

# Modeling contexts in linked archival data (and documents)

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## Abstract

The recent conceptual model RiC-CM - together with RiC-O, the ontology - , let us reflect on the notion of contexts, i.e. the different points of view on archival data, all able to add new information layers. We have to deal, traditionally, with at least 3 different contexts: the CPF as the creator of archival records; the provenance of the finds, i.e. the connection between the archive and the creator; the position of the archival units within a hierarchy. What we are facing with Linked Open Data is that these 3 contexts are extending their boundaries, and the finding aids have to be rethought, especially when we want to produce scholarly-oriented tools. In the LOD dimension, a new way for organizing knowledge, we have to focus on some facts: we need to document different kind of agents, with different roles, functions and involvement in event; we need to understand that the provenance is important also for assertions, i.e. it's related to the idea of authorship of RDF statements, with a source to be declared, a degree of certainty and the expression of a special (even contradictory) point of view; the tree, i.e. the hierarchy, is a data structure unable to solve all the modeling need, that are best represented through a graph data model. These reflections bring a number of considerations on this new way of publishing Archival Data, in an open and linked dimension, i.e. a knowledge graph of (semantically) enhanced archival resources. A couple of examples, one from a structured collection, i.e. the catalogue of the Federico Zeri photo archive, and another from a semi-structured document, i.e. the semantic digital edition of the notebook written by the italian politician and classical philologist Paolo Bufalini, gave us the possibility to face some of these issues, trying to suggest some practices and methods.

## Short bio

Francesca Tomasi is associate professor in Archival Science, Bibliography and Librarianship at the University of Bologna (Italy). Her research is mostly devoted to digital humanities, with a special attention to documentary digital edition, and a focus on knowledge organization methods in archives and libraries. She is member of different scientific committees of both associations and journals. In particular, she is Director of the international second cycle degree in Digital Humanities and Digital Knowledge (DHDK), and co-head of the Digital Humanities Advanced Research Center (DH.ARC). She has been President of the Italian Association of Digital Humanities (AIUCD – Associ-

azione per l'Informatica Umanistica e la Cultura Digitale). She is editor and scientific director of several digital scholarly environments, in particular: Vespasiano da Bisticci Letters, Zeri&Lode project, Bufalini notebook. She wrote about 100 papers and 4 monographs related to Digital Humanities topics (a list of publications in:

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