Synopticity and RDF Implementation in Special Collections

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Synopticity: a process of viewing an information resource from different cultural, artifactual, and/or disciplinary perspectives
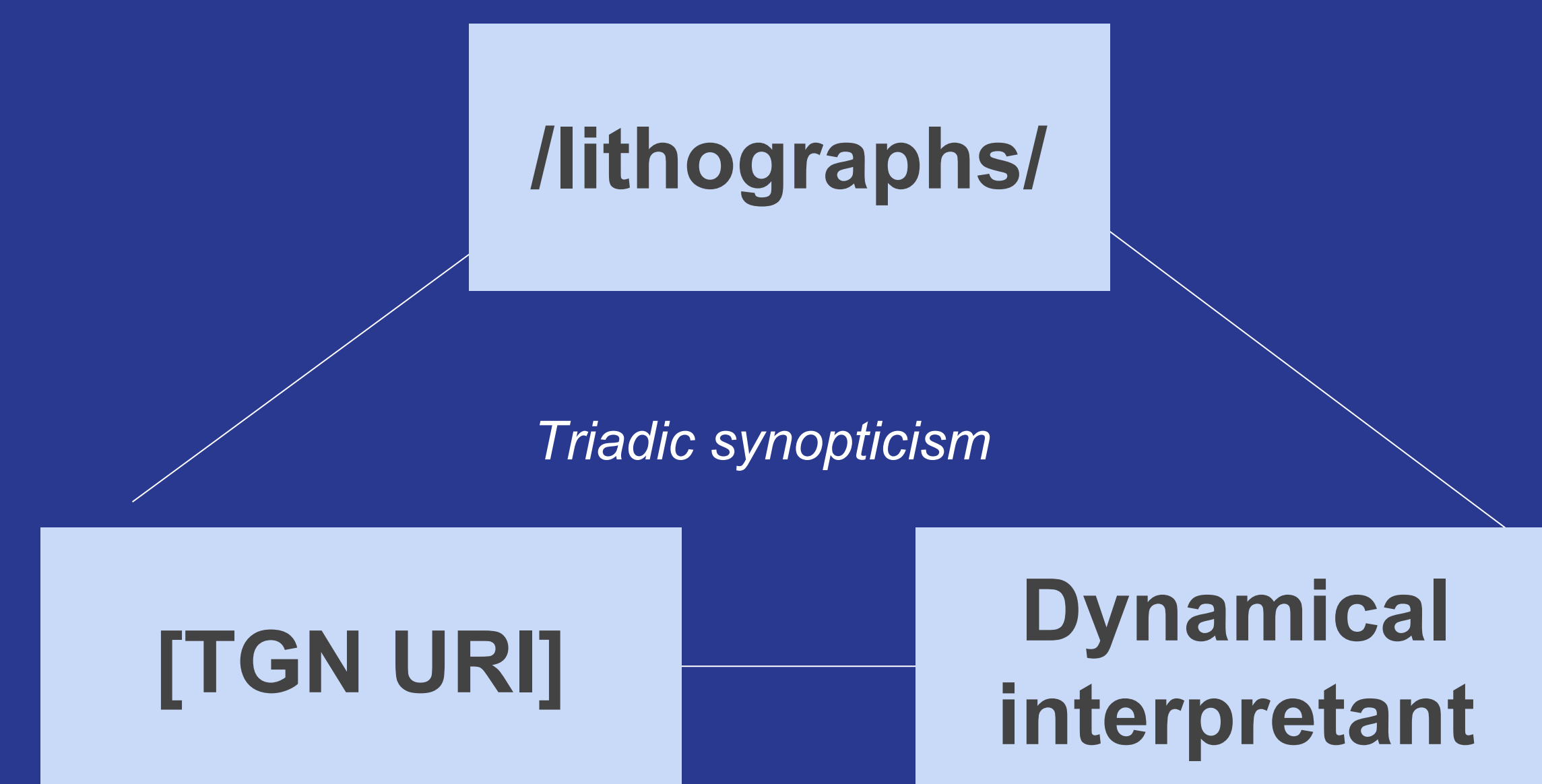

Gould, Elizabeth, and John Gould. *Dacelo Cervino*. N.d.

Synoptic categories and URI providers:
- Art-history (FAST)
- Art-technique (AAT)
- Biogeography (Avibase, ubio)
- Biography (VIAF,ULAN)
- Biology-history (FAST?)
- Book history (FAST, inf.)
- Colonialism (FAST?)
- Publishing history (VIAF, inf,)

Question: Since special collections offer a large variety of socio-historical framing perspectives, what is the best method for applying synopticity to metadata records? What impact does this have on descriptive qualities of the records, and is this a scalable process?

- Multiple records provide deeper description but limited system interoperability.
- Single record has widest interoperability potential/lower time cost
- MODS structure provides URI storage within broadly applicable schema, easily serializable as RDF
- Connotative properties of URIs provide machine-actionable method for embedding synoptic aspects of a resource:

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                    /lithographs/

              Triadic synopticism

    [TGN URI] ——————— Dynamical
                       interpretant
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Current issues:
- When does schema structure infringe on synoptic categories? What is preferred RDF serialization format? Possibility of semantic loss.
- URI availability and stability; not widely scalable for every potential category
- How are/wil dicent signs be machine processed in larger linked data ecosystem?
- Possible futures of LD may prove oblique in aims to synoptic discovery

Conclusion: RDF provides the structural foundation for synopticism to be scalably incorporated into resource records with an eventual serialization as LD. However, the limited availability of identifiers for all possible categories, as well as the still developing nature of LD, makes the outcomes of such an endeavor largely unpredictable. Further research into the methods and outputs of synoptic processing is required to determine the feasibility of this discovery model.

Gould, Elizabeth, and John Gould. *Dacelo Cervino*. N.d. Kenneth Spencer Research Library, Lawrence, KS. *Birds of Australia, and the Adjacent Islands.* 1st ed. Vol. 2. London: R & J.E. Taylor., 1838.

Peirce, C.S. (1906), "Prolegomena To an Apology For Pragmaticism", pp. 492-546, *The Monist*, vol. XVI, no. 4 (mislabeled "VI"), Oct. 1906.

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