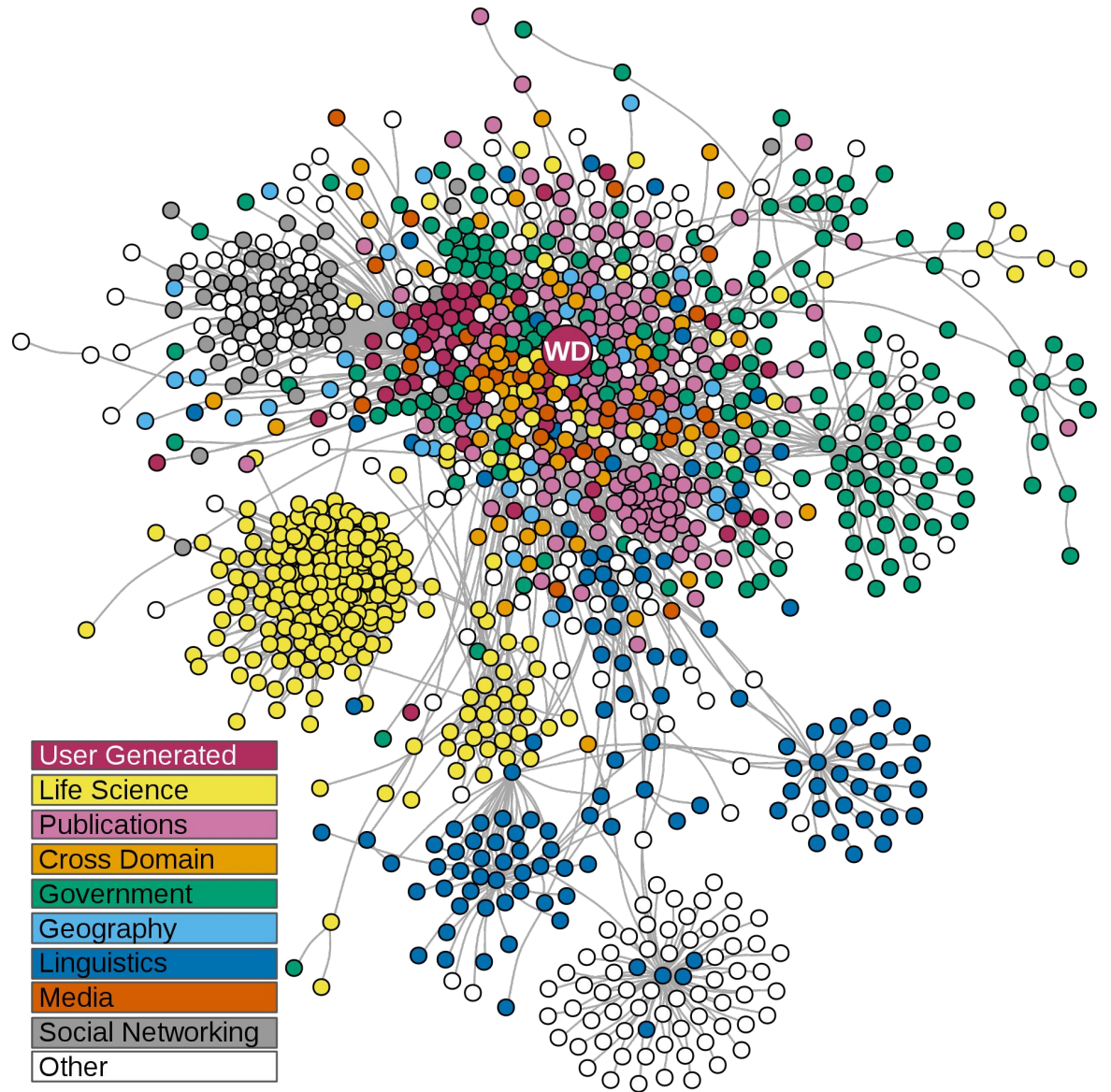
Heritage digitisation  
has been going on for a  
while, with a variety of  
objectives.



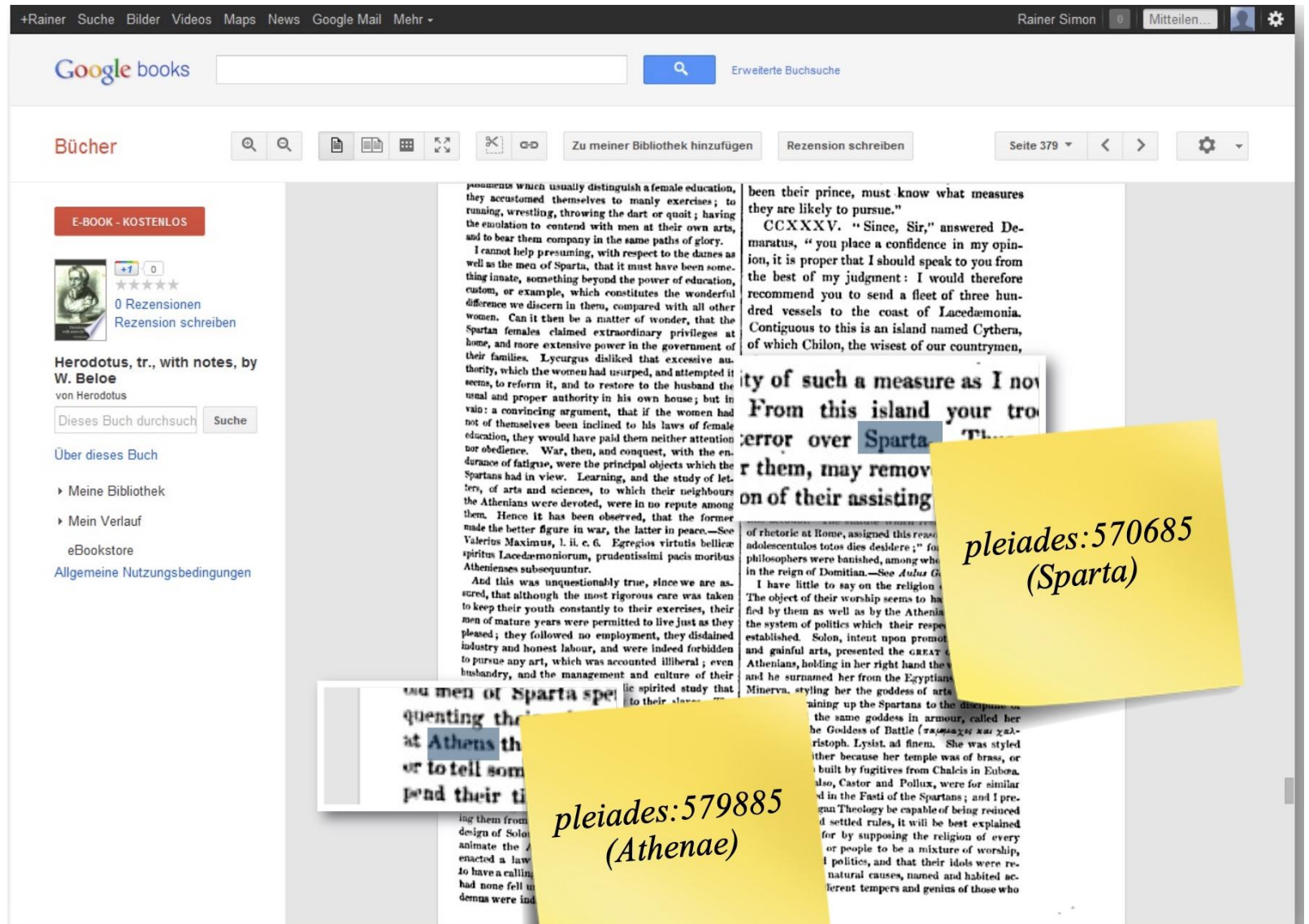
Chicken on a scanner: Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin.



