

# COMP318

## Ontologies and Semantic Web

### RDF - Part 3



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# Recap

- Limitation of XML
- RDF
  - Basic ideas behind RDF
  - Statements about resources
    - triples
    - graphs
  - Reification and higher order statements

# RDF Serialisation formats

- RDF has been given a syntax in XML
  - This syntax inherits the benefits of XML
- Other serialisations of RDF possible:
  - Notation 3 (N3)
    - Syntax for RDF
    - Logical language for RDF
  - N-Quads
    - Superset of N-triples for serialising multiple RDF graphs
  - Turtle
    - Refinement of N3
    - Just RDF representation
  - JSON-LD
    - JSON based serialisation

# Why serialisation?

- RDF is not a data format, but a **data model** for describing resources in the forms of triples
- One of the use cases for RDF's design is to describe (**mark up**) the content of HTML web pages.
  - Either embedded in the HTML code
    - RDFa is a syntactic variant introduced to help with that use case, and embeds RDF within the attributes of HTML tags
  - or published in a separate file, typically in RDF/XML
    - conforming to the syntactic constraints deriving from the chosen syntax
    - and are processed:
      - in advance if dealing with static data set
      - on demand if dealing with dynamic data sets

# RDF/XML syntax

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<rdf:RDF xmlns:dbpedia-owl="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/"
  xmlns:dbpedia="http://dbpedia.org/resource/"
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:swp= "http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#" >
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#BaronWayApartment">
    <swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"> 3
  </swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms>
  </rdf:Description>
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#BaronWayFlat">
    <swp:isPartOf rdf:resource="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding"/>
  </rdf:Description>
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding">
    <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Amsterdam"/>
    <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Netherlands"/>
  </rdf:Description>
</rdf:RDF>
```

# RDF/XML syntax

- XML-based Syntax of RDF

- All RDF/XML should be enclosed in an element `rdf:RDF`
- Namespaces are used through `xmlns`: the namespace construct
- The `MIME` type for the document
  - indicates the Internet media type and indicates the format of files on the Internet
  - for RDF/XML documents is `application/rdf+xml`

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<rdf:RDF xmlns:dbpedia-owl="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/"
  xmlns:dbpedia="http://dbpedia.org/resource/"
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:swp="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#" >
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
    flats.ttl#BaronWayApartment">
    <swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/
      XMLSchema#integer"> 3
    </swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms>
  </rdf:Description>
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
    flats.ttl#BaronWayFlat">
    <swp:isPartOf rdf:resource="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
      flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding"/>
  </rdf:Description>
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
    flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding">
    <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Amsterdam"/>
    <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Netherlands"/>
  </rdf:Description>
</rdf:RDF>
```



# RDF/XML syntax

- XML-based Syntax of RDF

- Subjects are denoted within `rdf:Description` through `rdf:about`, that refers to the resource URI
- Predicate and objects related to the subject are enclosed in the `rdf:Description` element
- grouping by subject, in a similar way to Turtle

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<rdf:RDF xmlns:dbpedia-owl="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/"
  xmlns:dbpedia="http://dbpedia.org/resource/"
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:swp="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#" >
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
    flats.ttl#BaronWayApartment">
    <swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/
      XMLSchema#integer"> 3
    </swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms>
  </rdf:Description>
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
    flats.ttl#BaronWayFlat">
    <swp:isPartOf rdf:resource="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
      flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding"/>
  </rdf:Description>
  <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/
    flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding">
    <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Amsterdam"/>
    <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Netherlands"/>
  </rdf:Description>
</rdf:RDF>
```

# rdf:about vs rdf:ID

- The `rdf:Description` element makes a statement about a resource, identified in 3 ways:
  - `rdf:about` - this attribute references an existing resource, “defined” elsewhere
  - `rdf:ID` - this attribute is used to create a new resource
  - without a name, creating an anonymous resource
- Formally, there is no such thing as “defining” an object in one place and referring to it elsewhere
  - But, sometimes is useful (for human readability) to have a defining location, while other locations state “additional” properties



# Property Elements

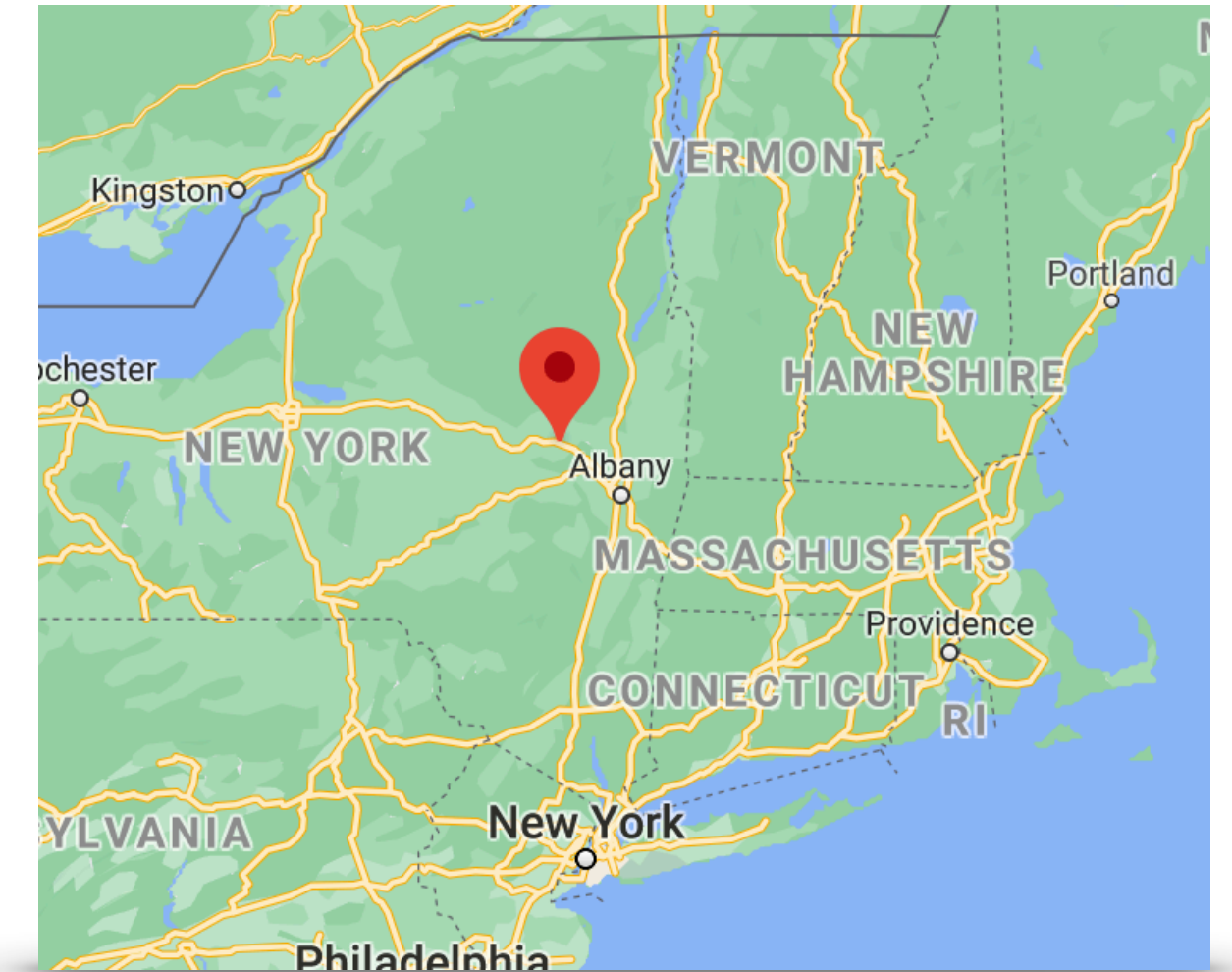
- The content of `rdf:Description`:

