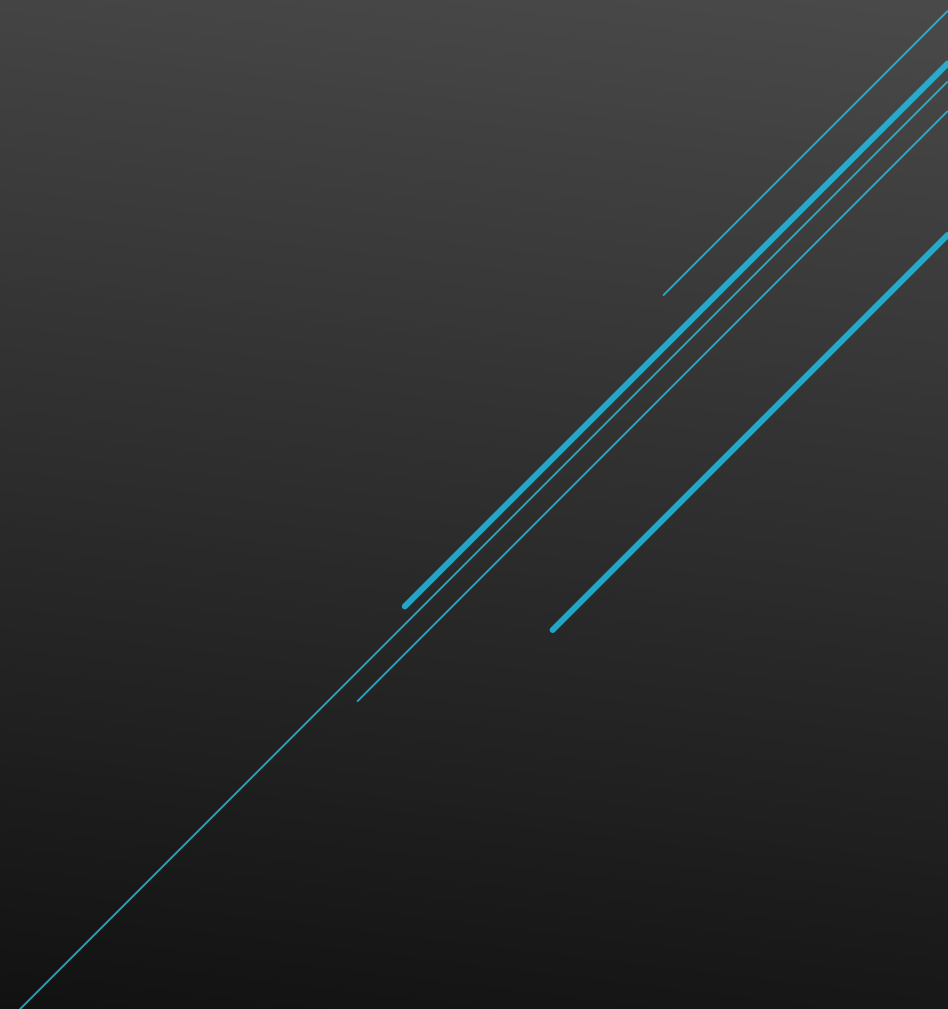# ATLAS OR ALMANAC?