Linked Data is a set of  
principles for  
connecting human and  
machine readable  
structured data



# Semantic Recognition (not quite yet a reality)...

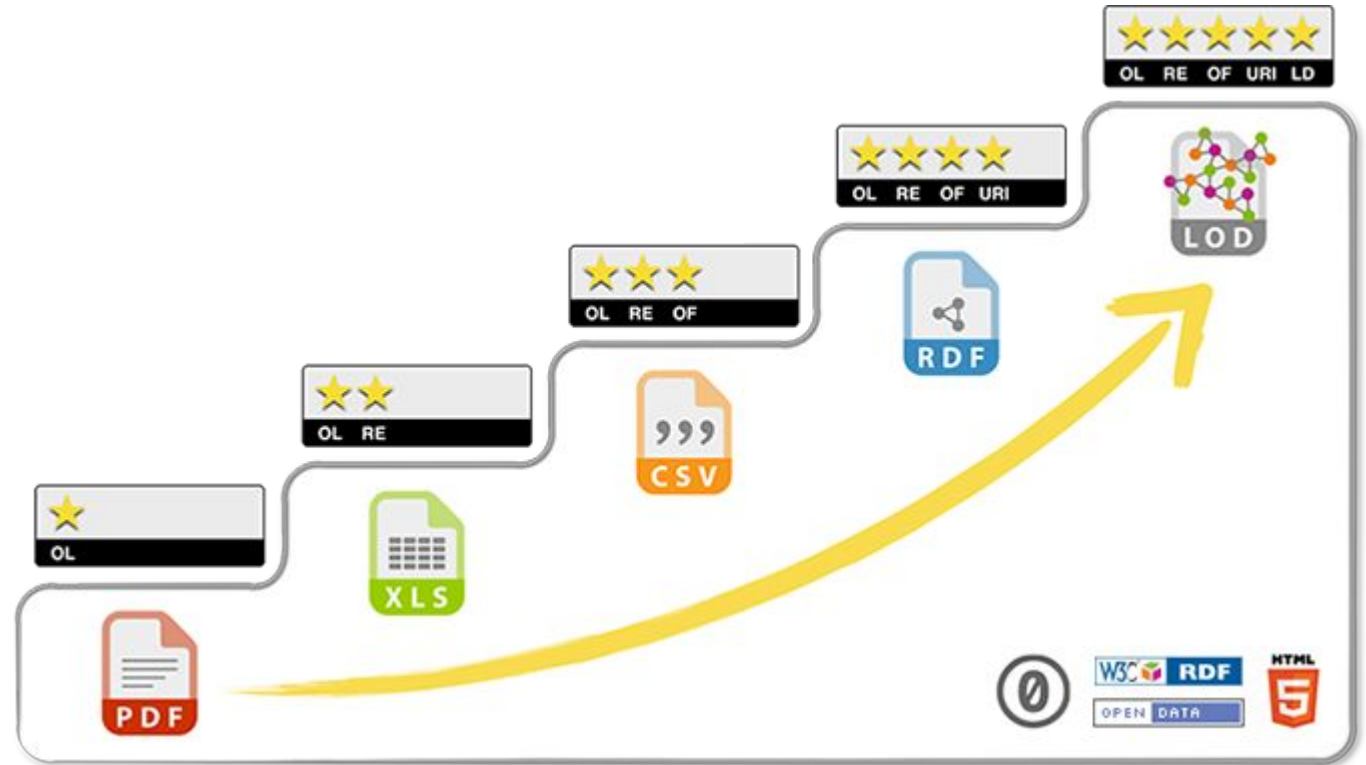


The screenshot shows a Google Books page for the book "Herodotus, tr., with notes, by W. Beloe". The page is titled "Bücher" and includes a search bar, navigation icons, and a "Zu meiner Bibliothek hinzufügen" button. The book is marked as "E-BOOK - KOSTENLOS" and has 0 reviews. The main text area displays a snippet of the book's content, which is annotated with semantic recognition tags. Two yellow sticky notes are placed over the text, highlighting specific phrases and their corresponding Pleiades IDs: "pleiades:570685 (Sparta)" and "pleiades:579885 (Athenae)".

