

## **A BLOCKCHAIN IS:**

- A continually growing list of records (blocks) that are securely linked.
- A tool for sharing information privately and securely.
- A distributed ledger system.
- Permanent and publicly verifiable.
- A way to publicly validate transactions between parties.
- Secure, tamper-resistant.
- Every record is immutable.
- Distributed, no one point of failure.
- Verifiable.
- Provenance.



# WHAT THE HECK IS BLOCKCHAIN AND WHY SHOULD LIBRARIANS CARE? MATT MATKOWSKI

Blockchain has been a buzzword for a few years now. It is the technology behind cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, and involves a lot of math and coding. Blockchain technology has other uses that may outlive cryptocurrencies, and some of these may come to libraries.

This poster will attempt to explain - very briefly - what blockchain is using plain language. Please see the references for in-depth technical information. It will also show use cases for the technology in public, academic, and special libraries.

A lot of this is still very much forward-thinking, something to fold into planning for future library services. The intent here is to give an idea of what is possible with the technology.





• Be your city's blockchain services provider (smart contracts, verification).

# ACADEMIC & SPECIAL LIBRARIES

- Authenticate primary sources.
- Track provenance over time.
- Track copyright.
- Track chain of custody.
- More transparent scholarly
  - publishing.
- Use smart contracts to:
  - Automatically grant access to electronic reosurces.
  - Create and manage copyright licensing for paricular journals, publishers, etc.
  - Execute micropayments for royalties.
- Modernize peer-review process. • Identify most recent version of a law
  - or other document.
- Special items/artifacts can be tracked in case of theft, loss, or damage.



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