

BI-INTERNATIONAL GRANT REPORT

**SWIB CONFERENCE (SEMANTIC WEB IN LIBRARIES) 4TH TO 6TH DECEMBER
2017**

AT KATHOLISCHE AKADEMIE, HAMBURG.



BY:

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1.0 Introduction

I am happy to confirm that I received BI-International grant support to attend to SWIB (Semantic Web in Libraries) annual conference on 4th to 6th December 2017 in Hamburg, Germany. BI-International, is the standing committee at the German National Association of Library and Information Associations Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID). It provides financial support for congress attendances in Germany with German government funding.

The conference was organized by ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics and the North Rhine-Westphalian Library Service Centre (hbz). The conference slides, videos of the speakers and some impressions can be accessed online at: <http://swib.org/swib17/>.

1.2 Pre- Conference

I participated in *Introduction to Linked Open Data* pre-conference workshop on 4th December 2017, facilitated by Uldis Bojārs, National Library of Latvia and Christina Harlow, Stanford University Huda Khan, Cornell University. The workshop introduced me to the fundamentals of linked data technologies, and the basic issues of open data. Open Data principles was introduced, discussed and applied to the content that we created during the workshop.

From the pre-conference I learned that Linked Open Data is sharable, extensible, and easily reusable. It supports multilingual functionality for data and user services, such as the labeling of concepts identified by a language-agnostic URIs. It also creates an opportunity for libraries to improve the value proposition of describing their assets. The facilitators helped us understand linked data terminology, best practices and also to practically become familiar with linked data in Fedora.

1.3 Conference

SWIB17 conference (Semantic Web in Libraries) was an annual conference focusing on Linked Open Data (LOD) in libraries and related organizations. It was an event where IT staff, developers, librarians, and researchers from all over the world met, mingled and learned from

each other. The topics of talks and workshops at SWIB revolved around opening data, linking data and creating tools and software for Linked Open Data production scenarios.

At the conference I was impressed by presentation on **Perspectives on using Schema.org for publishing and harvesting Metadata at Europeana** by Valentine Charles, Richard Wallis, Antoine Isaac, Nuno Freire and Hugo Manguinhas.

The presenters explained that, providing access to Europe's digital cultural heritage is Europeana's core mission. To do so, Europeana has progressively adopted the principles of Linked Data for representing, aggregating and enriching the metadata it collects and is now looking at the emerging web technologies to refine its services.

The use of Schema.org in increasing the visibility of cultural heritage data on the web and their consumption by search engines was quite impressive. The Europeana Collections can be accessed at: <https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en>

The most interesting presentation discussed, was "**Will you be my bf: forever? Analysing Techniques for Conversion to BIBFRAME at the University of Alberta**" by Ian Bigelow, Sharon Farnel and Danoosh Davoodi.

At the University of Alberta, they are actively trying to ramp up for Linked Data through local experimentation, research and partnerships with other institutions. The presenters explained that, though BIBFRAME is still in development, several transformation tools have already been created, and with many libraries thinking about planning for moving to Linked Data it would seem timely to compare approaches to moving legacy MARC data to BIBFRAME.

The presentation created a discussion among the participants, it's 15 years since the statement "MARC Must Die" Will BIBFRAME replace the MARC standards?. I gained better knowledge about BIBFRAME and linked open data and I did a power point presentation to my classmates on Semantic web in libraries after the conference, and I believe together we will make semantic web in libraries a reality in Kenya. But still the big question remains, "*how long will it take for MARC to die?*".

