

Report from the W3C Semantic Web Best Practices and Deployment Web Best Practices Working Group

Thomas Baker, Göttingen State and University Library Vienna Meeting: W3C and Semantic Web Vienna, 20 June 2005

http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/Best Practices

- Begun 2004 "to provide hands-on support for developers of Semantic Web apps"
 - Working Group Notes (and drafts)
 - Applications and Demos Weblog
 - Semantic Web Tutorials
- Manages "SKOS Core" a vocabulary for describing simple knowledge structures

Task forces

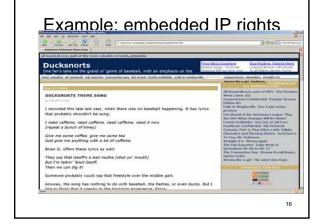
- RDF-in-HTML
- · Applications and demos
- · Ontology-engineering patterns
- Porting thesauri
- · XML schema datatypes
- RDF/Topic Maps interoperability
- · Vocabulary management
- WordNet
- · Software engineering
- · Link with Ontology Definition Metamodel activity

This talk

- RDF-in-HTML
- Applications and demos
- · Ontology-engineering patterns
- · Porting thesauri
- XML schema datatypes
- RDF/Topic Maps interoperability
- · Vocabulary management
- WordNet
- Software engineering
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RDF-in-HTML Task Force

- http://www.cs.vu.nl/~guus/public/carroll-rdf-html.pdf
- Problem: embedding self-descriptions in Web documents
 - Who wrote the document, its title, etc
 - License restrictions (Creative Commons)
- · Existing solutions are problematic
 - <meta> tags since HTML4 (1999)
 - Links to external RDF files
 - RDF (redundantly) in <HEAD> or comments



RDF/XML in comment

- <!--</p>
- <rdf:RDF xmlns="http://web.resource.org/cc/"
xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"
br />

- xmlns:rd="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#">

 xmlns:rd="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#">

 xmlns:rd="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#">

 xd:rdl=2dfiend

 xd:rdl=2dfiend<

-

 <a
- requires rd:resource="http://web.resource.org/cc/Notice" />

 <requires rd:resource="http://web.resource.org/cc/Notice" />

 <requires rd:resource="http://web.resource.org/cc/Attribution" />

RDF-in-HTML solutions under development

- GRDDL
 - Using stylesheets to generate RDF descriptions from XHTML markup
- New W3C specification for XHTML 2.0
 - Aims at compatibility with RDF
 - http://www.w3.org/TR/2005/WD-xhtml2-20050527/
 - Methods for layering RDF on XML/XHTML documents

Semantic Web assumptions

- Good descriptions and annotations (metadata) improve the reusability of information
 - Precise and meaningful statements about conceptual aspects of their content
 - Overcome limitations of content-based search engines
- · Implies shared vocabularies of concepts
- Need to express 'vocabularies' of concepts machine-understandably
- Need to share a model (grammar) for statements using those vocabularies

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RDF is the foundation

- Great for simple statements about Web resources and things in the world
- The very simplicity of the base RDF vocabulary limits its expressivity
- RDF Vocabularies layered on top of RDF provide expressivity

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OWL – powerful ontology engineering

- Can define complex conceptual structures
- · Class-oriented, logically precise modeling
 - Demanding in terms of expertise, effort, cost
- SW Best Practices Ontology Engineering and Patterns Task Force
 - "Representing Classes as Property Values"
 - http://www.w3.org/TR/swbp-classes-as-values/
 - Options for using "classes" (e.g., subject headings) when describing resources using RDF Schema or OWL Full as opposed to OWL DL or OWL Lite

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SKOS Core – "Semantic Web Lite"

- Simple Knowledge Organisation System
 - An RDF-based model for simple knowledge structures such as thesauri
 - Porting ("Webifying") thesauri: representing and sharing classifications, glossaries, thesauri developed in the Print World
 - Examples of existing knowledge structures:
 - In the Print World: Dewey Decimal Classification, Art and Architecture Thesaurus
 - In the Web World: DMOZ categories