Annotations on the page include:

- pleiades:570685 (Sparta)** (highlighted in yellow)
- pleiades:579885 (Athenae)** (highlighted in yellow)

## From 5 star LOD to...



From 5 star LOD to  
LOUD Data:

**L**inked  
**O**pen  
**U**sable  
**D**ata

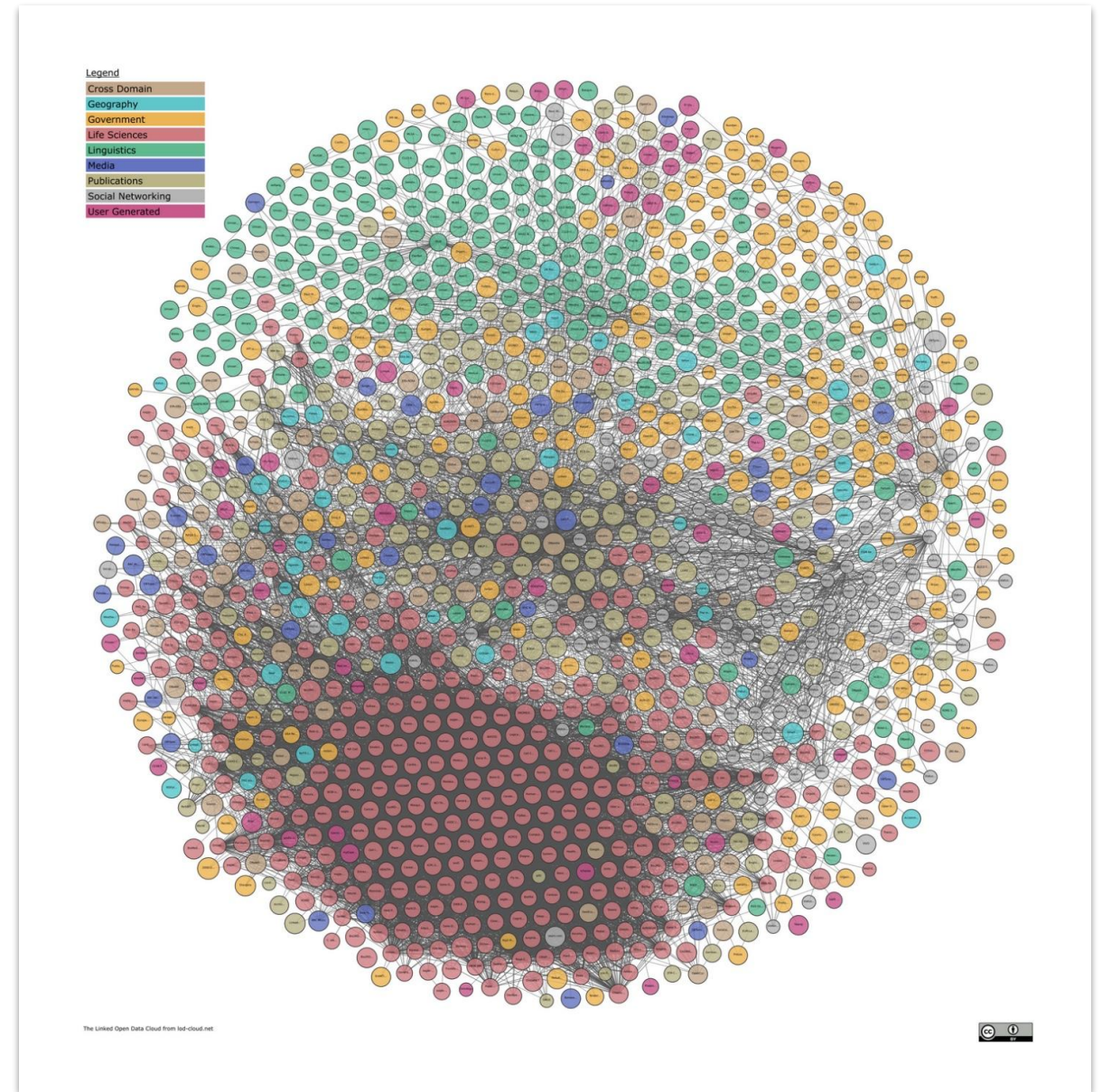


**A**bstracted appropriately  
**B**arriers to entry low  
**C**omprehensible  
**D**ocumented with working  
examples  
**E**xceptions few, patterns are  
many



## “Big” is relative...

- Compared to other sectors, the heritage contribution is relatively small:
  - British museum: 4 million objects
  - Europeana: 50 million
  - Wikidata 98 million
- Data arrives in many different formats.
- Interoperable systems are hard to build.

