



# Metadata and interoperability :

*thoughts resulting of 18 months work – recommendations published on BiblioPat website*

<http://www.bibliopat.fr/provenances/provenances-des-collections-aide-a-la-description-et-au-signalement>

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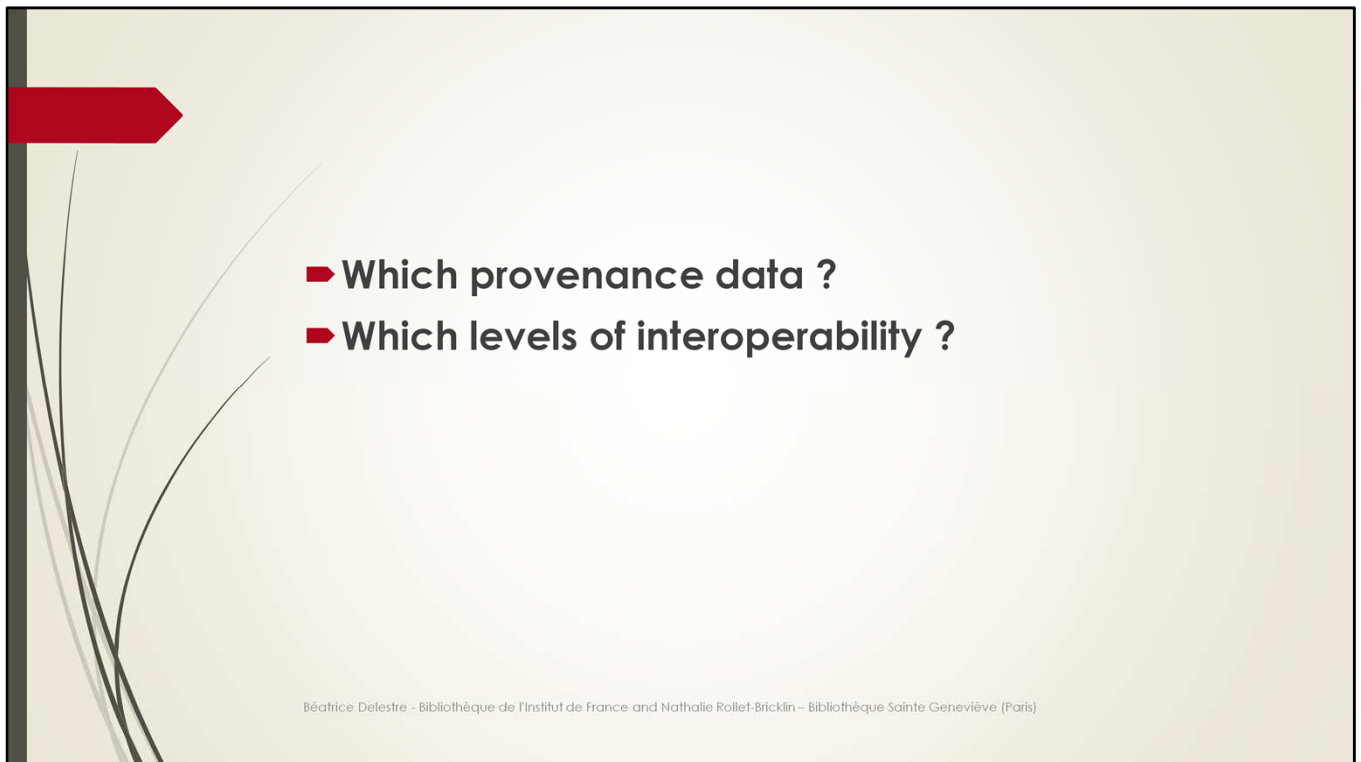
As you know (cf. Monique Hulvey's presentation - CERL Workshop in Antwerp last september), confronted to the development of individual provenances databases in France, the French library community organized itself into an informal working group in June 2013.

This group is composed of both university libraries and public librairies which are not run by the same administrations and do not belong to the same networks.

Interoperability is at the heart of this project, and we hope to continue to draw it in close collaboration with the CERL Provenance working group, thanks to Monique Hulvey's helpful contribution.

We had the chance to bring forth online our first recommendations (open access), thanks to the BiblioPat website : <http://www.bibliopat.fr/provenances/provenances-des-collections-aide-a-la-description-et-au-signalement>.

