Using Linked Open Data (LOD)

- Reasons to adopt LOD by museums
  - Opening metadata enables the reuse of metadata.
  - Enables connection of resources from a broad community of institutions (libraries, archives and museums (LAM)).
  - Providing the means of showcasing their resources in a context that crosses organizational and subject boundaries.
  - Promoting broader and strengthened discovery of resources.
  - Breaking out of institutional silos by joining metadata with a wide variety of knowledge domains.
  - Taking full advantage of the power of the semantic web.
  - Making Canada’s cultural and heritage collections more accessible.

(Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Network, 2015)

Objectives of the DOLMEN Project

1. To assess and determine the necessary metadata elements for the description of museum objects of any kind.
2. To define and develop a model for the description of museum objects using linked open data.
3. To strengthen and encourage networking and data exchange among various cultural and heritage institutions.

Preliminary Results — Phase 1

- A number of metadata schemas have already been examined
  - CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CIDOC-CRM)
  - Dublin Core (DC)
  - Resource Description and Access (RDA)
  - Lightweight Information Describing Objects schema (LIDO)
  - Visual Resources association (VRA)
  - Open Archives Initiative Object Reuse and Exchange (ORE)
  - IFLA International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD)
  - OCLC FAST
  - Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)
  - Library of Congress Thesaurus of Graphic Materials (TGM)
  - Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) Rameau
  - LAC Canadian Subject Headings (CSH)

Process

- Phase 1 — Identification of metadata elements and inventory of open databases.
- Phase 2 — Model structuring.
- Phase 3 — Development and evaluation of DOLMEN.

Expected Contribution

- The use of LOD will offer unprecedented context for enriching museum objects descriptions with existing metadata records with links to semantically related resources.
- Object descriptions will be augmented by adding various elements from other databases to the data provided by a museum.
- This will be done independently of the language used to describe museum objects since it can be created between databases supporting multiple languages.
- DOLMEN is intended to be an innovative tool for both professionals working in museums and the general public, with the integration of text and multimedia (3D images, sound explanations, etc.).
- DOLMEN is leading the way to provide a better access to Canadian cultural and heritage collections through linked open data.