It seems to me that CDIF and Signposting are fully aligned with regard to:

\* Problem statement: The problem regarding discovering constituent resources of a research object from its landing page as described in the report I quoted on twitter (https://twitter.com/hvdsomp/status/1673944458339991552?s=20) is literally the same as Signposting’s problem statement as can be seen from the website’s home page (https://signposting.org/) and the FAIR Signposting Profile implementation guideline (https://signposting.org/FAIR/).

\* Low-barrier technology: You mention that your aim is “to rely primarily on the most-common techniques which will be easy for implementers who are familiar with standard web technologies”. That is precisely what Signposting is about. By design, it uses utterly basic ingredients to arrive at a viable solution. Those ingredients are web links as defined in RFC8288 (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc8288) with specific link relation types selected from the IANA Link Relation Registry (https://www.iana.org/assignments/link-relations/). It does not get more basic than that. Web links are very commonly used in REST/HATEOS APIs. Developers love web links and I have explicitly heard that developers in the research communication community love Signposting (ask e.g. Robert Huber from Pangaea). I fail to understand which part of Signposting you consider not meeting your criteria of using “most-common techniques ; standard web technologies”.

Web links and the associated IANA link relation types originate in the IETF strand of web standardization, which has remained far away from anything RDF and Linked Data (the latter are in the W3C strand of standardization). As a matter of fact, it is precisely because we had tackled the same problem previously (2008) using a Linked Data technology stack (see OAI-ORE Primer at https://www.openarchives.org/ore/1.0/primer) and had found that the choice for Linked Data had limited adoption that we decided to embark on Signposting using the most basic possible technology stack. To put it in your own words, by 2015, we had found that “Although very popular in academic circles, RDF is not as mainstream as we often assume”.

\* Complementary with the JSON-LD/schema.org approach:

- The JSON-LD/schema.org is “descriptive”: It provides metadata about a research object that can be leveraged by discovery systems, citation managers, …

- Signposting is “navigational”: it provides a web bot that roams the web with the ability to detect that it has landed on a research object and where that research object’s constituent resources can be found. It can then decide to travel onwards to the resource it is interested in by following the appropriate typed link.

Regarding other pointers:

\* The FAIR Signposting Profile for implementation details, see https://signposting.org/FAIR/

\* The rather recent presentation that looks at Signposting from the perspective of FAIR Digital Objects makes a lot of the above points and is probably a really good entry point for those that are active in the realm of EU projects, RDA, etc. Slides 17-18-19 reiterate the explicit design choice not to use RDF in order to lower the barrier for adoption. https://zenodo.org/record/7977333

\* As background information, I highly recommend reading this 2015 paper, which, based on standardization efforts I have been involved in, compares technology stacks used to achieve interoperability and states - among others - that “The Linked Data approach comes with a non-trivial barrier to entry related to the use of technologies that, even today, remain unfamiliar to many players in the scholarly communication environment”. The paper promotes Signposting as a low-barrier alternative. Note that Section 6 shows Signposting details that reflect early ideas that are no longer accurate. The precise approach (which relation types to use, where to provide the links, etc.) has evolved significantly since 2015 as a result of broad community input; the FAIR Signposting Profile is meanwhile stable. Paper at https://www.dlib.org/dlib/november15/vandesompel/11vandesompel.html

\* It might be of interest to note that Signposting adoption is growing steadily. Recently, both Dataverse and DSpace have added full support, see https://signposting.org/adopters/. I assume adoption will further grow, among others, as a result of supporting activities in the FAIR-IMPACT project, see https://fair-impact.eu/support-offer-2-enabling-fair-signposting-and-ro-crate-contentmetadata-discovery-and-consumption

Thanks for your kind offer to involve me in activities of WorldFAIR that relate to the above matters. I will be very happy to provide further input.