

LinkedBrainz: Providing the MusicBrainz Next Generation Schema as Linked Data

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MusicBrainz [1] is a community-driven music metadata project that provides a wealth of crowd-sourced structured data about music. Using a well-defined set of community guidelines and a simple hashing approach for creating unique identifiers for music artists, albums, and tracks, the MusicBrainz project has assembled what is one of the cleanest and most comprehensive music metadata repositories on the web. The MusicBrainz project is currently working on a release of their Next Generation Schema (NGS) and associated software which provides an even broader variety of music-related metadata.

We present preliminary results of a JISC-funded project to provide the MusicBrainz NGS data directly as Linked Data [2] on the semantic web titled LinkedBrainz. The Linked Data community provides a set of best-practice guidelines for publishing data on the semantic web that encourages the re-use of data in novel and unexpected ways. The LinkedBrainz project will help integrate Linked Data practices into the MusicBrainz infrastructure. We demonstrate the power and utility of the yet-to-be-released LinkedBrainz NGS SPARQL endpoint [3] that allows rich and complex queries to be made against MusicBrainz via http. We also show how this data can be merged with other Linked Data sources such as DBpedia.org and BBC.co.uk/music to allow even richer queries. The LinkedBrainz project should be of interest to any researcher who wants to talk about music artists, albums, tracks, or the relationships between them unambiguously on the web and/or leverage semantic web technologies for music informatics.

[1] see <http://musicbrainz.org/>

[2] see <http://linkeddata.org/>

[3] SPARQL is a W3C recommendation and the preferred query language for querying data on the semantic web. See <http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-sparql-query/>