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SKOS Origins and Maintenance

- Product of SWAD-Europe
 - Project of EU IST Fifth Framework Program
- Community ("Open Source") Development
 - Participation of thesaurus standards developers
 - Mailing list public-esw-thes@w3.org
 - Wiki http://esw.w3.org/topic/SkosDev
- Maintained by SW Best Practices WG
 - Public Working Drafts (10 May 2005)
 - SKOS Core Guide
 - SKOS Core Vocabulary Specification
 - Quick Guide to Publishing a Thesaurus on the SW

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Example: Entries in a Glossary -

From RDF Semantics Glossary:

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Illustrates description of "concepts" with "labels" and "definitions"

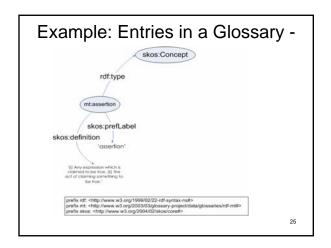
"Assertion"

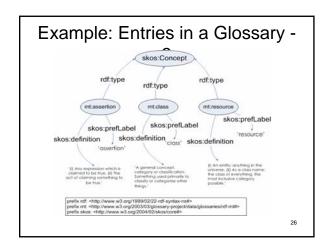
Definition: "(i) Any expression which is claimed to be true. (ii) The act of claiming something to be true."

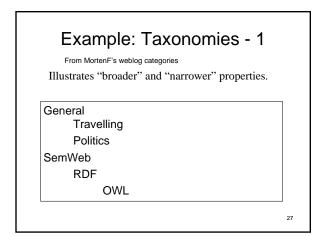
"Class

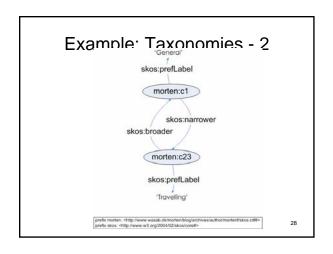
Definition: "A general concept, category or classification. Something used primarily to classify or categorize other things." ource"

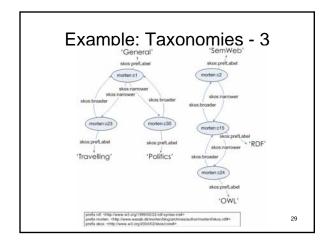
Definition: "(i) An entity; anything in the universe. (ii) As a class name: the class of everything; the most inclusive category possible."



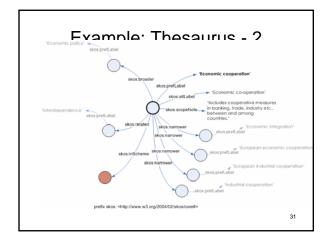








From UK Aferwal Thesaurus - 1 Term: Economic cooperation Used For: Economic co-operation Broader terms: Economic policy Narrower terms: Economic integration, European economic cooperation, European industrial cooperation, Industrial cooperation Related terms: Interdependence Scope Note: Includes cooperative measures in banking, trade, industry etc., between and among countries.

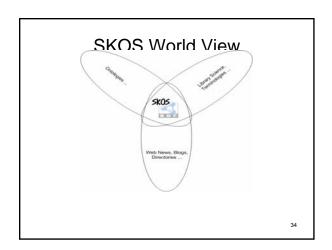


SKOS Core Overview

- - Concept, ConceptScheme, inScheme, hasTopConcept
- Labelling
 - prefLabel, altLabel, hiddenLabel, prefSymbol, altSymbol ... (audio labels?)
- Documentation
 - definition, scopeNote, changeNote, historyNote, editorialNote, publicNote, privateNote
- Semantic relations
- broader, narrower, related
- Subject indexing
 - subject, isSubjectOf, primarySubject, isPrimarySubjectOf
- Grouping
 - Collection, OrderedCollection, CollectableProperty, member, memberList