BiblioPat is a young association ; we can say it's the French heritage libraries association.



For this round-table, we have chosen to identify 2 main questions.



# 1. Which provenance data ?

We should pay attention to 4 levels of information in our provenance data.

What do we need in fact to identify one mark of ownership ?

- The **possessor's name**, with dates of his life, and place of activity
- The **description & transcription of the mark(s)** of provenance, using a common vocabulary
- One or several **illustration(s)** - this is very important when we can't describe the mark /or when the possessor's name is unknown
- The **description of the book** holding the mark (& where it's located)

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Our first question is : Which provenance data ? This was an important part of our meetings.

We thought that we have to pay attention to 4 levels of information (cf. the slide).

On BiblioPat website, recommendations are developed for those 4 parts.

These 4 facets seem to be obvious. But the results of our survey (2013) show it's not.

Comments :

- By possessor we mean person or institution
- We can add genre, profession, biographical notes, etc.
- We can also say as you know that a former owner has often several kinds of marks
- We have to remind the importance of unidentified marks and so, the importance of the image(s)
- We had to link the first 3 data with the item where the marks are encountered (with the localization of the mark or provenance evidence in the book)

All of this should be completed by the relevant littérature, illustration metadata (our working group didn't discuss about that yet), etc...



This information should fit into a kind of « **authority record of provenance** ».

Actually this is what we're doing with our provenance databases.

The aim of those databases are not only to gather provenance data, but also to:

- ▀ Identify links between possessors (persons or institutions)
- ▀ Identify links between documents
- ▀ Identify other kinds of provenance evidence which are not marks of ownership

Examples of connections :

[http://www.bibliopat.fr/sites/default/files/provenances/reliations\\_de\\_provenance\\_monique\\_hulvey\\_bml\\_2013.pdf](http://www.bibliopat.fr/sites/default/files/provenances/reliations_de_provenance_monique_hulvey_bml_2013.pdf)

- ▀ Promote a way for interoperability

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In a database project, we have to structure these 4 facets (cf. the slide).

Those associations are present into bibliographic records (field of copy description / indexation) or into authority records.

## 2. Levels of interoperability

Kind of interoperability	What we have	What do we need ?
<b>Common frame of reference:</b> Using the same authority records for possessors' names, like CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possessor's name (sometimes with dates and/or place)</li> <li>- Possessor's name is linked with bibliographic and copy records.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pedagogy (e.g. : in France), to gather more information</li> <li>- Create more authority records in many libraries</li> <li>- Illustrations of the mark</li> <li>- Description of the mark</li> </ul>
<b>The lowest common denominator:</b> Federative searching facility into copy records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possessor's name</li> <li>- The description of the mark</li> <li>- The document holding the mark</li> <li>- MARC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More harmonization</li> <li>- More indexation</li> <li>- Illustrations of the mark</li> </ul>
<b>Links between similar data:</b> Search in several provenance relationship databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 4 pieces of provenance's information should be there</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This information is growing, we need to harmonize the structure</li> <li>- Create this federative searching facility</li> <li>- Or use Archival Resource Key or other URI ?</li> </ul>
<b>A (fullweb ?) common tool</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ideas and wishes ☺</li> <li>- Actually many provenance data (catalogs, databases, other pre-existing files)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support and validation staff ?</li> <li>- Agree on the record's structure and the controlled vocabulary</li> </ul>

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Then, levels of interoperability is the second part of this presentation.

I made a little exercise, I hope the result (= the table on the slide) is not too complicated. We can consider these levels like different steps, in a complementary way.

I identified 4 examples about interoperability issues in federating Provenance information (cf. slide). For each type I tried to define what we have & what do we need (considered overall the French context).

Comments :

- 1st : « common frame of reference ». CT = CERL Thesaurus. Terminology with SKOS is also a common frame of reference, in another way (cf. the 2d presentation).

- 2d : For the « lowest common denominator », we realize that the Dublin Core description is not really pertinent (most of information don't concern provenance data)

In the 2 first cases : we can find several copies of possessor's name

- 3rd : « to harmonize the structure » : maybe also languages

- 4th : we have still so many questions ... but I hope some answers tomorrow during the meeting.

In France, at that time, our working group has applied for funding with the « Equipex Biblissima » in order to prepare the next step of this endeavor. We are expecting about developing a common tool.