

FRANCESCA RICCI

I work as **archivist at the “Istituto per i beni artistici culturali e naturali” of the Emilia-Romagna Region (IBC)**. IBC is the technical and programming body for cultural heritage of the Emilia-Romagna Region. IBC constitutes an original and unique experience in Italy thanks to the research and enhancement of the heritage it carries out through the consultancy and service it lends to the government of Emilia-Romagna and local authorities.

Over the years, in the activity of survey and enhancement of cultural institutions and heritage in Emilia-Romagna, IBC has been making the collected information web-available (tangible and intangible cultural assets such as museums, castles, theatres, historical archives, libraries, local dialects, monumental trees, butterflies, archaeological areas, architectural asset).

Since 2011, IBC has been experimenting a novel approach to the publication of the data -produced in its institutional remit- and has started an experiment on linked open data, to provide a different way to use regional data.

I deal with description of archival creators and application of archival standards ISAD(G), ISAAR(CPF) and ISDIAH, and XML mark-up language (EAD, EAC-CPF, EAG).

I take care of archival finding aids publication on the web and interoperability through semantic web technologies.

I manage the publication of RDF cultural dataset extracted from the [IBC databases](#)

The **Mu.SA Specialization course** gave me the opportunity to develop a useful work project for IBC, continuing to work on previous activities that dealing with the design of government open data to increase the transparency of public institutions and the participation of citizens in national and European policies since 2011.

During the WBL, I continued with IBC's RDF dataset publishing activities. Based on the results and activities gradually consolidated in the process of experimentation on linked open data for the cultural domain, I intended to improve the management of IBC's data collection and to increase its level of updating, in order to achieve a more effective alignment between sets of RDF data and regional information systems published by IBC.

Knowledge and skills developed in the Mu.SA Specialised training course, through the specialisation to the role profile of **Digital Collection Curator** made me more confident in the project work which greatest potential is the valorisation of data produced by public administration and dissemination of a culture of public data.

The **project work activities** done for Mu.SA involved some colleagues with specific professional skills that are also very different from each other (cultural experts, IT experts, lawyers, directors of cultural institutions).

The active collaboration and the valuable contribution of the officials who manage the IBC databases in such a wide range of skills and themes (archives, museums, libraries, castles, monumental trees and butterflies), have offered a stimulating starting point for the analysis and extraction of content from the information systems of origin, and for an assessment of the potential deriving from the release of cultural LOD.

The WBL confirmed the need for greater interpenetration between the more traditional cataloguing skills, and the new skills that are being formed hand in hand with the construction of the web of data.

My organization is going through a digital transformation carrying out numerous and varied activities. The activity on linked open data, in particular, is based upon the awareness that single data - albeit elaborated and produced by authoritative sources - only yield limited occasions of usage and have a lower value than they would have if shared and combined, even when they are separately produced and published. By value, I refer not only to a financial one, but first and foremost to one of widespread benefit that will increase information, services, usage and -more generally speaking- knowledge.

Briefly, **our work aims at giving machines the information that is needed to process and successfully reuse data**, by using a formal language capable of identifying them, expressing their semantics and automatically cross-linking.

One of the most interesting scenarios tested by the project was the **shaping of a kind of *born interoperability* among information systems**. A key factor in planning our work was the choice of a bottom-up approach, to underline the integration of existing descriptive data *in continuity with* the item that they represent, rather than importing the same information into overarching systems (and formats).

Ultimately, the process developed by IBC can be seen as **an extended horizontal subsidiarity that will provide society with the data produced by public authorities** and, first and foremost, the possibility to yield added value by allowing new services, access and novel opportunities of enhancement.