

Things & Strings

and other stuff, too

Karen Coyle

June 2011

Data



Text

It is a Law of Nature with us that side than his father, so that each gener in the scale of development and no is a Pentagon; the son of a Pentagon,

But this rule applies not always often to the Soldiers, and to the We said to deserve the name of human F sides equal. With them therefore th and the son of an Isosceles (*i.e.* a Tri Isosceles still. Nevertheless, all hop Isosceles, that his posterity may ul condition. For, after a long series and skilful labours, it is generally fou the Artisan and Soldier classes manife or base, and a shrinkage of the two ot by the Priests) between the sons and members of the lower classes genera mating still more to the type of the

Data

- Machine-readable
- Machine-actionable
- Computable

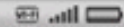
Text

- Human readable
- Natural language
- Ambiguous

But what about machine-readable text?

amazonkindle

The Art of Choosing



Past Is Prologue

Everything begins with a story.
—Joseph Campbell

I was born in Toronto, one month early and during a blizzard that covered the city in snow and silence. The surprise and the low-visibility conditions that accompanied my arrival were portents, though they went unrecognized at the time. My mother, as a recent immigrant from India, was of two worlds, and she would pass that multiple identity on to me. My father was making his way to Canada, but had not yet arrived; his absence at my birth was a sign of the deeper absence yet to come. Looking back, I see all the ways in which my life was set the moment I was born into it. Whether in the stars or in stone, whether by the hand of God or some unnameable force, it was already written, and every action of mine would serve to

3%

Locations 32-39

298



Abraham Lincoln papers, 1774-1948

Search this Finding Aid

all words

Search

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History of the Collection

[From *Index to the Abraham Lincoln Papers* (Washington, D.C.: 1960), pp. v-vi]

The story of the Lincoln Papers has often been told, but details vary—sometimes astonishingly. The most complete account appears in David C. Mearns, *The Lincoln Papers* (Garden City, N.Y., 1948), I, 3-136. An article by the same author which appeared in the December 1947 issue of the *Abraham Lincoln Quarterly* contains the substance of the story and is reproduced in part in the following pages. [\[1\]](#)

To what was said 13 years ago a few facts may be added. A comprehensive edition of Lincoln's *Collected Works* was issued after much labor by a devoted editor and staff. [\[2\]](#) Many other scholars have studied the documents, and all may now benefit by their findings.

A manuscript acquired by the Library of Congress in 1958 added this new fact: Justice David Davis wrote to Edward McPherson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, on June 22, 1866, stating that the papers found on President Lincoln's person were sealed by Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. [\[3\]](#) Later the papers were opened in Justice Davis' presence. Of this he wrote:

My distinct recollection is that all the papers of public importance were retained by Mr. Stanton & either deposited in the War or State Depts. I think copies were furnished me & handed to Mr. Nicolay who packed them together with Mr. Lincoln's private papers in secure boxes. These boxes were sent by the Secy of War under guard to Bloomington Illinois, my residence & are now in the vault of the National Bank of Bloomington. *They are sealed* & when they will be opened & examined has not yet been determined.

The location of the original documents that were withheld and of the copies is not now known. The original letter by Justice Davis has been restored to the McPherson Papers in the Library's Manuscript Division.

In 1959 the microfilm and the index of the Lincoln Papers which had been prepared in 1947 were re-examined. Certain omissions were found in the microfilm—primarily pages with docketts or notations or endorsements or other contemporary writing. The dates assigned to a number of documents needed correction in the light of later research. In addition, some Lincoln documents which had been unaccountably retained by John G. Nicolay were restored to the President's

N.Y.S.P.I.

W **Mack, Raymond W**
2 The occasion instant; the structure of social responses to
N213d unanticipated air raid warnings, by Raymond W. Mack
no.15 and, George W. Baker. Foreword by Robin M. Williams,
1961 Jr. Washington, National Academy of Sciences-National
 Research Council, 1961.
 xv, 69 p. 25 cm. (National Research Council, Disaster Research
 Group. Disaster study, no. 15)
 National Research Council. Publication 945.

LC control no.: 61064605

LCCN permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/61064605>

Type of material: Book (Print, Microform, Electronic, etc.)

Personal name: [Mack, Raymond W.](#)

Main title: The occasion instant : the structure of social responses to unanticipated air raid warnings / by Raymond W. Mack, George W. Baker ; Foreword by Robin M. Williams, Jr.

Published/Created: Washington, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, 1961.

Description: xv, 69 p. ; 25 cm.

