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Kongres ZBDS 2019
Knjižnice – obvladovalke podatkov?
(25.-27. september 2019, IZUM, Maribor)

**CLASSIFICATION IN LIBRARY LINKED DATA ENVIRONMENT:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

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The publishing of knowledge organization systems (KOS) as linked data in order to access, share, process and link concepts and their semantic relationships by computer programs has been an important development within the semantic web community for over a decade. The idea behind the identification and linking of a “meaning” with data and information resources in an open web environment is fundamental to the semantic web idea. KOS control relationships between natural language terms and concepts (i.e. meaning) which is why we call them “controlled vocabularies”. They provide semantic relationships between concepts that, if expressed in machine understandable ways, can be processed and exploited by programs for many purposes in resource discovery and management. KOSs used in the library domain, notably international classification schemes, have several important advantages of consequence to semantic web development. They are connected to already published information resources that provide further sources for verification and semantic expansion, they operate as de facto standards within the bibliographic domain across national and language barriers, they have an authority behind them (i.e. they are maintained, updated and published in a controlled way) and their indexing terms and codes are published in a vast collections of bibliographic data. Nowadays, there is no KOS of significance that is not published, to some extent, as linked data, and we are gradually moving from a research and experimentation phase of linked data development toward fully operating linked data based terminological services.

By publishing library catalogues as linked data (containing classification codes) and by having KOS published as linked data, we have created conditions in which these data clouds can be connected automatically and harvested for additional meaningful relationships in automatic and unpredictable ways. The scenario in which library linked data can, not only improve resource discovery but profoundly affect book processing and collection management in library networks, is very realistic. These new possibilities, however, come with some challenges and depend on greater understanding of the linked data technology, bibliographic environment and classification management. In this talk, the author will, using the example of UDC, provide an overview of possibilities and challenges facing both libraries and publishers of classifications in exploiting new technological possibilities.