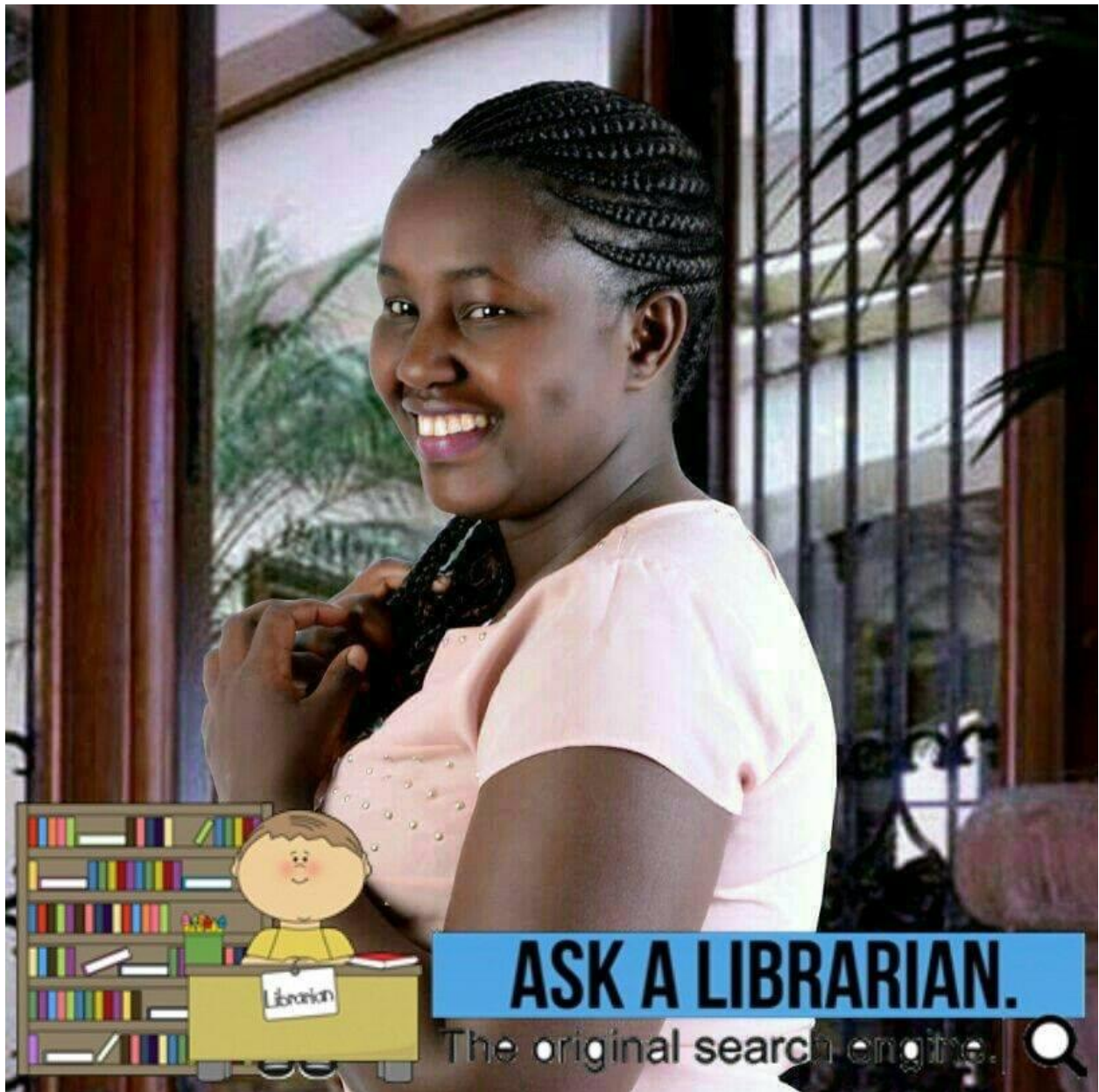
1.3 Conference Dinner

We had conference dinner at the restaurant "Rheinische Republik" a walking distance from the conference location and the Christmas markets. Hamburg presented brightly decorated Christmas markets and this made the conference unforgettable event.



1.4 Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Bibliothek & Information International (BI-International) for offering me financial support to attend SWIB 2017 Conference in Hamburg. My sincere thanks to Kerstin Bröring for grant award communication and always finding time to respond to my emails. I would also like to thank SWIB organizing Team and especially Adrian Pohl for assistance to get Germany travel visa and travel advice.



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