Links: [Table of contents](#)

CALL NUMBER: [UA927 .M23](#)

050 00 |a UA927 |b .M23 1961

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mark-up

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<h1>Introduction</h1>  
<p align="center">by Karen Coyle</p>  
<p>I want to introduce to you some ideas.</p>  
<blockquote>"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars  
but in ourselves..." </blockquote>
```

html

<anything></anything>

<title>My Essay</title>

<author>by Karen Coyle</author>

<chapter1>Introduction</chapter1>

<para>I want to introduce to you some ideas.</para>

**<quote>“The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars
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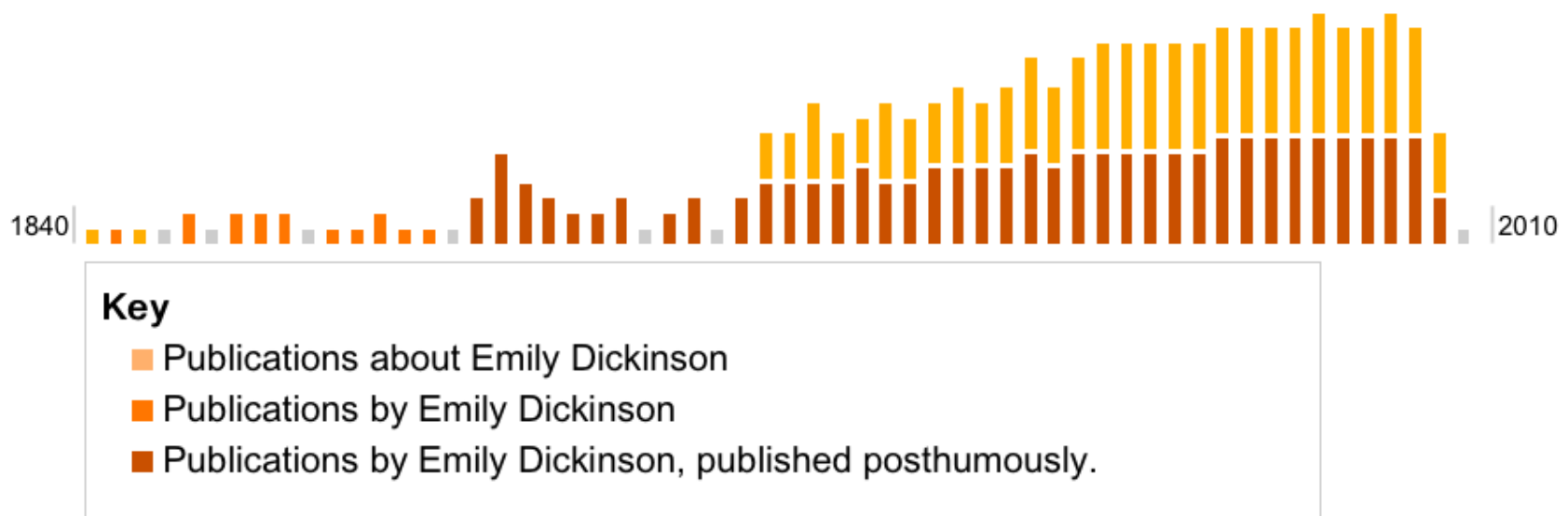


Why data?

What is my motivation?

Why data?

Publication Timeline



Use cases

- ... to link to Amazon and retrieve cover design
- ... to retrieve only those scores that have one or more violin parts
- ... to sort books by size for moving them into storage more efficiently

Text isn't data

Text

- 020 \$a 0439064864
(hardcover)
- Concertos (Violin)
Concertos (Violins (2))
- 300 \$c 23 cm.

Data

- ISBN:0439064864
- instrument: violin
number: 1
- instrument: violin
number: 2
- height: 23
unit: centimeters

The Physical Object

What sort of book is it? Paperback; Hardcover, etc.

How many pages?

Pagination? Note the highest number in each pagination pattern.

For example: *xii, 346p.*

How much does the book weigh?

 grams kilos ounces pounds

Dimensions



Height:

