

## Lecture 3 - Querying RDFS with SPARQL

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# Knowledge Graphs

## Lecture 3: Querying RDF(S) with SPARQL

### 3.1 How to Query RDF(S)

Excursion 2: DBpedia Knowledge Graph

Excursion 3: Wikidata Knowledge Graph

### 3.2 Complex Queries with SPARQL

### 3.3 More Complex SPARQL Queries

### 3.4 SPARQL Subqueries and Property Paths

### 3.5 RDF Databases

### 3.6 SPARQL is more than a Query Language

# The Semantic Web Technology Stack (not a piece of cake...)

Most apps use only a subset of the stack

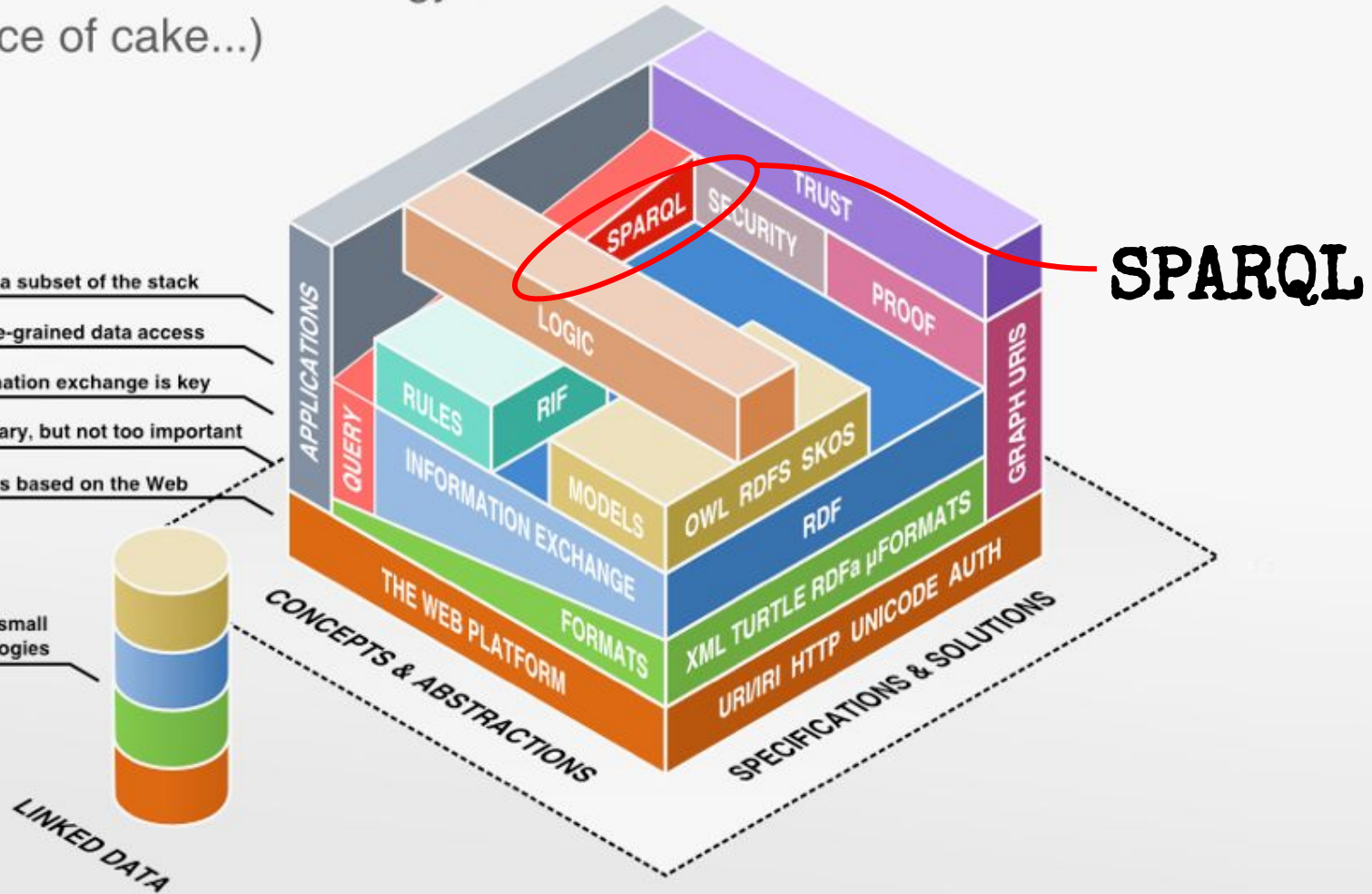
Querying allows fine-grained data access