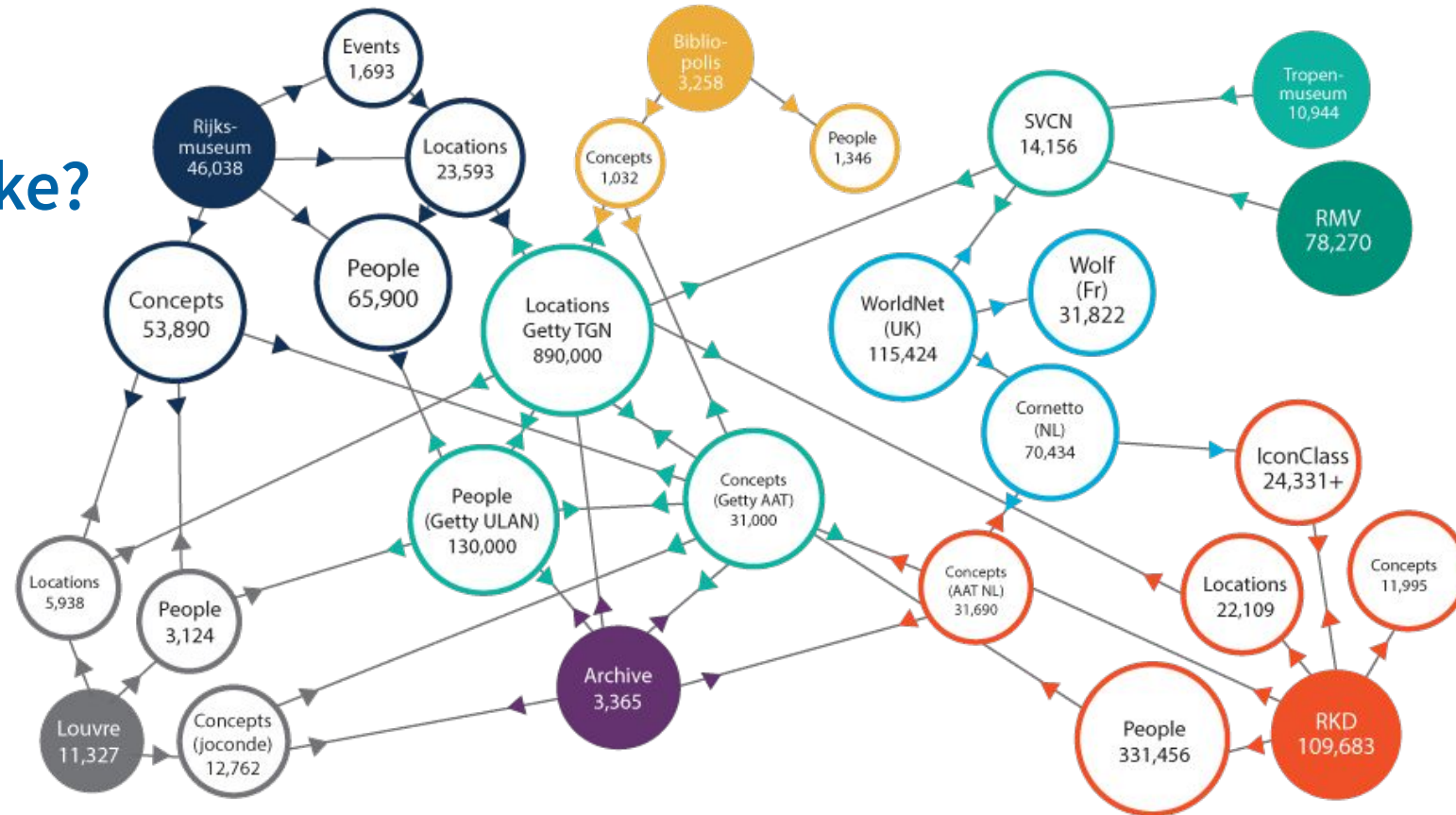


<https://lod-cloud.net/>



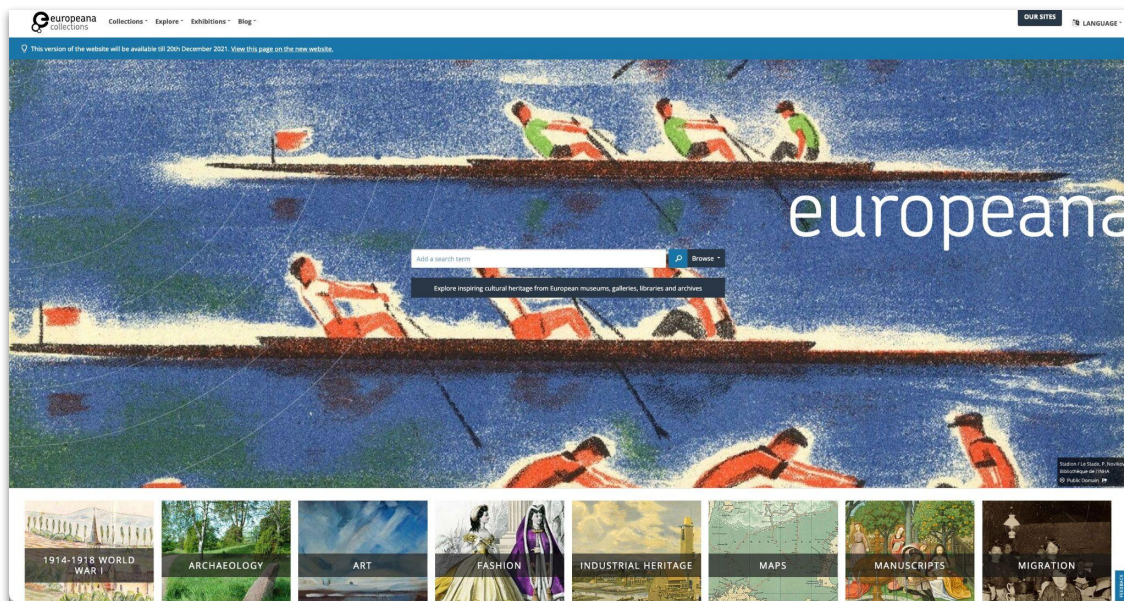
## Part 2: What Does LD for GLAM look like?

- Heritage institutions were early adopters
- Saw the value in linking collections
- Data is heterogenous
- Too many standards!



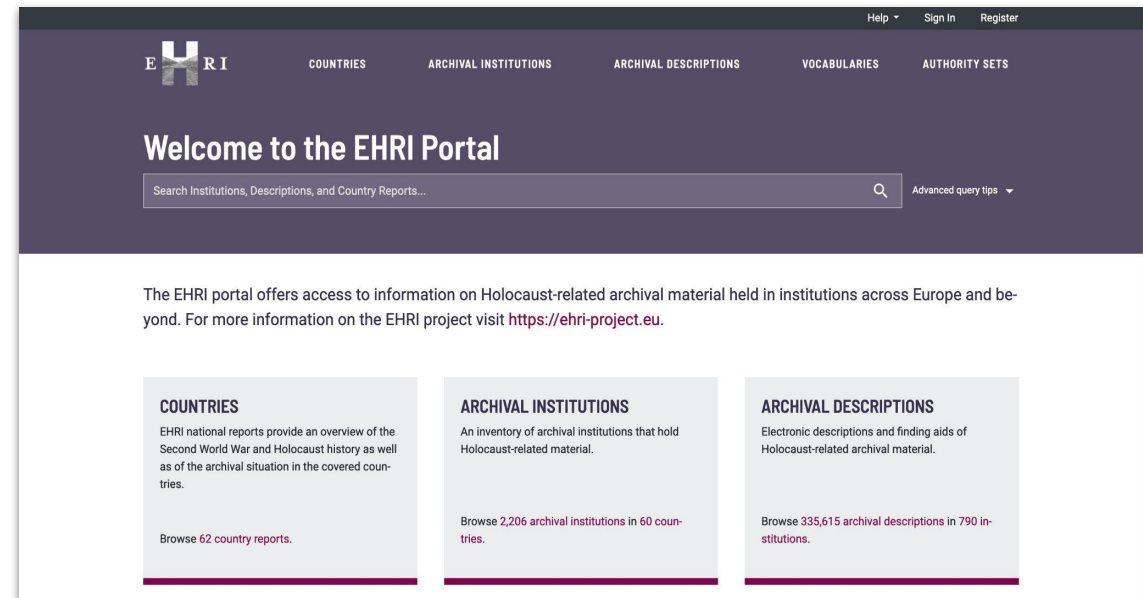
# Large Scale Infrastructures

## Europeana



<https://www.europeana.eu>

## European Holocaust Research Infrastructure



<https://www.ehri-project.eu/>



# Wikidata



Vereinigung Österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare  
Unlock the Libraries: 24 May 2022



