



# Sidestepping the graph - Sinopia Linked Data Editor's approach for editing RDF

## Background

The Sinopia's public facing linked data editor, available at <https://sinopia.io/>, constructs forms for creating and editing RDF based on resource templates properties defined in the Library of Congress derived Profiles. The editor's use of a more modern Javascript [React](#) user interface library coupled with the [Redux](#) library for application-state management allows for the dynamic creation of valid RDF triples that are then saved through an API call to the Linked Data Platform [Trellis](#). This approach simplified the implementation of the editor by eliminating the need for complex SPARQL statements for querying and updating a RDF triplestore.

## Profiles and Resource Templates

Sinopia generates HTML forms for creating and editing linked data based on extending of the Library of Congress Profiles used in the [BIBFRAME Editor](#) and [Profile Editor](#) projects. Profiles, as implemented in the BIBFRAME Editor, are JSON files that contain one or more resource templates.

## Resource Templates

Each resource template includes an identifier, information on who created the resource template, when it was created, a description, a URI used to create a triple of the RDF type, and a list of property templates.

```
"resourceTemplates": [
  {
    "propertyTemplates": [
      {
        "mandatory": "false",
        "repeatable": "true",
        "type": "literal",
        "propertyURI": "http://id.loc.gov/ontologies/bflc/cataloger",
        "propertyLabel": "Your cataloger ID",
        "resourceTemplates": [],
        "valueConstraint": {
          "valueTemplateRefs": [],
          "useValuesFrom": [],
          "defaults": []
        }
      }
    ]
  }
]
```



## React

An open-source project sponsored by [Facebook](#), [React](#) is a Javascript module for building user interfaces. Early on, Sinopia adopted [React](#) as a way to dynamically generate the HTML elements for creating and editing linked data.

## Components

Most of the [React](#) components in Sinopia are pure functions that either generate HTML elements, css classes, and behavior or provide a collection-level container for other React components. For example the `InputValue` component, pictured below

## Barcode

The source code for this component is available at [https://github.com/LD4P/sinopia\\_editor/blob/master/src/components/](https://github.com/LD4P/sinopia_editor/blob/master/src/components/)

In this code snippet from that file, shows the `InputValue` component being defined as a `const` with an important data structure `props` that are properties of the component. The next two lines set two constants, `isLiteral` and `label` that are themselves one-line functions that return conditional values when called by the component. Similarly, the `const` `handleEditClick` wraps two function calls that change the language and remove an item.

```
const InputValue = (props) => {
  const isLiteral = typeof props.item.content !== 'undefined'
  const label = isLiteral ? props.item.content : props.item.uri

  const handleEditClick = () => {
    props.handleEdit(label, props.item.lang)
    props.removeItem(props.reduxPath)
  }
}
```

Next these functions are tied and rendered in HTML with the `return` statement below:

```
return (<div id="userInput">
  <div
    className="rbt-token rbt-token-removeable">
    {label}
    <button
      onClick={() => props.removeItem(props.reduxPath)}
      className="close rbt-close rbt-token-remove-button">
      <span aria-hidden="true">x</span>
    </button>
  </div>
  <button
```

```
    id="editItem"
    onClick={handleEditClick}
    className="btn btn-sm btn-literal btn-default">
    Edit
  </button>
  { isLiteral ? (<LanguageButton reduxPath={props.reduxPath}/>)
  </div>
}
```



## Redux

Thinking about the transformation of the Profiles with Resource Templates being transformed into a client-side editor but we still need a way associate any changes made by the cataloger in the Linked Data Editor made with the values in [React](#) components so that we can do such things as generation of RDF validations, and updating the backend Sinopia Server.

To capture the current data of the application's [React](#) components and to build ...

## State to RDF (and back again)

Quick `sinopia:hasTemplate` solution

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