Standardized information exchange is key

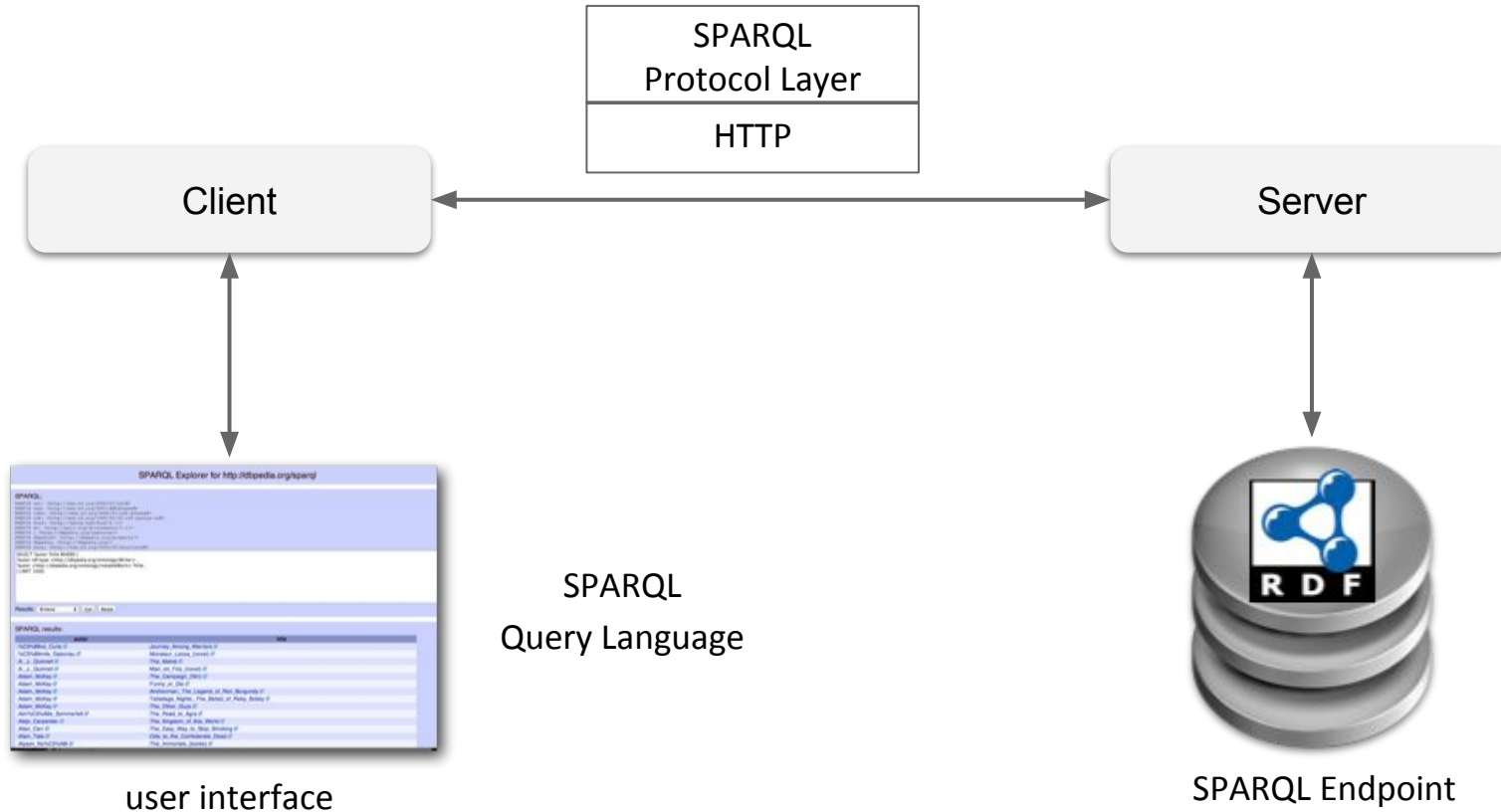
Formats are necessary, but not too important