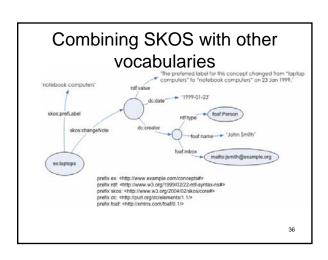
Complementarity of OWL and **SKOS**

- · OWL precision not always necessary or appropriate
 - OWL a sledge hammer / SKOS a nutcracker
 - OWL a Harley / SKOS a mountain bike
 - Complement each other, can be used in combination to optimize cost/benefit
- SKOS
 - Bridging the worlds of library classification and Web technology
 - Simple enough to be undemanding in terms of cost and required expertise



Extensibility of SKOS

- Not "take it or leave it", but "take what you want, create what you need"
- Extension "by refinement"
 - Define sub-properties or sub-classes of SKOS Core properties or classes
 - Extensions are backwards-compatible via **RDFS** inference
- · Extension "by combination"



Core and extension vocabularies

- · Core-like RDF vocabularies
 - SKOS Core: about knowledge systems
 - Dublin Core: about information resources
 - FOAF: about people and organizations
 - Shared underlying (RDF) model
 - Shared mechanisms for extensibility
- · Extension-like vocabularies
 - Web as context for community creation of vocabularies

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Vocabulary Management Task Force

- Lessons from FOAF, DC, SKOS for other vocabulary communities
- · How to declare an RDF vocabulary
 - Identify your terms with URI references
 - Articulate your maintenance policies and expectations for stability and persistence
 - Identify historical versions
 - Document your terms on Web pages
 - Share an RDF schema of your terms for processing by machines

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Diverse vocabularies in a common model: Dublin Core at 10 years

Thomas Baker
DC-2005: Vocabularies in Practice
Madrid, 12 September 2005

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1994: The Need

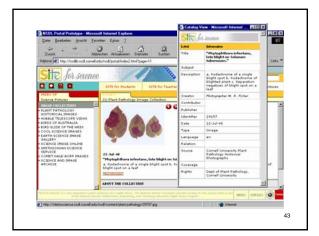
- Web had arrived: WWW conference, Chicago
- Clear: librarians would not "scale" to what was coming...
- "We need a **simple template** for describing Web pages"
- Librarians and IT people met in Dublin, Ohio...

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1995: "The Dublin Core"

- Title, Date, Creator, Subject...
- Simple enough for non-experts to understand
- Seen as "library catalog card" for Web objects





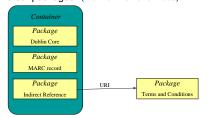
1996: Modular metadata

- Not: "One size fits all".
- Rather: many ways to describe one object:
 - MARC: complete, for library items
 - DC: simple, for helping people find things
 - Terms and conditions: who allowed to use it?
- Recognized need: General framework for different types of metadata

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1996: Putting DC in a context

• Diverse "packages" (Warwick Framework idea)



Work starts on general framework for metadata: Resource Description Framework (RDF), Semantic Web

1997: Simple, but also precise

- Not just any Date, but Date Created
- Not just any Subject, but Library of Congress heading
- Dumb-down: ignore extra details to see just a "core" description

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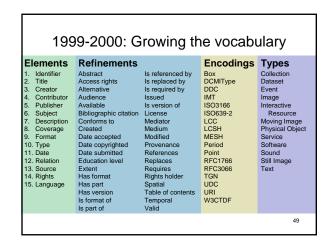
1998: DC elements in Web space

- http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title: identifiers rooted in Web infrastructure
- New assumptions
 - -How can machines and software process this automatically?
- Work on the underlying data model...

