Manchester Metropolitan University

Linked data sources and tools – Resource Pack

This resource list will provide you with some potential external data sources that could be used in conjunction with the Hallé Repertoire MySQL database along with tools that might be useful.

DBpedia

DBpedia is a crowd-sourced community effort to extract structured content from the information in Wikipedia. This structured information resembles an open knowledge graph (OKG) which is available for everyone on the Web. A knowledge graph is a special kind of database which stores knowledge in a machine-readable form and provides a means for information to be collected, organised, shared, searched and utilised. Google uses a similar approach to create those knowledge cards during search. We hope that this work will make it easier for the huge amount of information in Wikipedia to be used in some new interesting ways.

DBpedia data is served as Linked Data, which is revolutionizing the way applications interact with the Web. One can navigate this Web of facts with standard Web browsers, automated crawlers or pose complex queries with SQL-like query languages (e.g. SPARQL).

Potential data links to Hallé's Repertoire MySQL database could include:

- Geographic positions of concert venues (e.g. https://dbpedia.org/page/Free_Trade_Hall,

https://dbpedia.org/page/St_George%27s_Hall,_Bradford) or locations (https://dbpedia.org/page/Belle_Vue,_Manchester)

- Biographical details about conductors, soloists and composers: https://dbpedia.org/page/Ralph_Vaughan_Williams / https://dbpedia.org/page/Josef_Strauss - birth dates, death dates, nationality, etc
- Information about compositions:
  For example the Premier Date of the composition
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Marriage_of_Figaro - 1st May 1786
- World events connected to Hallé's history. For example:
  1858, the year of the first concert: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1858

DBpedia offers an API to access and retrieve up to date linked data extracted from Wikipedia articles:

https://www.dbpedia.org/resources/live/dbpedia-live-sync/

MusicBrainz

MusicBrainz is a community-maintained open source encyclopedia of music information.

As an encyclopedia and as a community, MusicBrainz exists only to collect as much information about music as we can. We do not discriminate or prefer one "type" of music over another, and we try to collect information about as many different types of music as possible. Whether it is published or unpublished, popular or fringe, western or non-western, human or non-human — we want it all in MusicBrainz.

The MusicBrainz API is an interface to the MusicBrainz Database. It is aimed at developers of media players, CD rippers, taggers, and other applications requiring music metadata:
https://musicbrainz.org/doc/MusicBrainz_API

Open Street Map
OpenStreetMap provides map data for thousands of websites, mobile apps, and hardware devices
https://www.openstreetmap.org/

MIDAS Open
UK weather station records (1853-2017) now freely available to all

Historic weather data could be linked to concert dates allowing historic concerts to be browsed by local weather conditions:

https://www.ceda.ac.uk/news/updates/2019/2019-02-15-uk-weather-station-records-now-freely-available-to-all-midas-open/

Project Gutenberg
Project Gutenberg is an online library of free eBooks. Project Gutenberg was the first provider of free electronic books, or eBooks. Michael Hart, founder of Project Gutenberg, invented eBooks in 1971 and his memory continues to inspire the creation of eBooks and related content today.

The resource includes eBooks of sheet music that could be linked to the Hallé Repetoire Database

https://www.gutenberg.org

School of Data – Create timelines with Open Source tools

Concert dates, composition premiers, composers birth and death dates, performances of compositions could be charted on a timeline.

This tutorial introduces the basics of Knight Lab‘s Timeline.JS and StoryMap.JS, OKFN Labs‘s TimeMapper, and ProPublica‘s TimelineSetter. There are dozens of timeline creation tools on the web, but these four stand out for their simplicity and elegance. Two of these tools create traditional timelines (Timeline.JS, TimelineSetter), whereas the other two are used to link stories to maps (StoryMap.JS, TimeMapper).

https://schoolofdata.org/handbook/courses/timeline-tools/