The Semantic Web is based on the Web

Linked Data uses a small  
selection of technologies



# SPARQL - A Query Language for RDF(S)



# SPARQL - A Query Language for RDF(S)

- **SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language** is
  - a **Query Language** for RDF graph traversal  
(*SPARQL Query Language Specification*)
  - a **Protocol Layer**, to use SPARQL via http  
(*SPARQL Protocol for RDF Specification*)
  - an **XML Output Format Specification** for SPARQL queries  
(*SPARQL Query XML Results Format*)
  - W3C Standard (SPARQL 1.1, Mar 2013)
  - inspired by SQL



### 3. Querying RDF(S) with SPARQL / 3.1 How to Query RDF(S)

# SPARQL - Endpoint Example

← → ↺ dbpedia.org/sparql 🔍 ☆ 👤 📺 ⋮

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## Virtuoso SPARQL Query Editor

[About](#) | [Namespace Prefixes](#) | [Inference rules](#) | [SPARQL](#)

Default Data Set Name (Graph IRI)

Query Text

```
select distinct ?Concept where {[ ] a ?Concept} LIMIT 100
```

(Security restrictions of this server do not allow you to retrieve remote RDF data, see [details](#).)

Results Format:

Execution timeout:  milliseconds (values less than 1000 are ignored)

Options: ☒ Strict checking of void variables ☐ Log debug info at the end of output (has no effect on some queries and output formats)

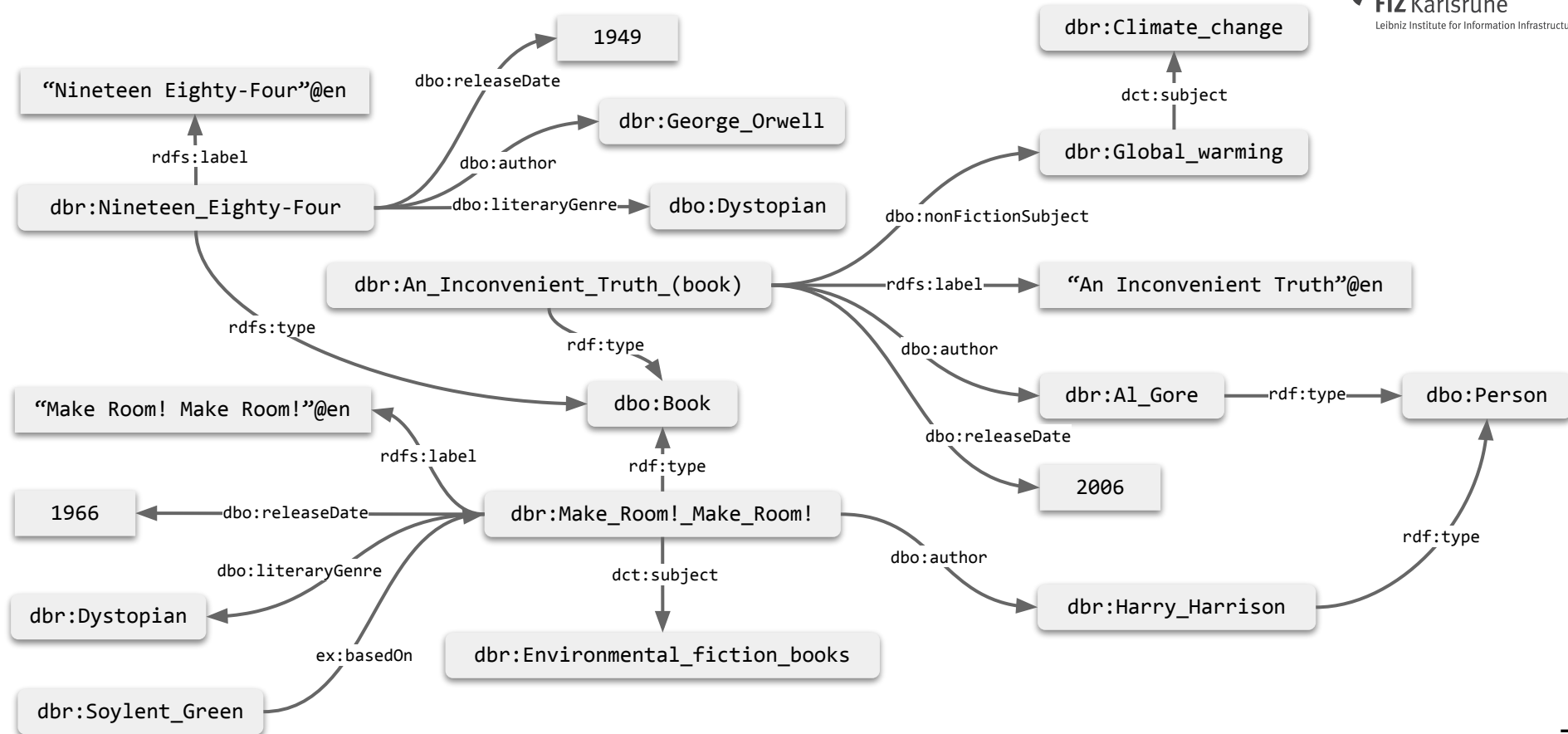
(The result can only be sent back to browser, not saved on the server, see [details](#))

