

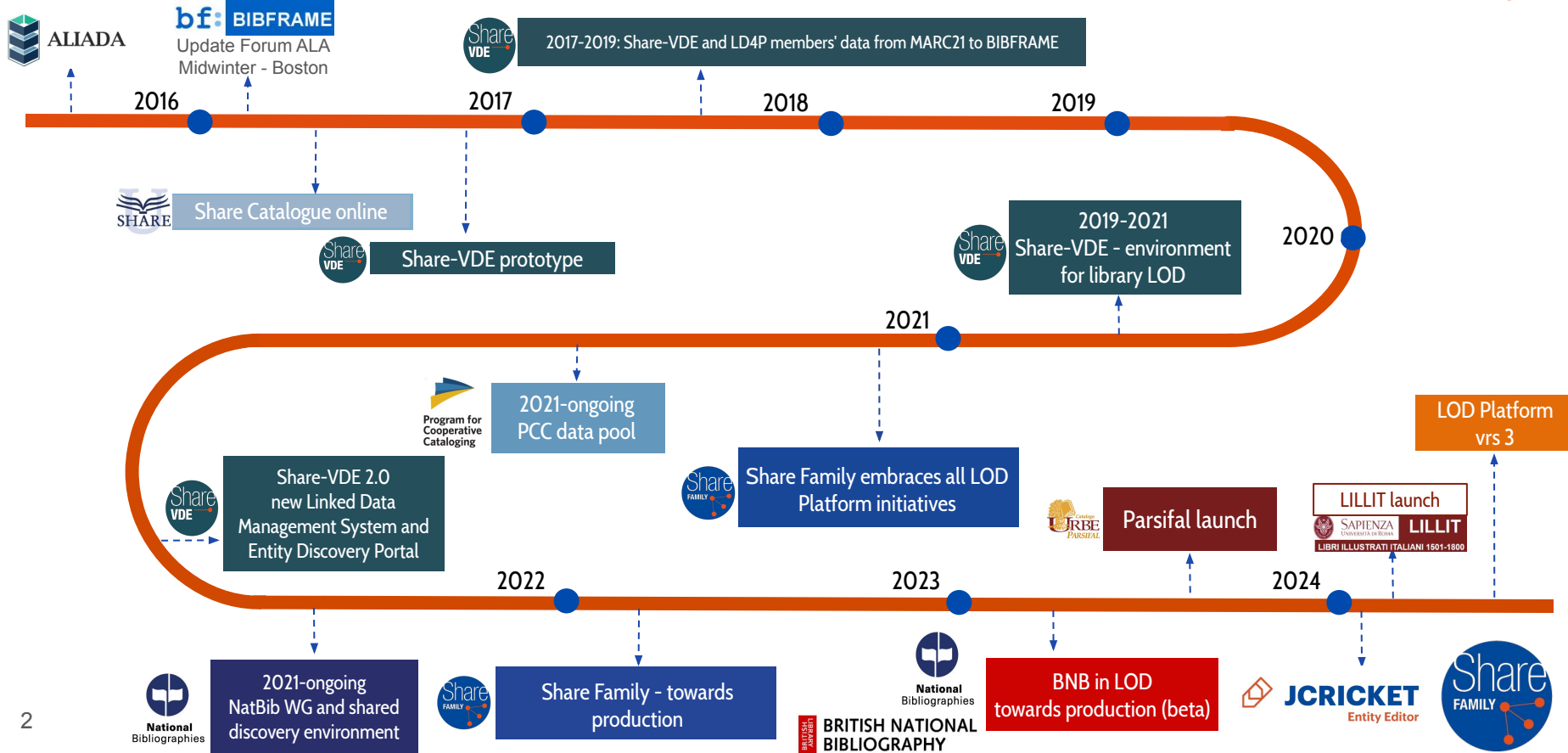


Open borders for wider data sharing: the Share-VDE and Share Family international initiatives

European Studies Section: Topics in European studies at ALA Annual 2025, June 29th
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Stepping stones



Share Family - Linked Data Ecosystem: Principles



CO-OPERATIVE

Developed and driven by libraries, for libraries, the Share Family is a growing international community built on collaboration. Participating institutions play an active role in defining the vision, aims and progress of the Share Family and its tools.



