



## Share Family: empowering Consortia in the transition to Linked Open Data

### Executive Summary

Approved by the Share Family Advisory Council on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2024

#### The Share Family

Share Family is a global initiative developed and driven by libraries, for libraries, in an international collaborative, consortial effort. It enables the discovery of knowledge to increase user engagement with library and cultural heritage collections.

The Share Family offers library consortia the opportunity to enter into the linked open data environment and make available to their members an extensive range of new-generation bibliographic tools and an innovative resource portal.

#### Vision, governance and values

Vision: Developed and guided by the international library community, the [Share Family of initiatives](#) envisions a future where libraries collaboratively define and shape the tools and principles driving bibliographic advancements.

Governance: The direction of Share Family is overseen by the [Share Family Advisory Council](#), comprising representatives from member libraries. Libraries actively participate in policy-making and tool development, sharing expertise, responsibilities, and costs to benefit the entire community and its patrons.

Values: At the core of Share Family's ethos are shared values of cooperation, openness, sustainability, and flexibility. The Share Family commits to developing long-term viability of solutions promoting shared tools and resources. It encourages interaction within an evolving ecosystem of linked data, empowering libraries to adapt and thrive in the digital age.

#### Enhanced services

Share Family offers a range of services tailored to the specific needs of library consortia, facilitating a smooth transition to collaborative cataloging models and linked data environments. This shift not only allows for cost and resource savings but also ensures libraries retain control over their metadata. Services include advanced collaborative cataloging, linked data conversion into RDF, support for circulation services, collection management, usage statistics, integration with various ILSs and LSPs, automated authority control and URI enrichment.

#### Innovative framework and authoritative Knowledge Base

Committed to open data sharing and reuse, Share Family utilizes cutting-edge technologies to convert, structure, and publish authority and bibliographic data as linked data, regardless of the source format.



Share Family's shared knowledge base, built on the BIBFRAME data model and a carefully defined extension, stores and maintains converted member data. It ensures a reliable and up-to-date source of information for participating libraries while preserving the integrity of their individual collections.

### **Tools and interoperability**

Share Family develops solutions dedicated to fostering collaboration and openness within the global library community.

Advanced bibliographic tools and custom APIs have been designed to integrate seamlessly with existing library systems (e.g. Alma, FOLIO, Sinopia). To further enhance the richness of library data, the initiative actively engages with existing authoritative linked open data pools. These solutions allow members to continue to work in their existing local systems, with the freedom to employ either traditional or emerging resource description formats.

Moreover, Share Family projects are committed to supporting the creation of open and authoritative sources, promoting reusability under open licenses. An exemplary instance is Share-VDE data, where participant data hosted by Share-VDE may be utilized under a CC0 license. For further details, please refer to the [Open Metadata policy statement](#).

### **Discovery**

Through the adoption of linked data standards and technologies, Share Family increases the visibility of member collections and supports structured data exchange across diverse domains. The new standards allow for the seamless linking between catalogs and repositories in a discovery environment that is well suited to the multi-disciplinary needs of today's researchers.

### **A growing, international community**

As part of its ongoing engagement with the library community, Share Family collaborates with various initiatives to advance the understanding and application of linked data. Notably, Share Family has worked alongside the Linked Data for Production (LD4P) initiative and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) on the implementation of linked data. In 2021, Share Family was appointed to create the PCC Data Pool, an open pool of PCC-quality BIBFRAME data. Share Family also takes part in BIG - BIBFRAME Interoperability Group, established to create guidelines for data exchange in BIBFRAME. Additionally Share Family is an active participant in the IFLA National Bibliographies and New Technologies working group, further fostering the interconnections of the Share Family National Bibliographies working group and the related branch.

### **Flexible, sustainable and collaborative**

Through Share Family, libraries invest in a collective approach to quality bibliographic data, benefiting from shared expertise, resources, and infrastructure. [Solutions provided](#) are scalable, accommodating the varying data storage needs and specific requirements of individual libraries. Embracing the evolving linked data ecosystem enables libraries to actively shape the future of knowledge access, contributing to a more sustainable and collaborative research landscape.