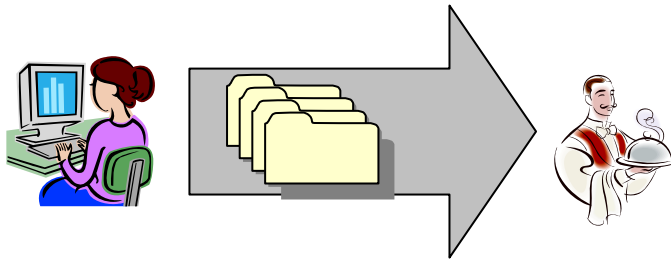


Six Questions (Q6) and the OpenURL Object Model (OOM)



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Six Questions (Q6)

- Any (web) service request can be represented by answers to the following five questions:
 1. **What** is the subject of the request?
 2. **Why** is the subject being requested?
 3. **Who** invoked the request?
 4. **Where** was the request invoked?
 5. **When...?**
 - This facet isn't clearly modeled in Q6 or in OpenURL
- Given answers to "what", "why", "who", and "where"):
 6. **How** is the information transmitted?
 1. REST or SOAP
 2. XML or Key/Value pairs

Q6/OpenURL 1.0 Label Map

Q6		OpenURL 1.0
1. What	=	Referent
2. Why	=	ServiceType
3. Who	=	Requester
4. Where	=	ReferringEntity
5. When	=	N/A
6. How	=	Transport

Q6: "Folders" (OpenURL: "Entities")

What

What is the subject of the request?

Why

Why is the subject being requested?

Who

Who invoked the request?

Where

Where was the request invoked?

Q6: "Clues" (OpenURL: "Descriptors")

What

Zadie Smith's
"On Beauty"

Why

Edit review

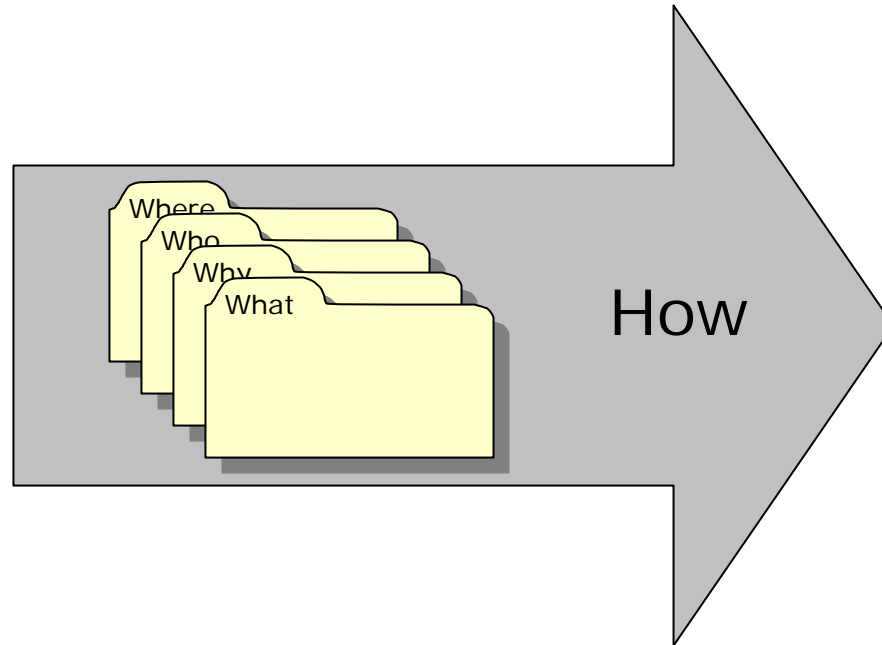
Who

mailto:jyoung
@oclc.org

Where

http://www.w
orldcatlibrarie
s.org/...

Requesting a Service



Applying Q6: The “Skin” Interpretation

- Service: Edit a book review in Open WorldCat
- Q6 Breakdown:
 - How:
 - <http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/oclc/61396956;jsessionid=3D0486D8D687A2C9AE.four?page=wiki&wikitype=review>
 - (BaseURL): <http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/>
 - What: [oclc/61396956](http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/oclc/61396956)
 - Who: [;jsessionid=3D0486D8D687A2C9AE.four](http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/oclc/61396956;jsessionid=3D0486D8D687A2C9AE.four)
 - Why: [?page=wiki&wikitype=review](http://www.worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/oclc/61396956;jsessionid=3D0486D8D687A2C9AE.four?page=wiki&wikitype=review)
 - Where: (Taken from the HTTP ‘Referer’ header)

Why is this important?

Theory 1: Interoperability

- Standard URL patterns would make life easier for developers, IF those patterns are simple and intuitive
 - This might facilitate mash-ups
- Unfortunately, OpenURL has a reputation for using complex and confusing URL patterns, but those patterns are optional
 - New patterns can be defined by a community and added to the OpenURL Registry

Why is this important?

Theory 2: Simple Application Framework

- The OpenURL Object Model (OOM) defines language objects that mirror the abstractions in the OpenURL specification
- Various URL patterns are treated as skins with normalized “What”, “Why”, “Who”, and “Where” folders used internally
 - Skin 1 may expect an OCLC number “clue” to be expressed as “<oclcNo>61396956</oclcNo>” via SOAP
 - Skin 2 may expect an OCLC number to be expressed as “oclcnum=61396956” via an HTTP key/value pair
 - Each such skin would be associated with a class that would transform this clue into the URI “info:oclcnum/61396956” for internal consistency
- Once these clues are normalized for internal consistency, adding new services should be trivial

Questions?

- Q6 Blog
 - <http://q6.oclc.org/>
- OpenURL Object Model (OOM)
 - http://q6.oclc.org/2006/08/openurl_object.html