

Linked Open Statistical Data API: requirements and design criteria

xxx ddd and yyy sss

No Institute Given

Abstract.

1 Introduction

Recently, many governments, organisations and companies are opening up their data for others to reuse through *Open Data* portals [6]. These data can be exploited to create added value services, which can increase transparency, contribute to economic growth and provide social value to citizens [4].

A major part of open data concerns statistics (e.g. economical and social indicators) [2]. These data are often organised in a multidimensional way, where a measured fact is described based on a number of dimensions. In this case, statistical data are compared to data cubes. Thus, we onwards refer to statistical multidimensional data as *data cubes* or just *cubes*.

Linked data has been introduced as a promising paradigm for opening up data because it facilitates data integration on the Web [1]. Concerning statistical data, the RDF data cube (QB) vocabulary enables modelling data cubes as linked data [3]. In this way it facilitates their integration. Data provided using the QB vocabulary can be accessed using the existing machinery of Linked Data. However, skills and tooling for use of Linked Data (e.g. RDF, SPARQL) are less widespread than some other web technologies (e.g. REST, JSON). For example, there are many visualization libraries that consume data in JSON format (e.g. D3.js, charts.js), while there are just a few that consume RDF. That's one of the reasons that there are not so many application for linked open statistical data [REF???].

Moreover, many portals that use the QB vocabulary often adopt different publishing practices [5], thus hampering their interoperability. As a result it is not easy to create generic software tools that operate across linked open statistical datasets. Usually, case specific software are created which assume that linked statistical data are published in a specific way.

In this paper we describe the requirements and design criteria of an API that standardizes the interaction (i.e. input and output) with Linked Open Statistical Data in a way that facilitated the development of generic software. In this way we keep the advantages of linked data (e.g. data integration) but hide all the complexity by supporting developers to use linked statistical data stored in the form of an RDF Data Cube, while assuming minimal knowledge of Linked Data technologies. Moreover, the API offers a uniform way to access the underlying

data hiding any data discrepancies, thus enabling the development of generic software tools that operate across datasets.

Motivation:

- Linked Open Statistical Data (LOSD)
- Need to facilitate LSD re-use without the need to know QB vocabulary, RDF etc and easily build apps that consume JSON on top of LOSD
- Re-use s/w tools across LOSD datasets

Objective: To specify the requirements of an API that standardizes the interaction, including input and output, with LOSD.

2 Methodology

Related work:

- OLAP APIs interaction with multidimensional data (input): Oracle OLAP API [1], Olap4j [2], ++
- Standardization of outcome: Json-stat, Json-ld, ++

Discussion with developers: Workshop, +++

3 Solution overview

4 Requirements and design criteria

- need to know what datasets are available
- need to know about structure to subset the observations
- in order not to return everything, need to subset
- don't necessarily need a n-array/ tabular response - array of observations is sufficient. can always get back to the table
- Filtering
- Multilinguality
- Ordering & paging
- merging, aggregations
- json-ld representation is sufficient for query and response format
- ++

API functionality:

- GET dataset-metadata
- GET dimensions
- GET attributes
- GET measures
- GET dimension-values
- GET attribute-values
- GET dimension-levels