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1999-2000: Application profiles

- Customized implementations
 - DC alone is too small more terms
 - More precision for specialized purposes
 - Local rules and guidelines
- Application profile provides documentation so that others can follow
- Not "take it or leave it", but "take what you want, create what you need"



2001: Usage Board

- · Editorial reviewers to grow vocabulary
- Balance bottom-up with top-down
- New terms from working groups and projects approved as DCMI terms

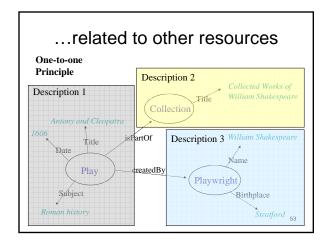
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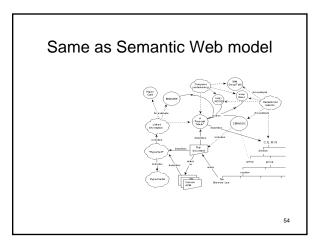
2003-2005: Abstract Model

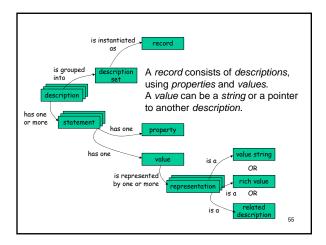
- Formal modeling basis for Dublin Core metadata
- Like a "grammar" for Dublin Core
- Strong link with parallel development of Resource Description Framework

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Basic model Resource with properties The Play has the title "Antony and Cleopatra", was written In 1606 by William Shakespeare, and is about "Roman history". Antony and Cleopatra 1606 Title Play Created By William Shakespeare Roman history 52







A basis for comparing syntax options property URI value string Alink rele*schemo.DC/kmef="http://pul.org/dc/elements/1.1/" *meta rame="DC.trlet" xmillarg="en" content=" A test document" /> *meta rame="DC.trpet" content=" Fara/P Provell=" /> *meta rame="DC.trpet" content=" Fara/P Provell=" /> *meta rame="DC.trpet" content="Fara/P Provell=" /> *meta rame="DC.trpet" content="fara/P Provell=" /> *meta rame="DC.dentifet" content=" http://cxample.org/ess*/ /> *meta rame="DC.dentifet" content=" http://cxample.org/ess*/ /> *link rel="DC.relation" herf="http://example.org/another-test/" /> *link rel="DC.relation" herf="http://example.org/another-test/" /> *link rel="DC.relation" herf="http://example.org/another-test/" /> *link rel="bC.relation" herf="http://example.org/another-test/" /> *link rel="schemo.DC.kmef="http://example.org/another-test/" /> *link rel="schemo.DC.kmef="http://example.org/another-tes

One model, many ways to implement

- · Choose what's best for you
 - HTML, XML, XHTML, Databases...: appropriate for different contexts
- Interoperability depends on shared model
 - Evolving guidelines for Dublin Core in HTML, XML, XHTML…

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DCMI Model today

- Core semantics
 - The Dublin Core and related vocabularies
- Data model
 - Abstract Model a DCMI Recommendation since March 2005
- Application Profiles
 - Use core semantics
 - Based on the Abstract Model
 - Customize for specific purposes

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Three legs of Interoperability

- Shared semantics
 - Everyone understands a Core
- Shared model (independent of syntax)
 - DCMI Abstract Model
- Content-level agreement
 - Same way to write a date ("2005-09-12"), a name ("Baker, Thomas")...

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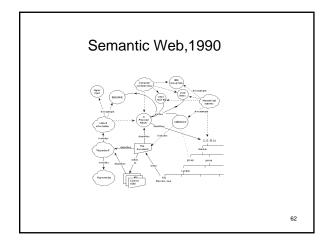
Like a language

- Small vocabulary (like a pidgin)
 - Without shared words, no understanding
- · Basic grammar
 - Without Subject Verb Object, no sentences
- Jargons and styles
 - Emerging agreement within communities

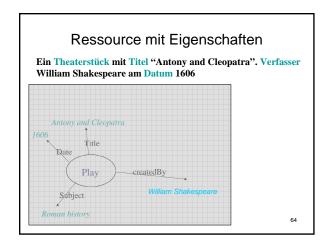
DCMI Today

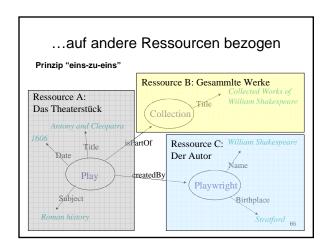
- Core elements for describing information
 - Find, share, manage information
- Formal framework for interoperability
 - The "grammar" of metadata language
- Support for communities
 - Community usage in application profiles
 - Documentation for usage in different areas
 - Platforms for people to come together to share experiences.

