Six Questions (Q6)
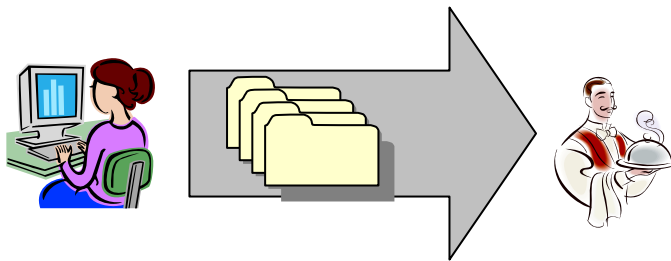# and the
OpenURL Object Model (OOM)

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Six Questions (Q6)

- Any (web) service request can be represented by answers to the following five questions:
    1. **What** is the subject of the request?
    2. **Why** is the subject being requested?
    3. **Who** invoked the request?
    4. **Where** was the request invoked?
    5. **When**...?
        - This facet isn't clearly modeled in Q6 or in OpenURL
- Given answers to "what", "why", "who", and "where"):
    6. **How** is the information transmitted?
        1. REST or SOAP
        2. XML or Key/Value pairs

Q6/OpenURL 1.0 Label Map

Q6		OpenURL 1.0
1. What	=	Referent
2. Why	=	ServiceType
3. Who	=	Requester
4. Where	=	ReferringEntity
5. When	=	N/A
6. How	=	Transport

Q6:"Folders" (OpenURL:"Entities")

What

What is the subject of the request?

Why

Why is the subject being requested?

Who

Who invoked the request?

Where

Where was the request invoked?

Q6:"Clues" (OpenURL:"Descriptors")
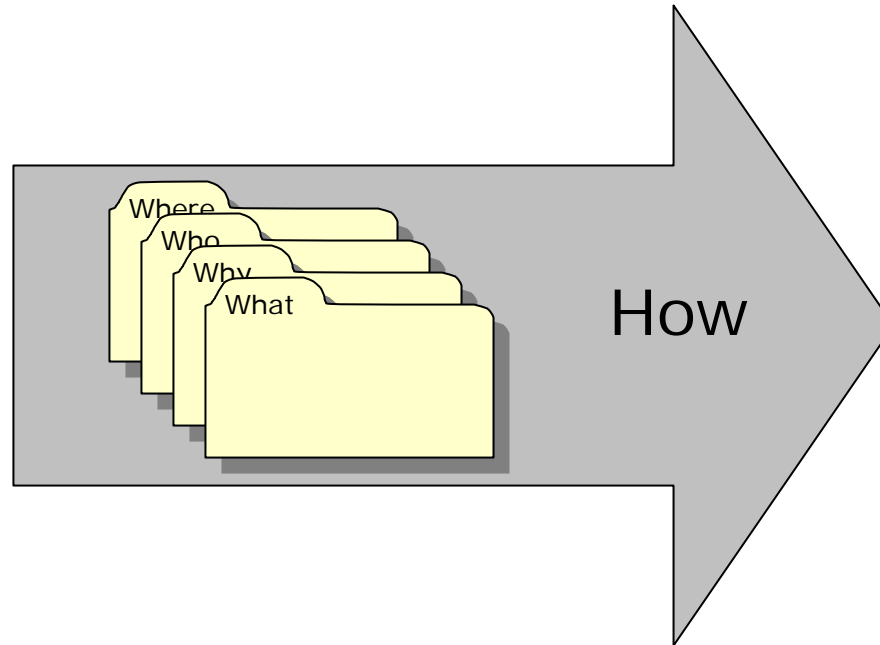
What

Zadie Smith's "On Beauty"

Why

Edit review

Who

mailto:jyoung @oclc.org

Where

http://www.w orldcatlibrarie s.org/…

Requesting a Service

Where
Who
Why
What

How

Applying Q6: The "Skin" Interpretation

- Service: Edit a book review in Open WorldCat
- Q6 Breakdown:
  - How:
    - http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/oclc/6139695
      6;jsessionid=3D0486D8D687A2C9AE.four?page=wiki
      &wikitype=review
  - (BaseURL):   http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/
  - What: oclc/61396956
  - Who: ;jsessionid=3D0486D8D687A2C9AE.four
  - Why: ?page=wiki&wikitype=review
  - Where: (Taken from the HTTP 'Referer' header)

Why is this important?
Theory 1: Interoperability

- Standard URL patterns would make life easier for developers, <u>IF</u> those patterns are simple and intuitive
  - This might facilitate mash-ups
- Unfortunately, OpenURL has a reputation for using complex and confusing URL patterns, but those patterns are <u>optional</u>
  - New patterns can be defined by a community and added to the OpenURL Registry

Why is this important?
Theory 2: Simple Application Framework

- The OpenURL Object Model (OOM) defines language objects that mirror the abstractions in the OpenURL specification

- Various URL patterns are treated as skins with normalized "What", "Why", "Who", and "Where" folders used internally

  - Skin 1 may expect an OCLC number "clue" to be expressed as "<oclcNo>61396956</oclcNo>" via SOAP

  - Skin 2 may expect an OCLC number to be expressed as "oclcnum=61396956" via an HTTP key/value pair

  - Each such skin would be associated with a class that would transform this clue into the URI "info:oclcnum/61396956" for internal consistency

- Once these clues are normalized for internal consistency, adding new services should be trivial

Questions?

- Q6 Blog
  - http://q6.oclc.org/
- OpenURL Object Model (OOM)
  - http://q6.oclc.org/2006/08/openurl_object.html