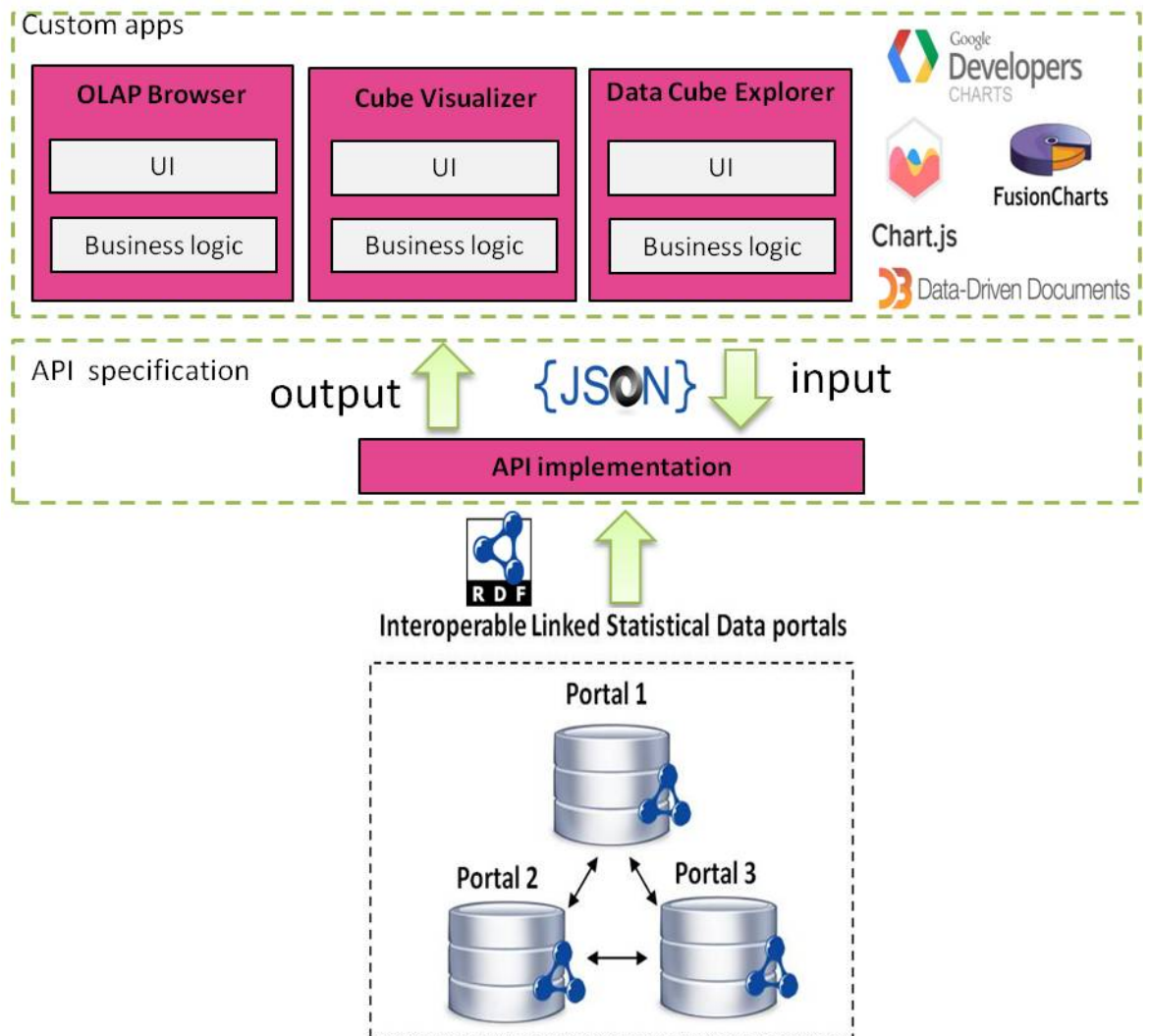


Fig. 1. Solution overview

- GET slice
- GET table
- GET cubes
- GET aggregationSetcubes
- GET create-aggregations
- GET cubeOfAggregationSet

[4]

possible example for slice/ observation-selection query:

```
{
  "jqql:dataset": "scot:home-care-clients",
  "jqql:filter": {
    "dimension:gender": "gender:male",
    "dimension:age": { "jqql:greater-than": 50 }
  },
  "jqql:order": {
    "dimension:refPeriod": { "jqql:order-predicate": "ui:sortPriority", "jqql:direction": "asc" }
  },
  "jqql:page": {
    "jqql:limit": 10,
    "jqql:offset": 0
  }
}
```

output:

```
{ "observations": [
  { "Average Cost": "1182",
    "Date": "1-1-2013",
    "Day": "Tuesday",
    "Number of crashes": "5",
    "Time": "No available time",
    "Total Cost": "5908",
    "@id": "http://id.mkm.ee/observation/1" },
  { "Average Cost": "400",
    "Date": "1-1-2013",
    "Day": "Tuesday",
    "Number of crashes": "1",
    "Time": "24:00",
    "Total Cost": "400",
    "@id": "http://id.mkm.ee/observation/2" }
]}
```

5 Implementation

6 Conclusion

References

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