Mapping the Development and Use of Metadata in an Age of Uncertainty and Change
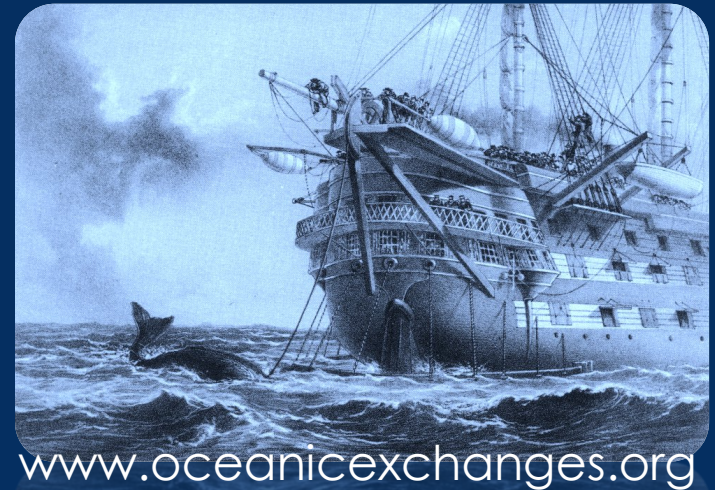
M. H. Beals, *Loughborough University*
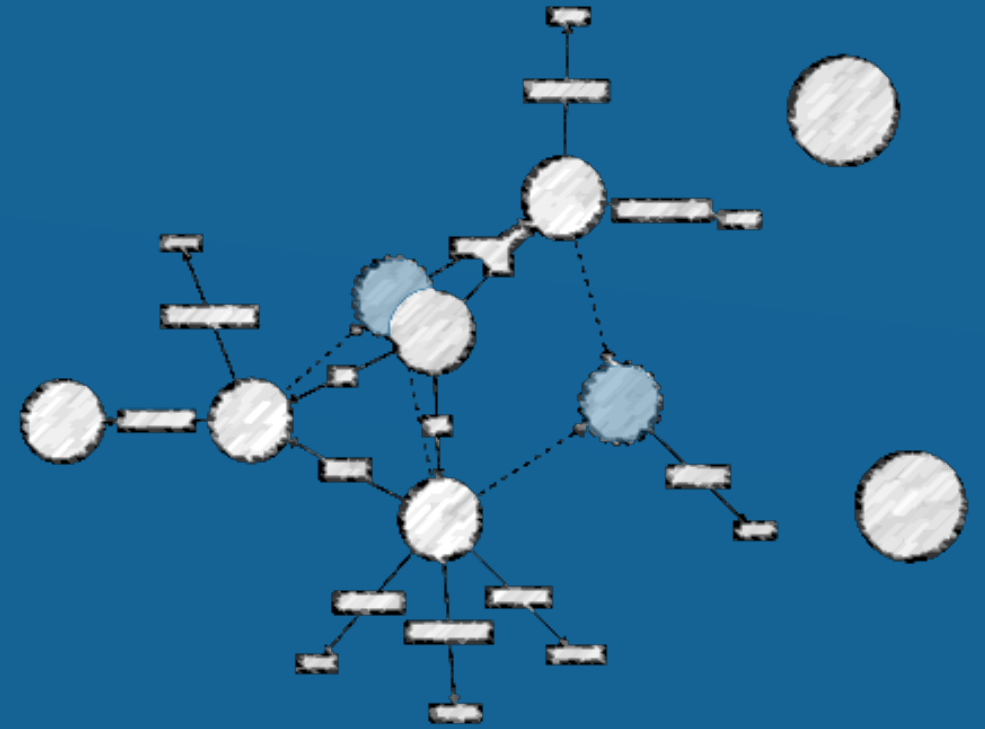
THE OCEANIC EXCHANGES PROJECT

- 2-Year International Project
- 3 Areas of Research
    - Reprinting and Reuse across Collections
    - Semantic Drift across Collections
    - Ontological Mapping across Collections
- 6 Nation-Team of Scholars
- 13 Collections Analysed

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THE ONTOLOGIES WORK PACKAGE

- Catalogue all Back-End Metadata
- Map Metadata on Like-for-Like Basis
- Assist in Normalising Derived Data Outputs
- Create Machine-Readable (OWL) Ontology