# Reassembling the Republic of Letters

REASSEMBLING  
THE REPUBLIC  
OF LETTERS

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ISCH COST ACTION IS1310

## REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

A digital framework for multi-lateral collaboration on  
Europe's intellectual history (1500-1800)

# Challenges: Technical...

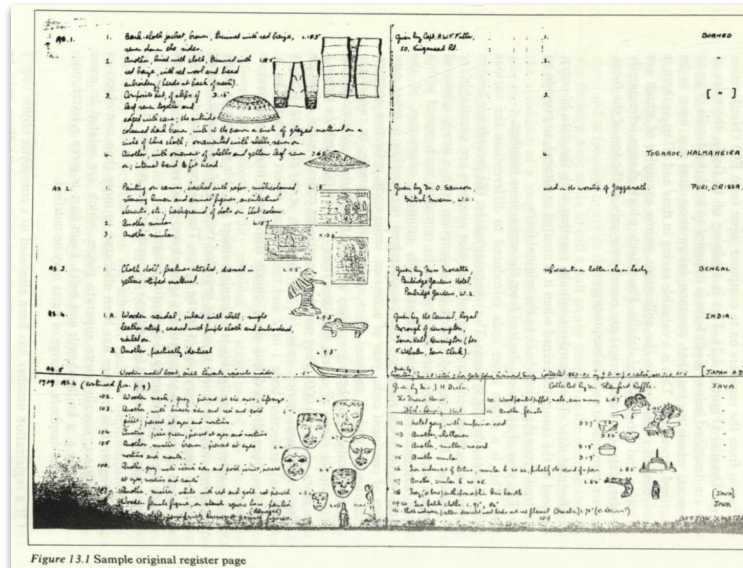


Figure 13.1 Sample original register page

Object No.	Part No.	Name or Description	Material	Region	Country	Collection No.	Donor or Vendor	Method
6	a-b	ornament (earrings of a pair)	tortoise-shell	Malaita	Solomon Islands	1	Emery, F (Sir)	P
7		spear	wood					
8			bone					
9		wood, mother-of-pearl		San Cristobal (?)				
10		wood						
1		club	wood, sinnet		Tonga	2	New Baramul Gardens	T Y
2		lime holder, holder (1, mer)	gourd	Admiralty Islands	S New Guinea			
3-7		armband	shell, seeds, fibre (vegetable)	G = Humboldt Bay				
1		fishing kite, kite (fishing)	palm leaf		Fiji (?)	3	Joseph, S.M (Dr), Joseph, J (Mrs)	D
2	a	Cylindrical	bone	Northern Territory	Australia			
b		spear	bone, wood					
3		staff	wood	Gruning, P. Victoria Land				
4		ornament (for male's neck)	string, gum	P. Victoria (South), G. Bridge Bay				
5		tail-stick	wood					
6		bag	pandanus fibre					

Figure 13.2 An E03 input form, with information from the Oceania register for 1962

Figure 13.3 The equivalent form on a terminal screen, showing the first entry from the form in Figure 13.2

McCutcheon, D. (1986) The British Museum. In Light, R. B., Roberts, D., Stewart, J. D. (Eds.), *Museum documentation systems: Developments and applications*



## Challenges: Often Political

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### **TEL services to be discontinued from 31 December 2016**

The European Library (TEL) was launched by the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) in 2004 as the union catalogue of European national libraries and has since become a web portal and open data hub for national library data in Europe. Its success led to the Commission asking CENL to set up what became Europeana. The European Library has disseminated library data in a variety of ways to promote its wider use. TEL has been the


CENL News, December 13, 2016.

<https://www.cenl.org/tel-services-to-be-discontinued-from-31-december-2016/>

## Part 3: Collections data vs...

- Heritage institutions shape knowledge,
- Heritage professionals know how selection happens,
- What is included has been valourised

### Digital cultural colonialism: measuring bias in aggregated digitized content held in Google Arts and Culture

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doi:10.1093/lhc/fqaa055

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# Collections as Data: Santa Barbara Statement on Collections as Data

- Aims to encourage computational use of digitized and born digital collections.
- Guided by ongoing ethical commitments.
- Aim to lower barriers to use.
- Designed for everyone, serve no one.
- Shared documentation helps others find a path to doing the work.
- Default open, except in cases where ethical or legal obligations preclude it.
- Data development values interoperability.
- Data stewards work transparently in order to develop trustworthy, long-lived collections.
- Data, as well as the data that describe those data are considered in scope.
- The development of collections as data is an ongoing process and does not necessarily conclude with a final version.
- **<https://collectionsasdata.github.io/statement/>**



# Lessons for AI research

- Pre-curated sources of data are attractive...
- But also complex
  - Jo & Gebru, *Lessons from Archives* (2020):  
**<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1912.10389.pdf>**
- “Haphazardly categorizing people in the data used to train ML models can harm vulnerable groups and propagate societal biases”

## Lessons from Archives: Strategies for Collecting Sociocultural Data in Machine Learning

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### ABSTRACT

A growing body of work shows that many problems in fairness, accountability, transparency, and ethics in machine learning systems are rooted in decisions surrounding the data collection and annotation process. In spite of its fundamental nature however, data collection remains an overlooked part of the machine learning (ML) pipeline. In this paper, we argue that a new specialization should be formed within ML that is focused on methodologies for data collection and annotation: efforts that require institutional frameworks and procedures. Specifically for sociocultural data, parallels can be drawn from archives and libraries. Archives are the longest standing communal effort to gather human information and archive scholars have already developed the language and procedures to address and discuss many challenges pertaining to data collection such as consent, power, inclusivity, transparency, and ethics & privacy. We discuss these five key approaches in document collection practices in archives that can inform data collection in sociocultural ML. By showing data collection practices from another field, we encourage ML research to be more cognizant and systematic in data collection and draw from interdisciplinary expertise.