Copyright © 2017 [OpenLink Software](#)  
 Virtuoso version 07.20.3218 on Linux (i686-generic-linux-glibc212-64), Single Server Edition

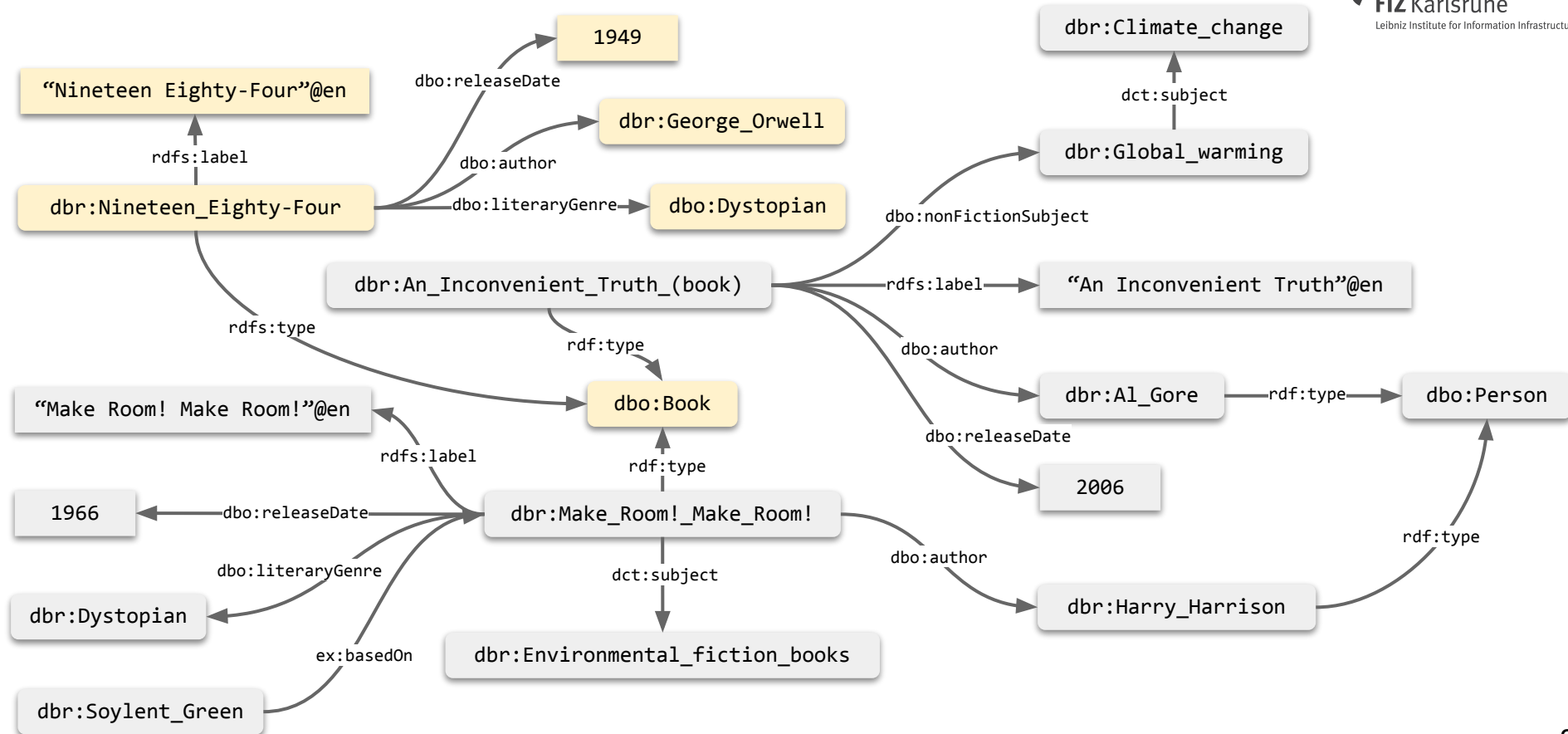


<http://dbpedia.org/sparql>

# Querying an RDF-based Knowledge Graph

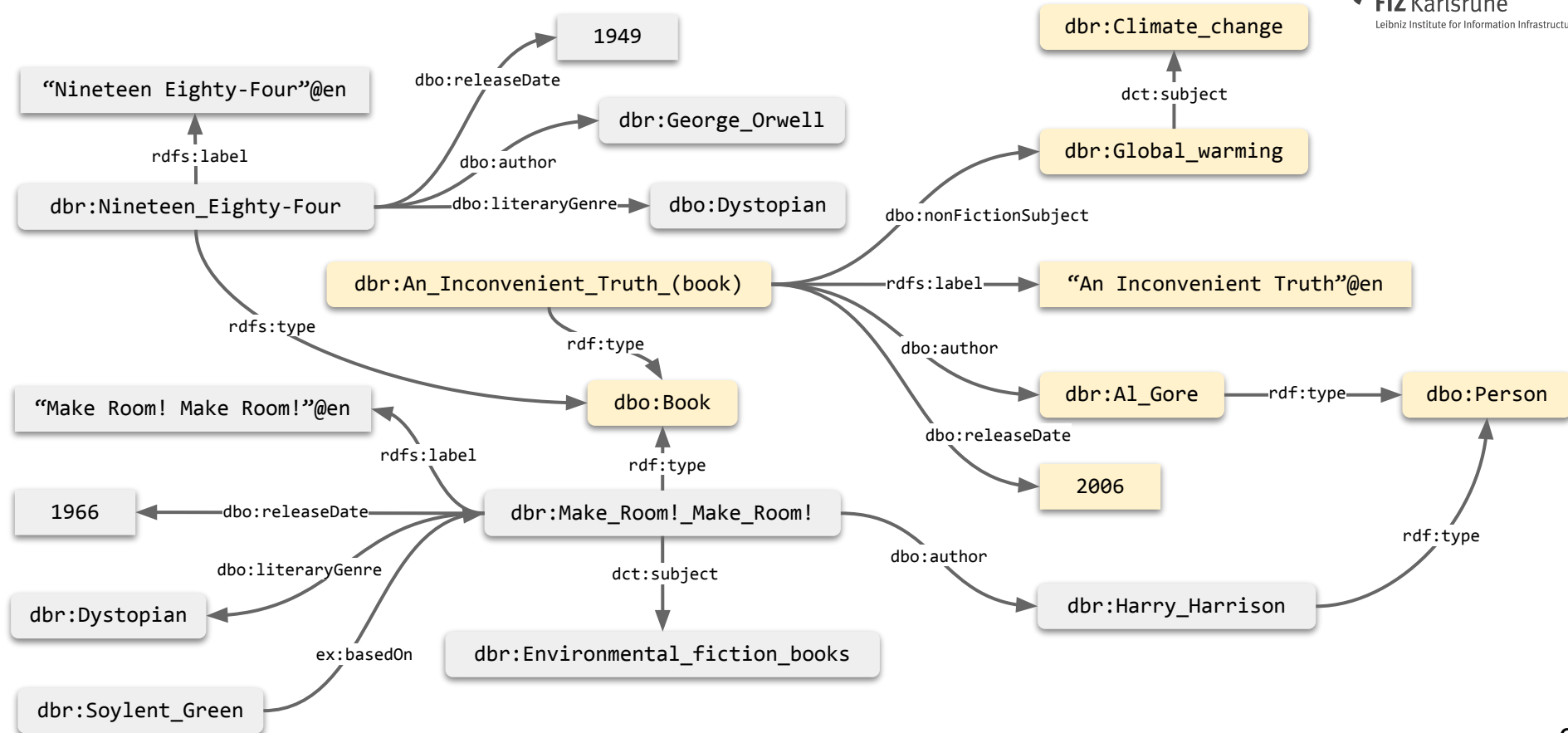


# Querying an RDF-based Knowledge Graph



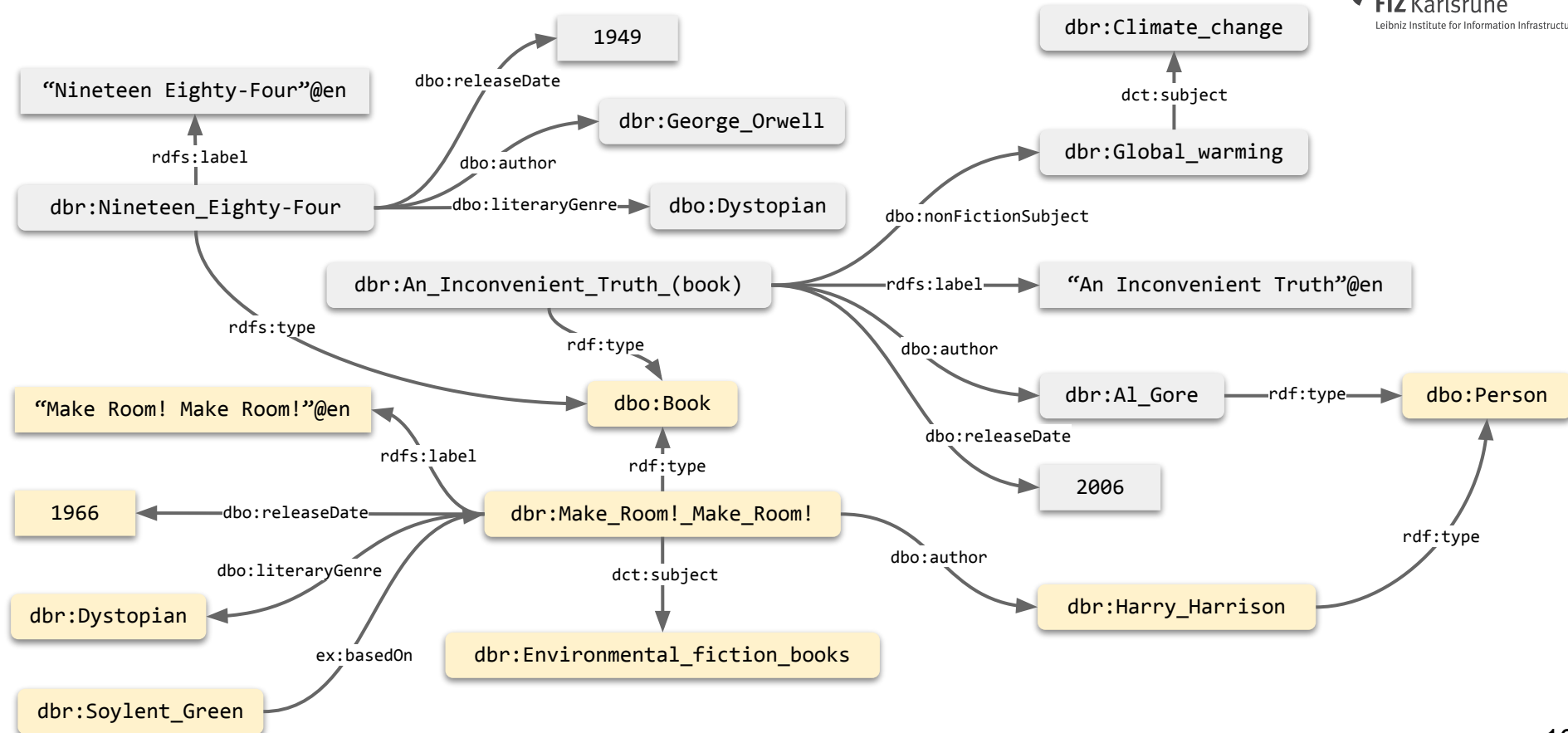


# Querying an RDF-based Knowledge Graph



### 3. Querying RDF(S) with SPARQL / 3.1 How to Query RDF(S)

## Querying an RDF-based Knowledge Graph



# For Queries we need Variables

- SPARQL **variables** are bound to RDF terms
  - e.g. **?title, ?author, ?date**
- In the same way as in SQL,  
a **Query for variables** is performed via **SELECT statement**
  - e.g. **SELECT ?title ?author ?date**
- A SELECT statement returns query results as a **table**

SPARQL Query

SPARQL Result

?title	?author	?date
Nineteen Eighty-Four	George Orwell	1948
An Inconvenient Truth	Al Gore	2006
Make Room! Make Room!	Harry Harrison	1966

# SPARQL Graph Pattern Matching

- SPARQL is based on  
(1) **RDF Turtle serialization** and (2) **basic graph pattern matching**.
- A **Graph Pattern (Triple Pattern)** is a RDF Triple that contains variables at any arbitrary place (Subject, Property, Object).

**Graph Pattern (Triple Pattern) = Turtle + Variables**

- Example:

Look for *books* and their *authors* (via property *dbo:author*):

**?book** **dbo:author** **?author** .



variables



# SPARQL Graph Pattern Matching



# SPARQL Complex Pattern Matching

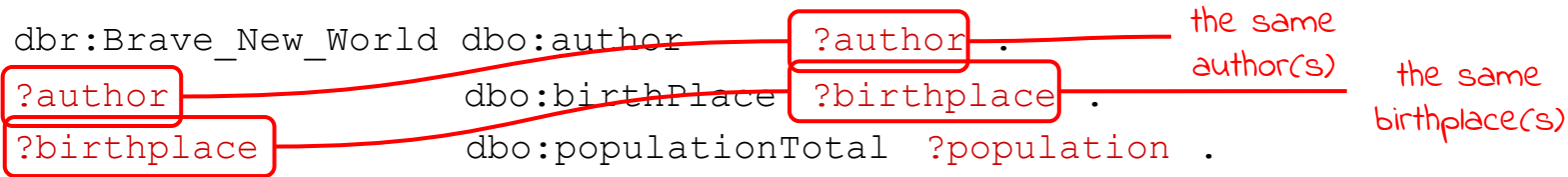
- SPARQL Graph Pattern can be combined to form **complex (conjunctive) queries** for RDF graph traversal.
- *Find books, their authors, and their literary genres:*

the same book(s)

```
?book dbo:author ?author .  
?book dbo:literaryGenre ?genre .
```