INTEROPERABLE

By implementing the RDF-based BIBFRAME data model and facilitating interoperability with different data models and data pools, resource description can be transformed into Linked Data, increasing the visibility of research and encouraging greater engagement with library, archive and museum collections.



FLEXIBLE

Enriched and structured data can be re-used in local and external systems, across library types and ILS/LSPs, enabling each institution to maintain control of its own catalogue data.

The Share Family opens the door to a flexible, sustainable, interoperable and co-operative approach to resource description, with time, expertise and costs shared across the community for the benefit of all members.

We strive to encourage open access to data, and support diversity by freely sharing information. We apply and support open metadata policies as part of our commitment to enhancing the discovery of library and cultural heritage resources.

The quality of data is guaranteed both through advanced technical processes and through collaborative data modeling, enrichment and sharing, handled collectively by member organizations.



SUSTAINABLE



OPEN



AUTHORITATIVE

Member-driven governance model



Share-VDE: supporting the creation, management and discovery
of linked open data for libraries

Executive Summary

Approved by the Share-VDE Advisory Council on December 7th 2022

What is Share-VDE?

The Share Virtual Discovery Environment is 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.

Share-VDE supports members through the linked open data, leveraging the cooperative world to offer a flexible, sustainable and practice.

The Share-VDE partners guide every implementation. Input from the Advisory Share-VDE data model and tools stand up to expertise provides in-depth analysis, studies throughout its lifecycle.

Innovative framework and authoritative Knowledge

Committed to open data sharing and reuse and bibliographic data as linked data, regard



Share Family for Consortia

Executive Summary

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.

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

Being a **community initiative**, the goals and desired outcomes are defined by the participating institutions through active engagement in different [Working Groups](#).



Governance: open data policies



Share Family Open Metadata Policy

Approved by the Share Family Advisory Council
on March 15th 2023; amended on April 9th 2025

The Share Family strives to support and invest in open data to freely share information. The community is committed, wherever possible, to share data transformed by its series of Linked Open Data (LOD) processes. The Share Family community has invested great effort to ensure its structured data adhere to the accepted community standards and practices for the library and the open data community.



Share Family data may be used under a CC0 license unless expressly stated otherwise.

The Share Family data pool consists of newly created metadata objects derived from existing data provided by member institutions, enriched and published as RDF, as well as entirely new objects manually created within the system. These data are open and interoperable by humans and machines alike. The Share Family highly encourages their use to promote global dissemination, accessibility, reusability, and discoverability of information resources.

This commitment ensures the widest possible distribution and reuse of our metadata. The Open Data Policy does not cover tools and services developed by the Share Family community nor the original data submitted by member institutions.

Some Share Family Ecosystem tenants may adhere to other open data policies. When using data originating from these tenants, attribution of the source of the metadata or other restrictions as outlined in the tenant's appropriate policy may be required. For example, the PCC Data Pool adheres to CC BY-NC 4.0.

For further information on the tenants' policies, refer to the wiki page [Share Family Linked Data Ecosystem](https://wiki.svde.org/Share-Family-Linked-Data-Ecosystem).

The communities of institutions that form the Share Family and leverage its [LOD Platform technology](#) freely decide how they want to reuse the data output from the LOD Platform.

As an example, the Share Family adopted an **Open Metadata policy** <https://bit.ly/ShareFamily-Open-Metadata-Policy>.