### CCS CONCEPTS

• Computing methodologies → Machine learning.

### KEYWORDS

datasets, machine learning, ML fairness, data collection, sociocultural data, archives

**ACM Reference Format:**  
Eun Seo Jo and Timnit Gebru. 2020. Lessons from Archives: Strategies for Collecting Sociocultural Data in Machine Learning. In *Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAT\* '20)*, January 27–30, 2020, Barcelona, Spain. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 11 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3351095.3372829>

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Data composition often determines the outcomes of machine learning (ML) systems and research. Haphazardly categorizing people in the data used to train ML models can harm vulnerable groups and propagate societal biases. Automated tools such as face recognition software can expose target groups, especially in cases of power

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FAT\* '20, January 27–30, 2020, Barcelona, Spain  
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ACM ISBN 978-1-4503-6936-7/20/01.  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3351095.3372829>

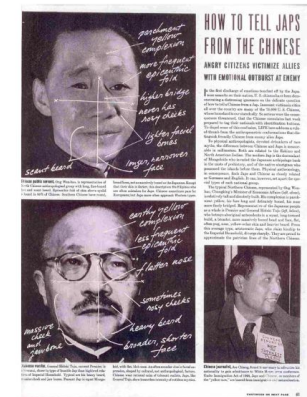


Figure 1: Article from LIFE magazine (Dec. 1941) with two images advising identifiable phenotype differences between Japanese and Chinese ('allies') groups with the intention to spite Japanese Americans following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

imbalance where select institutions have exclusive access to data and powerful models. Historically, biological phenotype traits have been used to single out target groups in moments of public hostility (Fig. 1), and similar use cases have been reported today with face recognition technology [20, 44, 48].<sup>1</sup> These use cases show the dangers of creating large datasets annotated with people's phenotypic traits.

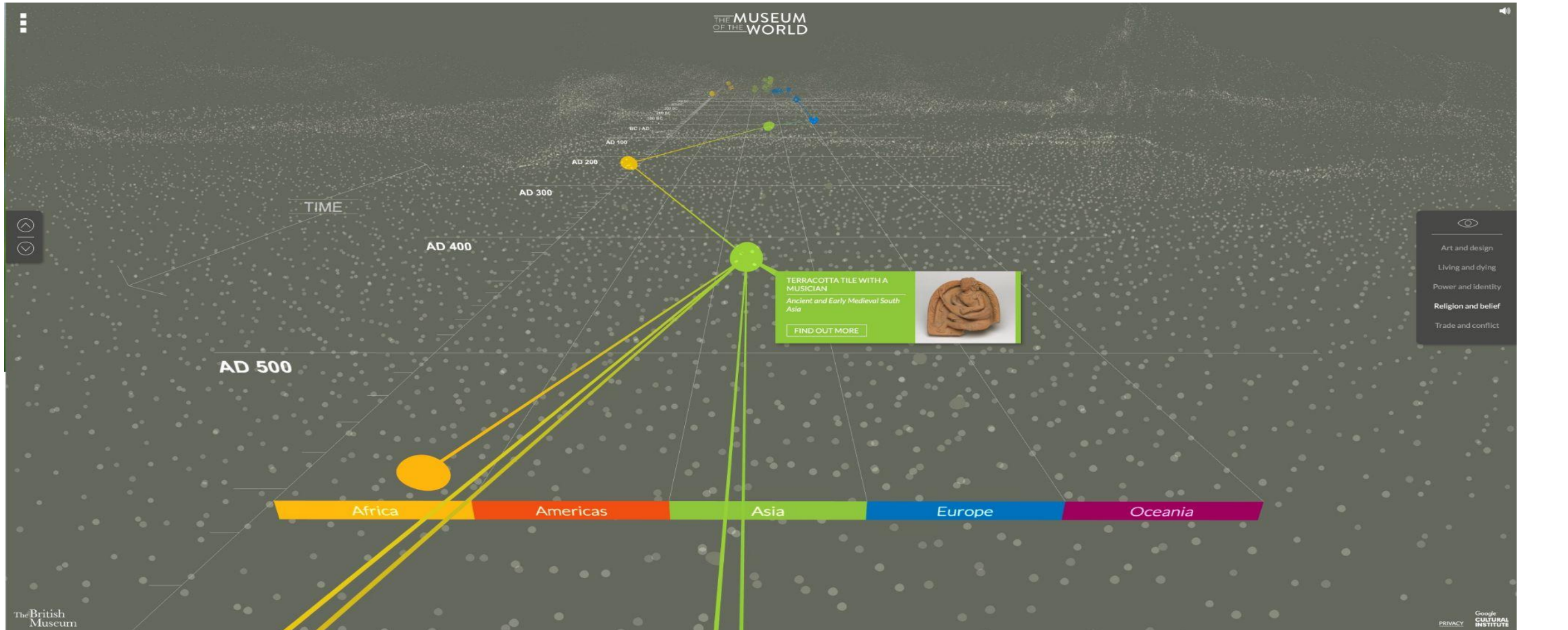
On the other hand, in applications such as automated melanoma detection from skin images, it is important to have diverse training data and perform disaggregated testing by various demographic

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arXiv:1912.10389v1 [cs.LG] 22 Dec 2019



## Part 4: GLAM data projects: The good, the bad and the ugly



# Linked Data projects: the good

## Looted Art Detector

### About

**Objective:** Identify high priority artworks for provenance research

**Description:** Online Free Digital Tool

**Approach:** Automatic text analysis using frequency counts

**Note:** The frequency counts target textual indicators of UNCERTAINTY, UNRELIABILITY, or ANONYMITY, as well as the possible presence of RED FLAG names related to NAZI-looted art, forced sales and duress sales. The resulting calculations do not signify that an artwork is looted. They simply quantify observations concerning the text for further analysis.

### How it works

**The user uploads a CSV file that contains provenance texts**

**Note:** The uploaded CSV can contain other information as well - urls, titles, artists, etc. The only requirement is that the CSV also contain one column with the provenance texts.

The program will ask the user to enter the name of the column that contains the provenance text.

