

Lesson Plan

Title:

Viable Vocabularies: An Introduction to Controlling, Cleaning, and Linking Your Data

Description:

Controlled vocabularies are lists of standardized words and phrases used to refer to ideas, physical characteristics, people, places, events, subject matter, and many other concepts. Using controlled vocabularies in projects and research allow for consistency and comparability, but getting started can seem like a bewildering process. In the first part of this workshop, we will cover finding, understanding, and using controlled vocabularies. Then, we will explore connecting terms to linked data vocabularies using OpenRefine.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to define controlled vocabulary and identify its purpose in the research process
- Participants will be able to find appropriate vocabularies for their research needs.
- Participants will be able to select appropriate terms from a controlled vocabulary.
- Participants will be able to perform the basic tasks of cleaning and linking data using OpenRefine.

Outline (Timing & Activities)

- Introductions & Learning Objectives (5 minutes)
- Introduction to Controlled Vocabularies (15 minutes)
 - Controlled Vocabulary Activity
- Finding the Best Vocabularies to Meet your Needs (15 minutes)
 - Vocabulary Finding Activity
- Introduction to Linked Data (15 minutes)
- Using OpenRefine to Clean and Link Data (60 minutes)
 - OpenRefine Activity
- Questions/Discussion (10 minutes)

Activities:

- Card sorting to set up a hierarchy
 - Outcome: Understand the structure of controlled vocabularies

- Find a vocab in their discipline, and find some terms that would be useful for their research.
 - Outcome: Finding and using a controlled vocabulary
- Basic cleaning/normalizing in OpenRefine
 - Outcome: Very basic understanding of “how” OpenRefine works
- Installing and using the RDF Refine extension
 - Outcome: Linking data to existing data set.

Deliverables:

- Hierarchy note-card deck(s)
- Sample dataset for OpenRefine activity
- Handout
 - Workshop - links to PowerPoint, data files, software, etc
 - List of controlled vocabs, organized by discipline
 - OpenRefine basics
 - “Contact us for more information” page