```
<rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding">  
  <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Amsterdam"/>  
  <dbpedia-owl:country rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Netherlands"/>  
</rdf:Description>
```

- `dbpedia-owl:location` and `dbpedia-owl:country` define two property-value pairs for the resource BaronWay Building
  - two RDF statements (triples) to be read conjunctively

# rdf:resource

- The relationship between the resource *Baron Way Building* and the resource *Amsterdam* exists through referencing a resource with the given name
  - But how do we know which Amsterdam we refer to?
    - Is it Amsterdam capital of the Netherlands?
    - Is it Amsterdam, NY, USA?



# rdf:ID

- A description with an `rdf:ID` defines a fragment URI
  - can reference the defined description
- The use of the same name can be a coincidence
  - possible if you do not assume that all data is asserted locally
  - Some resources are declared externally

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<rdf:RDF xmlns:swp = "http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#"
....>
<rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding">
  <dbpedia-owl:location rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Amsterdam"/>
  <dbpedia-owl:country rdf:resource="http://dbpedia.org/resource/Netherlands"/>
  <swp:tenant rdf:resource = flats.ttl#jeff>
</rdf:Description>
<rdf:Description rdf:ID="flats.ttl#jeff">
  <swp:rents rdf:resource = flats.ttl#BaronWayBuilding>
</rdf:Description>
```

# More on URIs

- **URI = Uniform Resource Identifier**

- allow for denoting resources in a general, unambiguous way

- **Resource: any object that possesses a clear identity (within the context of a given application)**

- books, cities, humans, publishers, but also relations between those, abstract concepts, etc.
- already realised in some domains:
  - ISBN for books

- URIs do not need to correspond to an actual location

- but it is good practice if they do
  - a picture, a FOAF description, a map...

- Builds on concept of URLs but...

- not every URI refers to a Web document
- however, often the URL of a document is used as its URI

- URI starts with so-called URI schema separated from the following part by ":"

- e.g, http, ftp, mailto
  - but starting with http does not necessarily mean http-accessible...
- mostly hierarchically organised



# Self-defined URIs?

- Necessary if no URI exists (yet) for a resource
  - or it is not known
- strategy for avoiding unwanted clashes:
  - use http URIs of web space you control
  - AND provide some documentation about the URI
- Need to distinguish the URI of a resource from URI of the associated documents describing it:
  - Example: URI for “Lord of the Ring”

**`http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/LordOfTheRing#URI`**

**`http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/LordOfTheRing`**

# Data types

- The attribute `rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"`

```
<rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.swpExample.org/ontology/flats.ttl#BaronWayApartment">  
  <swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms  
    rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"> 3  
  </swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms>  
</rdf:Description>
```

- `swp:hasNumberOfBedrooms` defines the number of bedrooms property and has `http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer` as its range
  - It is required to indicate the type of the property every time it is used, to ensure that an RDF processor can assign the correct type of value even when the schema is not known



# COMP318

## Ontologies and Semantic Web

### End of RDF - Part 3



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