HOW TO DESCRIBE IT? — QVAIN
A METADATA TOOL FOR RESEARCH DATA

1. TAKE A DATA MODEL

Our data model is available online:
- bit.ly/fairmodel
- Based on DCAT application profile for data portals in Europe, bit.ly/dcatpro
- Converts to DataCite Metadata Schema, bit.ly/dcschema.
- Published in a shared platform for public administration: bit.ly/dcatpro

Qvain reads the data model as a JSON Schema. Qvain re-orders and re-groups the fields, adds help texts, performs real time validation, etc. It can employ different entry methods for different kinds of metadata. There is an administrative view where changes are easy to make.

Users log in. Qvain supports Open ID but through Fairdata.fi we can provide many authentication methods through one proxy.

Users can delegate the editing rights so that collaboration is possible.

Suitable widgets, and controlled vocabularies from external sources should make work easier. For example, Qvain links to Pinto.fi ontology service.

Qvain publishes the finished record by moving it to an external repository in Fairdata.fi. Records can also be fetched there for re-editing.

Qvain does not manage files. Users may refer to them with URIs. In Fairdata.fi context, the users can see in Qvain their files that are stored in the storage service, refer to them, and also edit their technical metadata.

Qvain is a web application using the Vue JavaScript framework. The back-end is written in Go. The source code is available:

https://github.com/NatLibFi

2. MAKE IT HUMANE

3. DESCRIBE A DATASET

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FAIRDATA.FI — THE BIG PICTURE

Qvain can be used as standalone software but it has been integrated as a component in Fairdata.fi Services. They are based on open source software.

The components of the services are:
- Storage service IDA
- Metadata tool QVAIN
- Research data search portal Etsin that also manages reuse applications

In addition, there is:
- A shared metadata repository that links the components together
- A common authentication and identity management solution
- An administrative tool

Fairdata.fi Services will be available in 2018 in Finnish universities and research institutes. They are funded by the Ministry of Education. They are being developed by CSC – IT Centre for Science Ltd. (csc.fi), and the National Library of Finland (nationallibrary.fi).