Width:

Depth:

centimeters inches

Data IS the information

008 711222s1961 dcu b 000 o eng

260 __ |a Washington, |b National Academy of Sciences-National
Research Council, |c 1961.



things and strings

Kinds of data

Strings

- integer
- currency
- date/time
- percentages
- text

Things

- identifier

Any “thing” can be a thing

- people
- places
- subjects
- events
- works
- expressions
- manifestations
- items
- colors
- media types
- genres
- instruments
- yadda, yadda, yadda

Identifiers v. names

dog =



Words are ambiguous

dog =



Identifiers must be precise



IDa87nn3



66.ah.773m

Internationalization (i18n)

dog (lang=en)



hund (lang=de)

perro (lang=sp)

lDa87nn3

chien (lang=fr)

Vocabulary: RDA Content Type
Concepts: sounds

- Detail
- Properties
- History

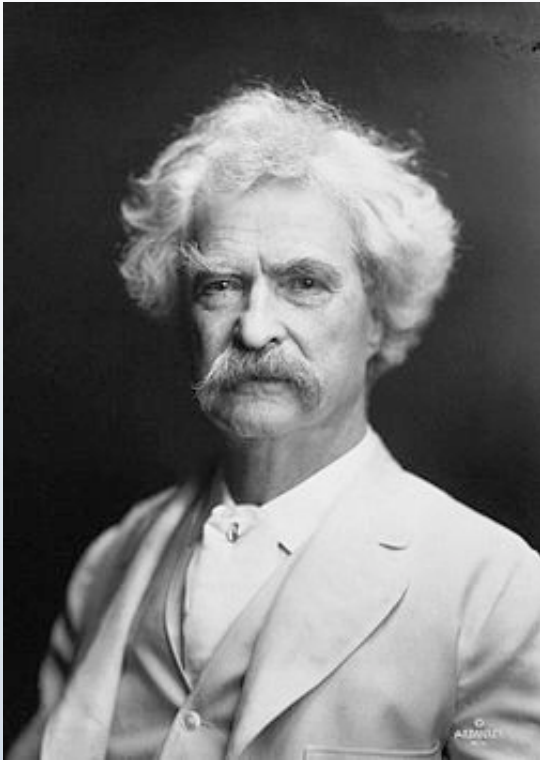
Detail

Preferred Label:	sounds
Language:	English
URI:	http://RDVocab.info/termList/RDAContentType/1012
Top Concept?:	
Status:	New-Proposed

Properties

}	scope note	Includes natural sounds, artificially produced sounds, etc.	English	New-Proposed
	scope note	Anderer Inhalt als Sprache oder Musik, ausgedrückt in einer hörbaren Form.	German	New-Proposed
	preferred label	sounds	English	New-Proposed
	preferred label	Schallereignis	German	New-Proposed
	definition	Content other than language or music, expressed in an audible form.	English	New-Proposed
	definition	Dazu gehören natürliche Schallereignisse, künstlich erzeugte Schallereignisse usw.	German	New-Proposed

People are things



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Twain