**The Provenance Text Analyser calculates the number of times key words appear in each provenance text and downloads a CSV named "results.csv"**

**Note:** The results.csv file contains all the original information uploaded by the user PLUS additional columns with word counts.

**The user uses his/her own tools to analyse the results.csv.**


### Recommendations: How to analyse "results.csv"

The Text Analysis provides quantitative indicators for the user to integrate in analysis. Which artworks are most likely to have problematic provenances?

1) Look for HIGH UNCERTAINTY

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Search

Lost Art-Database

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[Search](#)
[Advanced Search](#)
[Search Requests](#)
[Found-Object Reports](#)
[Reporting objects](#)

Start > Lost Art-Database

### Introduction

The Lost Art Database contains data on cultural objects which as a result of Nazi persecution or the direct consequences of the Second World War were removed and relocated, stored or seized from their owners, particularly Jews, or on cultural objects where, because of gaps in their provenance, such a story of loss cannot be ruled out as a possibility. In matter of found-objects a distinction in lost cultural assets as a result of the Second World War or National Socialist persecution isn't possible, because of the difficulty to separate in both categories. The owner normally didn't know anything about the provenance of the objects they have often inherited resp. they hardly can class them with historical processes.

The database is divided into two areas:

- 1. Search Requests**

It is possible here to register cultural objects lost by public institutions or private individuals and institutions as a result of National Socialist rule and the Second World War, requesting a world-wide search via the Lost Art Internet Database. Owners or custodians of cultural objects with an uncertain or incomplete provenance can search here whether these objects have been sought elsewhere.
- 2. Found-Object Reports**

It is possible here to register cultural objects where it is known that they were taken illegally from their owners or relocated to another place as a result of the war. The section also contains reports on cultural items with an uncertain or incomplete provenance, suggesting the possibility of illegal dispossession or a

### Basics

During the years of Nazi domination between 1933 and 1945 a relocation of cultural items took place whose full scope has still not been completely explored and investigated.

[More](#)

### General principles

[General principles for the registration and deletion of reports in the Lost Art Database](#)

### Reporting objects

The German Lost Art Foundation accepts search reports and found reports from private individuals and institutions for cultural assets that were removed, relocated or confiscated, particularly from Jewish owners, as a result of the National Socialist regime or the Second World War, or for which a history of loss cannot be ruled out due to gaps in provenance.

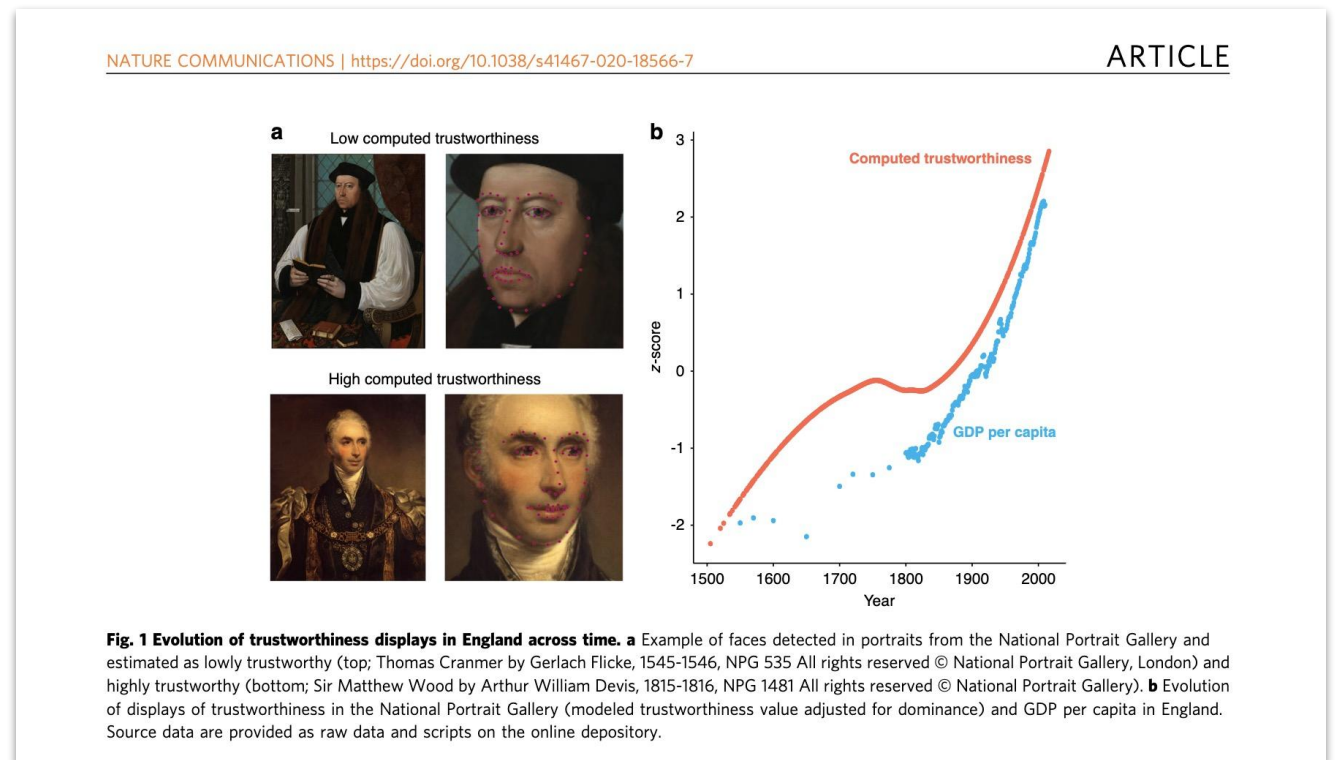
[More](#)