CLIP, CATALOGUE & COMBINE

- Various Modes of Consumption

- Editions and Variant Materiality

- Significant Afterlife

CATEGORISING IMPRECISE FACTS

- ▸ Date and Geographical Ranges
- ▸ Documented Uncertainty
- ▸ Flexible Fuzziness
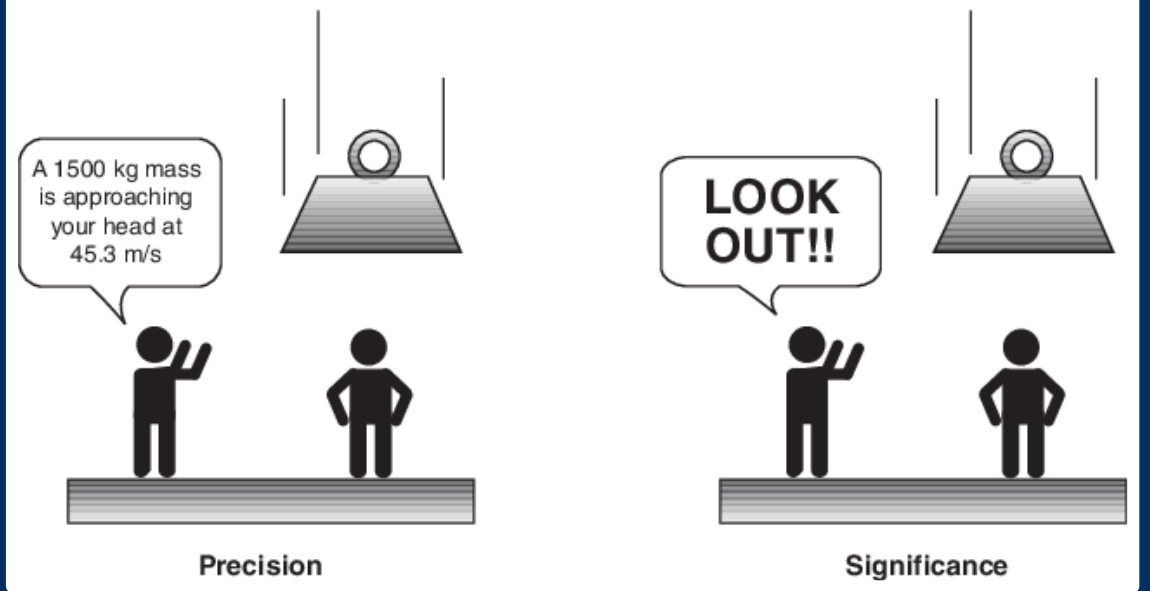
- Documentation
- Precision
- Interpretation

NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY

ONTOLOGY

- Mixed Standards
- Inconsistencies
- Legacy Fields
- Organic Inputting
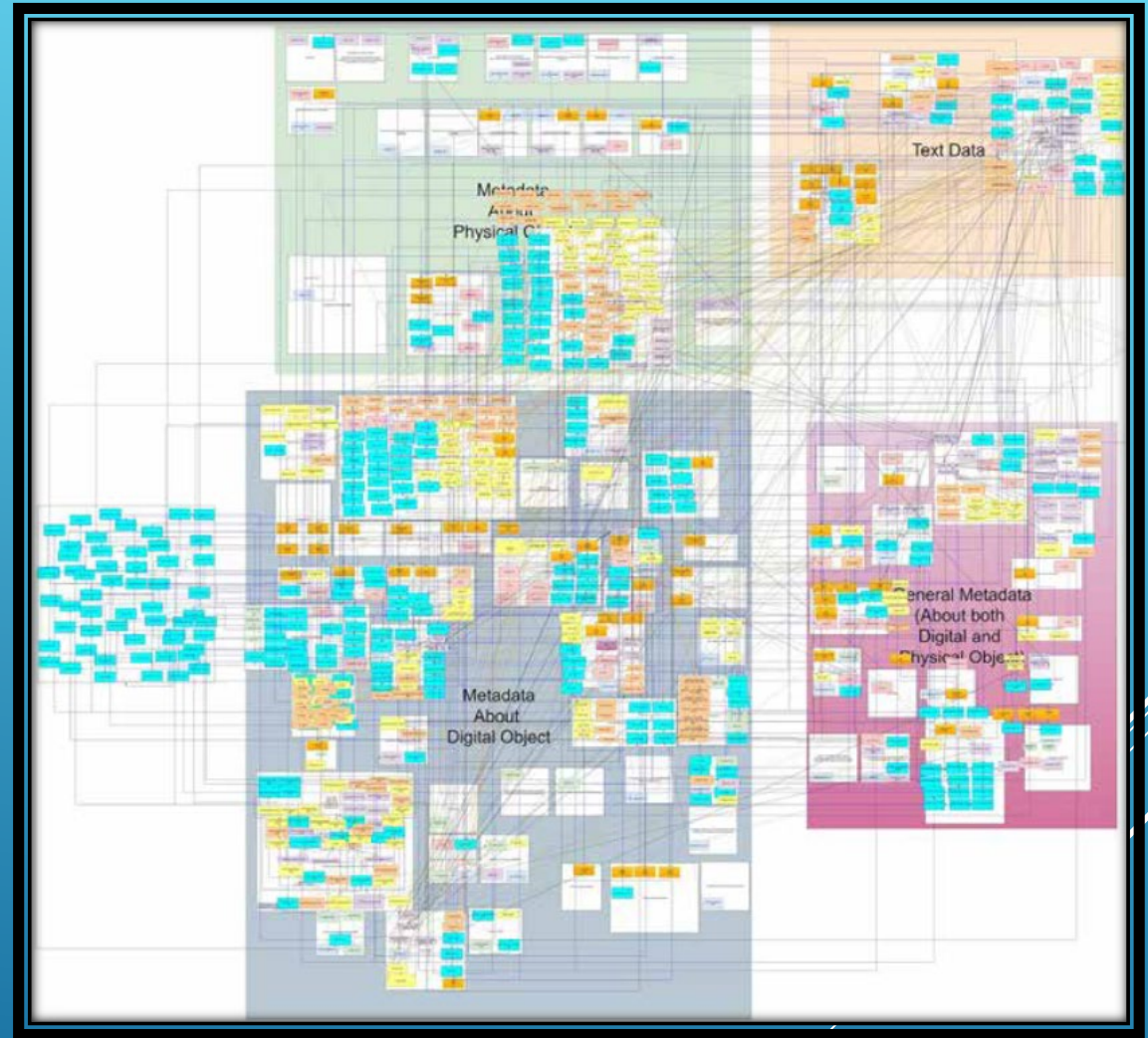
The Atlas of
Digitised Newspapers