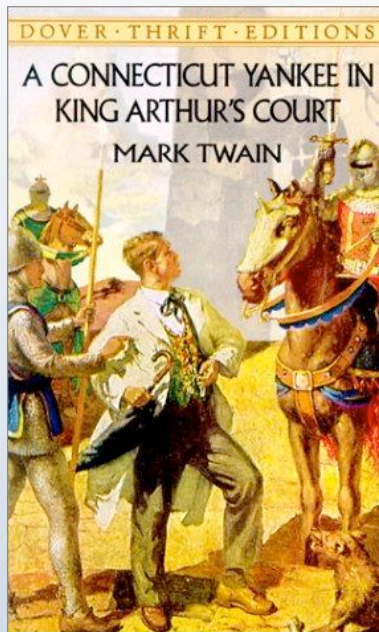


http://openlibrary.org/authors/OL18319A/Mark_Twain



<http://www.amazon.com/Mark-Twain/e/B000APWHJ2/>

Books are things

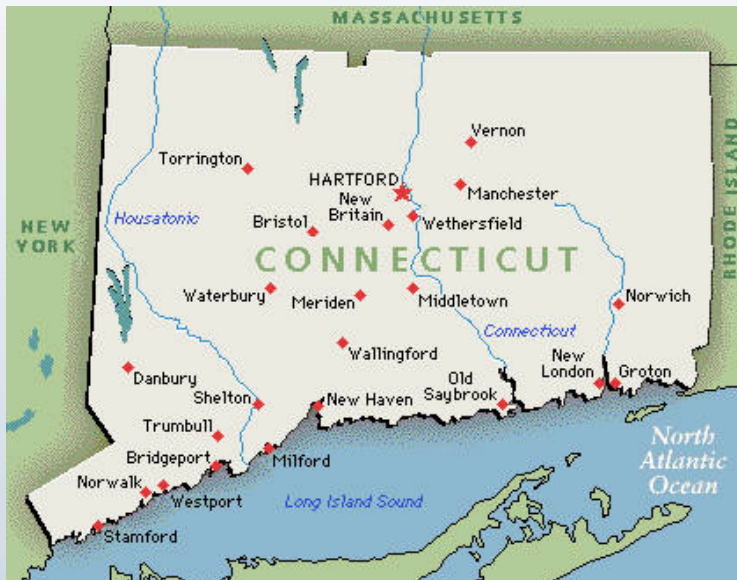


<http://openlibrary.org/works/OL54106W/>

<http://lcn.loc.gov/91132212>

<http://d-nb.info/993737730>

Places are things



http://www.geonames.org/maps/google_41.667_-72.666.html

<http://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/countries/ctu>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Connecticut>

You can say something about a thing



has name "William Shakespeare"

was born in Statford-upon-Avon

was married to Anne Hathaway

wrote *As You Like It*

You can say something about a thing



has name "William Shakespeare"

was born in Statford-upon-Avon

↳ in shire Warwickshire

was married to Anne Hathaway

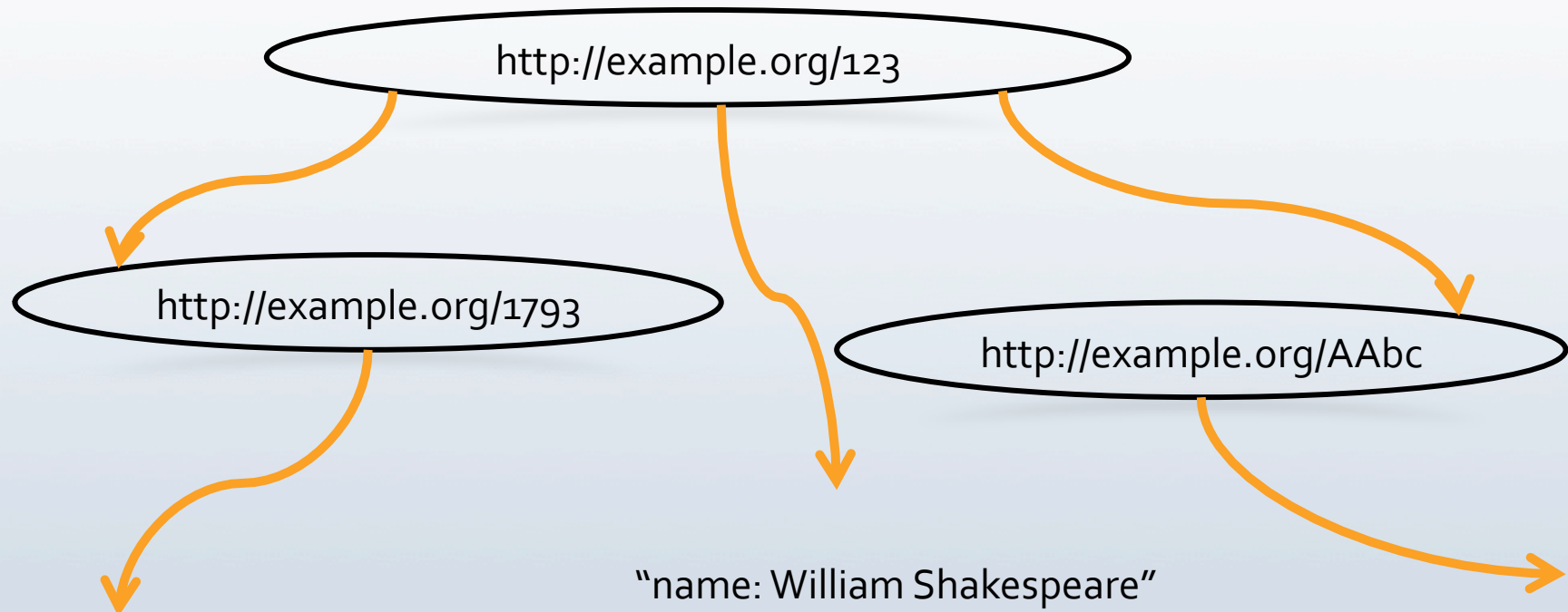
↳ born in 1555

wrote *As You Like It*

↳ has genre comedy

Strings are endpoints

Things can connect to other things



What are the things in our metadata?

- people, corporate bodies, families
- places (as subjects, as locations, and other)
- events (conferences, legislative actions)
- topics (classes, terms)
- resources (books, sound recordings; works, expressions)
- ...

What do we want to do with them?

- Link to other metadata
- Link to services (maps, locating services)
- Add services for users

Have a use case for every *thing*

A moment of opportunity

Let's grab it



<http://kcoyle.net/presentations/>

kcoyle@kcoyle.net