Finding Explanations Online
Easy Queries and Trustworthy Answers

Michael Buckland,
Ray R. Larson & Ryan Shaw
School of Information
University of California, Berkeley

In a paper environment, a library is a good place to read and to write because explanations are available.

Reader (or Writer)

Text
with interesting details.
Who was she?
Where is that?
What is this?
What else was happening?

Resources
Encyclopedias
Atlases & gazetteers
Biographical dictionaries
Dictionaries
Library catalogs
Statistical series

People, places, and events are proper names typically in need of explanation and orientation in space and time.

Several people assisted the work reported. We are grateful for the support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through award LG-06-06-0037-06 “Bringing Lives to Light: Biography in Context” and from the Advancing Knowledge grant PK-50027-07 “Context and Relationships: Ireland and Irish Studies,” jointly funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information:

Bringing Lives to Light: Biography in Context
http://ecai.org/imls2006/

Context and Relationships: Ireland and Irish Studies
http://ecai.org/imls2006/

Selected prototypes and demos
http://metadata.berkeley.edu/demos/