Reports from Oceanic Exchanges

A SEMANTIC CATALOGUE

▶ Dictional Adherence?

▶ Practical Documentation?

▶ Lexicographical Flexibility?

Section Heading

Language Variants

Abschnittsüberschrift; Sectietitel; Osaston Otsikko; Sección de Título.

Technical Definition

Specifies the printed title for a section; distinct from an article headline or title.

Usage Notes

Section is used in modern journalism to refer to different departments of the newspaper, such as travel or sport. The nineteenth-century newspaper similarly had sections for elements such as **letters to the editor**, **advertisements** and **reviews**, with the term most commonly used for news from a specific location. The term "section" was also used to refer to specific areas of the page layout that had been broken up by an image, as well as the division of one article into separate pieces that could be published in different issues. Section headings would be printed in the folio line and, in modern journalism, often have their own mastheads. With the exception of Trove, differentiated sections are generally zoned algorithmically and assigned a standardised **article category** rather than the section heading as printed in that instance.

Examples:

Referring to a divided article

• "Scott also sent his first 'vision' to Croker for publication in the *Guardian*, where it duly appeared—arbitrarily cut into two **sections**—on 19 December 1819 and 9 January." [Garside, 508]

CATEGORISING DYNAMIC CONTEXT

- ▸ Linked Legacy Documentation
- ▸ Clarity on
  - ▸ Upload, Modified & Variant Dates
  - ▸ Provenance of Collection and Data
  - ▸ Variants of Physical and Digital Objects
  - ▸ Exclusions from Physical Collection

✖ 1st Jan 1800 - 31st Dec 1850
✖ Clear All

"mental health" 🔍

☑ Keep filters ☐ Exact search   Order by [Relevance ▾]   Advanced Search

Refine Search

▾ DATE

1800-1849   1,210
1850-1899   89

▾ NEWSPAPER

Sun (London)   51
Morning Post   34
Globe   32
Morning Advertiser   27
Saint James's Chronicle   27

Your results for: "mental health"   ☆ Save this Search

iu which bodily and mental health are among the least of their considerations. Unwearied application to busiu , ..

... iu which bodily and **mental health** are among the least of their considerations. Unwearied application to busiu , is clearly characteristic of the age, font is seen every station of life, from the highest to the lowest. a fact, that the most exalted officers ...

Published: Saturday 23 March 1844
Newspaper: Kentish Mercury
County: London, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 338 | **Page:** 2 | **Tags:** none

Your Search Filters

✖ 1st Jan 1800 - 31st Dec 1850
✖ Clear All

"lunacy" 🔍

☑ Keep filters ☐ Exact search   Order by [Relevance ▾]   Advanced Search

Refine Search

▾ DATE

1800-1849   38,780
1850-1899   2,141

▾ NEWSPAPER

Sun (London)   2,070
Morning Post   1,568
Morning Chronicle   1,112
Globe   1,061
Saint James's Chronicle   954

Your results for: "lunacy"   ☆ Save this Search

Lunacy. The second annual report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, signed by Lord Ashley, and presented to ..