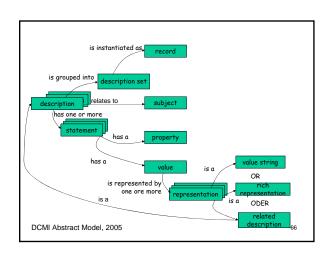
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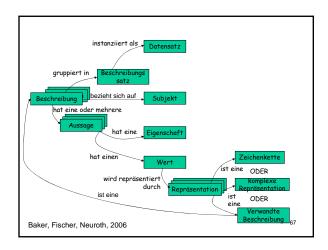


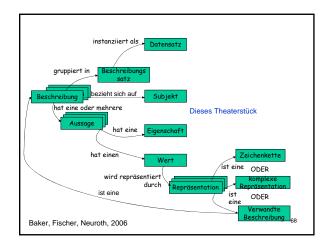
Grammatik für Metadatenaussagen, 1998 Ressource Eigenschaft Ressource http://dublincore.org/workshops/dc6/pp/miller-datamodel.ppt, 1998

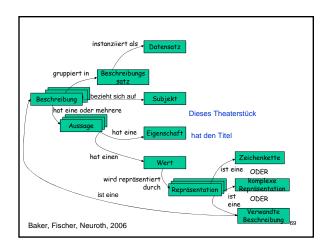


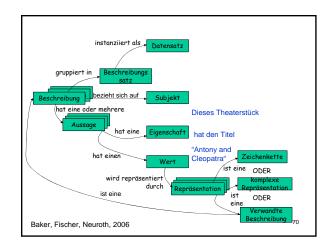


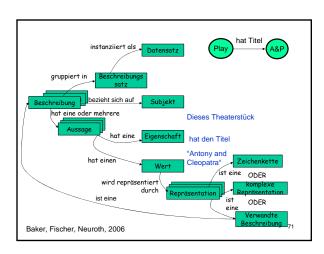


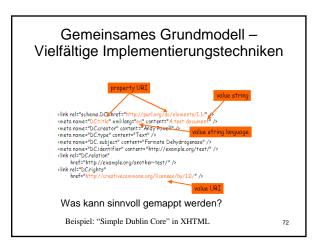




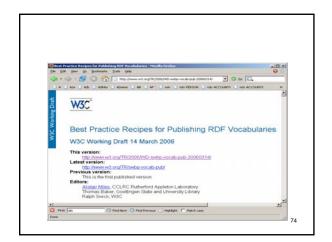












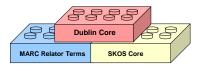
Praxis-Richtlinien für Metadatenvokabulare

- Maschinenenverarbeitbare RDF-Vokabulare
 - Dublin Core, SKOS Core, FOAF, MARC Relators...
- Parallel als Webseiten (für Menschen) und RDF (für die Maschinen)
 - "Kochbuch" mit "Rezepten" zur Konfiguration eines Apache-Servers
- Auf allgemeingültige Prinzipien harmonisieren
 - URI-Vergabe
 - Versionierung...

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Baukastenprinzip

- Modularität, Flexibilität, Wiederverwendbarkeit, Interoperabilität der Metadaten
- · Modellbasierte Rekombinierbarkeit



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Mit DCMI ist es uns gelungen:

- Eine Wissensgemeinschaft zu mobilisieren
- Eine bekannte Marke zu etablieren
- Ein Gremium für die Weiterentwicklung eines ISO-Standards zu etablieren
- Eine internationale Konferenzserie aufzubauen
- Eine internationale Organisation zu entwickeln:
 - Stakeholder sind im Aufsichtsrat vertreten
 - DCMI-Affiliates bilden Kompetenz auf regionaler Ebene
- Bibliotheken, Regierungen, Behörden, Firmen zu interessieren

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