# SPARQL Complex Pattern Matching

- SPARQL Graph Pattern can be combined to form **complex (conjunctive) queries** for RDF graph traversal.
- *Given a book URI, find its author(s), the birthplace(s) of its author(s), including the number of population of the birthplace(s):*



# SPARQL Complex Pattern Matching

```
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
PREFIX dbo: <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
```

*specifies namespaces*

```
SELECT ?author_name ?title
```

*specifies output variables*

```
FROM <http://dbpedia.org/>
```

*specifies graph to be queried*

```
WHERE {
  ?author rdf:type dbo:Writer .
  ?author rdfs:label ?author_name .
  ?author dbo:notableWork ?work .
  ?work rdfs:label ?title .
}
```

*specifies graph pattern  
to be matched*

- Example:  
search for all  
**authors** and the  
**titles** of their  
**notable works**:



[query SPARQL endpoint](#)



# SPARQL Complex Pattern Matching

```
PREFIX :      <http://dbpedia.org/resource/>
PREFIX rdf:   <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX rdfs:  <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
PREFIX dbo:   <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>

SELECT ?author_name ?title

FROM <http://dbpedia.org/>

WHERE {
    ?author rdf:type dbo:Writer .
    ?author rdfs:label ?author_name .
    ?author dbo:notableWork ?work .
    ?work rdfs:label ?title .
}

ORDER BY ASC (?author_name)
LIMIT 100
OFFSET 10
```

*solution sequence  
modifiers*

- Example:  
search for all **authors**  
and the **titles** of their  
notable works: ordered  
by authors in ascending  
order and limit the  
results to the first 100  
results starting the list  
at offset 10 position:



[query SPARQL endpoint](#)

## SPARQL Filter Constraints

```
PREFIX : <http://dbpedia.org/resource/>
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
PREFIX dbo: <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>

SELECT ?author_name ?title ?pages
FROM <http://dbpedia.org/>
WHERE {
    ?author rdf:type dbo:Writer .
    ?author rdfs:label ?author_name .
    ?author dbo:notableWork ?work .
    ?work dbo:numberOfPages ?pages
    FILTER (?pages > 500) .
    ?work rdfs:label ?title .
} LIMIT 100
```

*specifies constraints  
for the result*

- Example:  
search for all  
authors and the  
titles of their notable  
works that have  
more than 500 pages  
and limit the results  
to the first 100

- **FILTER** expressions contain operators and functions

# SPARQL Unary Operator Constraints

Operator	Type(A)	Result Type
!A	xsd:boolean	xsd:boolean
+A	numeric	numeric
-A	numeric	numeric
BOUND (A)	variable	xsd:boolean
isURI (A)	RDF term	xsd:boolean
isBLANK (A)	RDF term	xsd:boolean
isLITERAL (A)	RDF Term	xsd:boolean
STR (A)	literal/URL	simple literal
LANG (A)	literal	simple literal
DATATYPE (A)	literal	URI

## SPARQL Filter Constraints

```
PREFIX : <http://dbpedia.org/resource/>
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
PREFIX dbo: <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
PREFIX dct: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/>
PREFIX dbc: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/Category:>

SELECT ?author_name ?title
FROM <http://dbpedia.org/>
WHERE {
    ?author rdf:type dbo:Writer .
    ?author rdfs:label ?author_name
    FILTER (LANG(?author_name)="en") .
    ?work dbo:author ?author .
    ?work rdfs:label ?title .
    FILTER (LANG(?title)="en")
    ?work dct:subject dbc:Environmental_fiction_books .
} LIMIT 100
```

- Example:  
Search for **authors**  
and their **books**, filter  
results for **English**  
**labels** and  
**Environmental fiction**  
**books** and limit the  
results to the **first**  
**100**







## Excursion 2: DBpedia Knowledge Graph

### Picture References:

- [1] Benjamin Nowack, *The Semantic Web - Not a Piece of cake...*, at [bnode.org](http://bnode.org/blog/2009/07/08/the-semantic-web-not-a-piece-of-cake), 2009-07-08 , [CC BY 3.0]  
<http://bnode.org/blog/2009/07/08/the-semantic-web-not-a-piece-of-cake>
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