... **Lunacy**. The second annual report of the Commissioners in **Lunacy**, signed by Lord Ashley, and presented to Parliament, is just printed. It seems that the Commissioners have collected mass of information the subject of **Lunacy**, which they have embodied a ...

Published: Saturday 25 December 1847
Newspaper: Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury
County: Northumberland, England
Type: Article | **Words:** 272 | **Page:** 7 | **Tags:** none

INDICES & FULL-TEXT SEARCHING

WORD RESULTS:

01.03.01.05.04 | 03 n.
Ill-health :: Disorders of horses :: disorders of eyes **lunacy** (1600)

01.03.02.01.02 | 08 n.
Mental health/sanity :: Degree/type of madness :: lunacy **lunacy** (1541–)

01.03.02.01 | 02 n.
Mental health/sanity :: Mental illness :: insanity/madness **lunacy** (1541–)

01.03.02.01 | 02.02 n.
Mental health/sanity :: Mental illness :: insanity/madness :: fit of madness **lunacy** (1602–1611)

02.01.09.05.02 n.
Lack of understanding :: Madness, extreme folly **lunacy** (1588–)

CATEGORY RESULTS:

01.03.02.01.02 | 08 n.
Mental health/sanity :: Degree/type of madness :: lunacy

A HIERARCHY OF PROVENANCE

▶ Silence Implies Authority

ROUNDTRIPPING METADATA

- Labour Value

- Points of Entry

- Community Building

- Attribution and Esteem

THE TYRANNY OF THE MOB

▸ Whose Voice(s)?

▸ Which Fields?

▸ How Fuzzy?
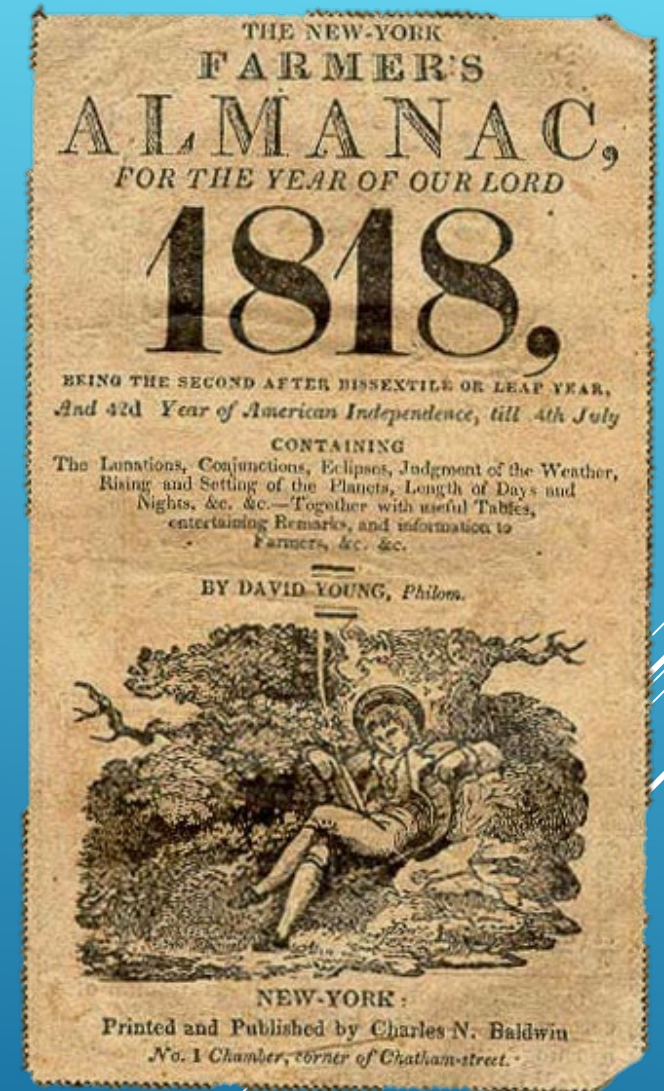
LAYERING THE ARCHIVE

▶ Language Across Time

▶ Multiple Communities of Practice

▶ Cited Provenance (Authority)

▶ Linked Provenance (Reputation)

AN ALAMAC OF DIGITISED NEWSPAPERS?

QUESTIONS?

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