<https://artdata.pythonanywhere.com/about/>

# Linked Data Projects: the bad

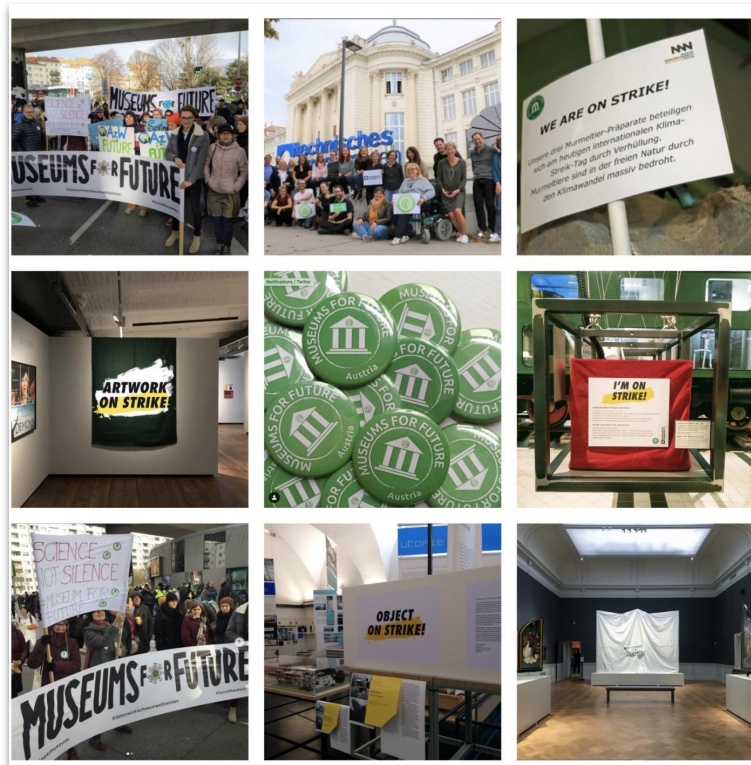


**Screenshot of cover page and figures from the trustworthiness study “Tracking historical changes in trustworthiness using machine learning analyses of facial cues in paintings” conducted by Baumard, et al on European portraits (courtesy and via Nature.com open access) Full paper at: <https://rdcu.be/b8PAF>**





## Linked Data projects: the ugly little secrets



📌 Pinned Tweet



Is the British Museum's endpoint working?

@bm\_lod\_status

🤖 Automated

The endpoint is down and it seems unlikely that it's ever coming back. A once leading platform for open heritage data from one of the world's major museum collections, gone. Over two million "persistent" URIs – relied upon as authoritative by many other projects – dead.



7:01 PM · Feb 11, 2022 · Twittrific for iOS

98 Retweets 34 Quote Tweets 217 Likes

## Why this matters:

“Museums are seen as a beacon of trust... The level of criticality museums have when considering collections is the same level they need to have when it comes to developing digital applications.”

Dr Oonah Murphy, Goldsmiths University, Museums + AI Network.

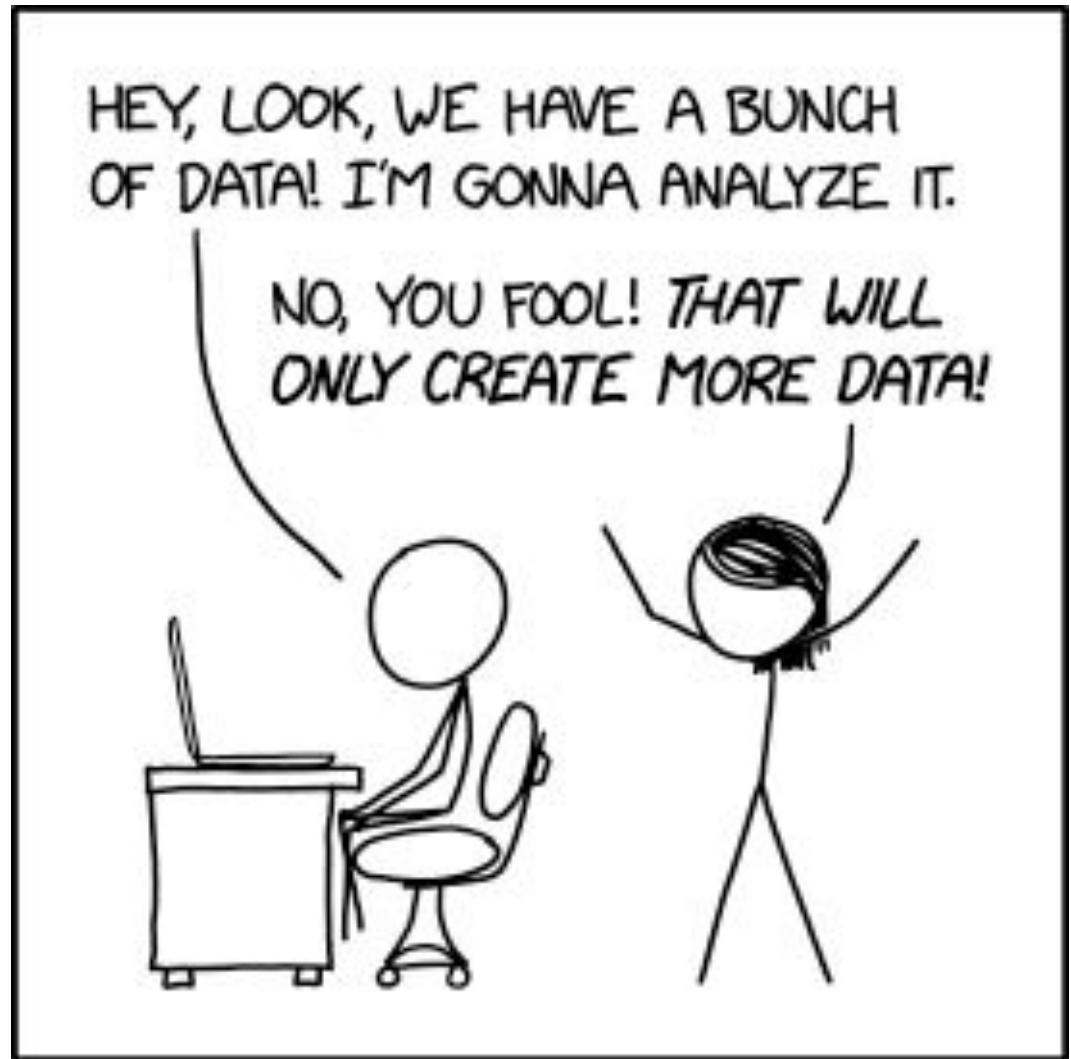


[www.themuseumsai.network/toolkit/](http://www.themuseumsai.network/toolkit/)

Thank you!

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@rebamex



Data Trap: xkcd, CC BY-SA <https://xkcd.com/2582/>