National bibliographies in the Share Family

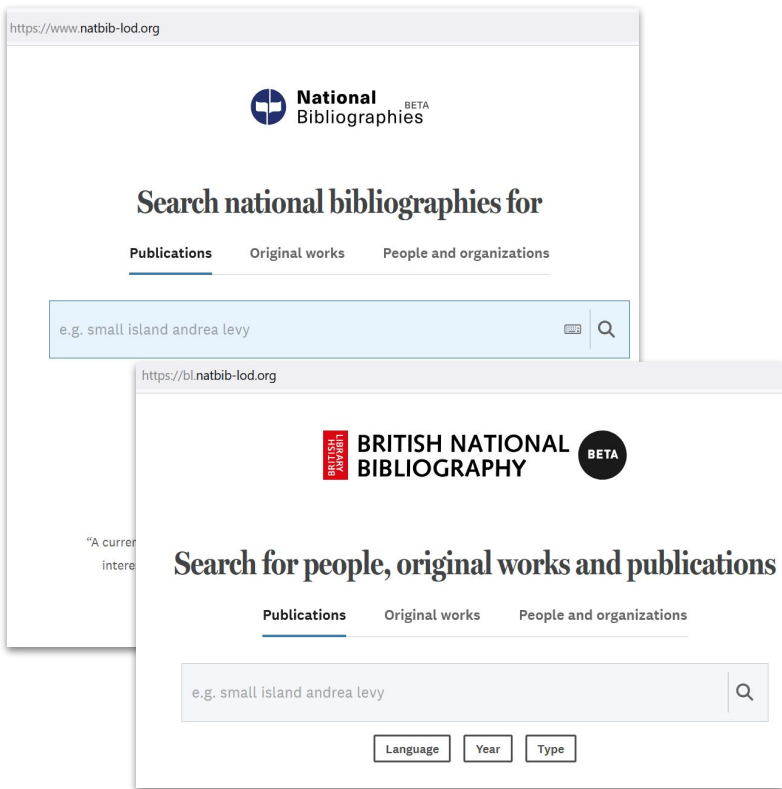
- Study and address the **needs of institutions** that curate National Bibliographies to support their transition to linked data
- Overview document describing the **vision**
[National Bibliographies Share Family initiative 2022-June.pdf](#)
 - adopt **global** languages for the expression of **local** content
 - authoritative institutions such as **national libraries** reaffirm their role and their centrality
 - **national bibliographies** represent an entire community in the world
 - give 'democratic' visibility and access worldwide to the intellectual and **research production of each single country**
 - maintain the characteristics that represent the **different nature and cultural vitality** of each country, its language and its culture

Natbib network - European and global

- Build a shared discovery environment hosting **Linked Open Data National bibliographies** datasets: <https://natbib-lod.org>
- Aim to be global - **early adopters from Europe** include:
 - the **British Library** - see the institutional portal for the British National Bibliography in LOD <https://bl.natbib-lod.org> (beta version)
 - the **National Library of Norway** has also joined the Natbib tenant - NLN is also a member of the Share-VDE tenant with North American libraries



A collaborative platform



The Natbib platform aims to support **national bibliographies in linked data**, where datasets from different institutions live in a **shared environment**.

It will be enhanced with data services tailored to national bibliographies, including the **cooperative data curation tool JCricket**.

JCricket feeds the collective catalogue through shared cataloguing and representations of diverse descriptions, original languages, and writing systems, to ultimately **create connections across collections internationally** and increase the visibility of library catalogues in the global research community.



Technical infrastructure to support cooperation

- Interoperability is the technical backbone to support the **dialogue between different cataloguing traditions**
 - IFLA LRM and RDA typically adopted in European countries
 - BIBFRAME widely used in North American context
- The [Share-VDE Ontology](#) resource description model reconciles IFLA LRM/RDA and BIBFRAME
 - [Liaison protocol established with the RDA Steering Committee](#)
- A diverse community in a shared cultural space

Get involved!

Becoming part of the global Share Family means sharing data and co-operating with the greater international library community



The family continues to expand as more and more libraries worldwide embrace the opportunity to be involved in an international network of information, creating dialogue, participation and partnership

Get in touch with us to find out more about how the Share family can help your library:

info@share-family.org

<https://share-family.org>

<https://wiki.share-family.org>

<https://www.svde.org/about/about-share-vde>





Some background documents:

[Liaison protocol established with the RDA Steering Committee](#)

[Share Family Open Metadata Policy](#)

[Share Family Press Release April 28th 2025](#)

Thank you - please reach out for any question

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