

Named Entities: People, Places, Organisations ...

This lecture

- How to refer to things
- Common elements for names
- Organising the data

On referring

Text editors have long desired to distinguish so-called “named entities” from other aspects of the text.

Until the mid-19th century highlighting names was common practice.

Encoding these is good for building a corpus, dictionary, or network graph.

This requires human intellect, because referents can appear in several forms. E.g. *Moby-Dick*:

“Avast! gritted **Ahab** between **his** set teeth, and violently moving away, as if to avoid some passionate temptation.

“No, **sir**; not yet,” said **Stubb**, emboldened, “**I** will not tamely be called a dog, **sir**.”

“Then be called ten times a donkey, and a mule, and an ass, and begone, or **I**’ll clear the world of **thee**!”

As **he** said this, **Ahab** advanced upon **him** with such overbearing terrors in **his** aspect, that **Stubb** involuntarily retreated.

Reference Theory

A reference is a fundamental semiotic concept. Cf. John Searle: language and direct perception of objects.

John Locke, *Essay on Human Understanding*: “All that can fall within the compass of human understanding, being either, first, the nature of things, as they are in themselves, their relations, and their manner of operation: or, secondly, that which man himself ought to do, as a rational and voluntary agent, for the attainment of any end, especially happiness: or, thirdly, the ways and means whereby the knowledge of both the one and the other of these is attained and communicated; I think science may be divided properly into these three sorts.”

Documents don't contain people or places or organisations, they contain references to them. The reference is not the same entity as the referent (plurality of referents for a single entity).

One document may refer to a single entity many times. The document names them, hence 'named entities'.

TEI allows you to express the distinctions between the two by standardising an identifier for the name (by giving unique XML IDs to the entity and referring to these on the name instance). References can also be made to other sources, such as wikipedia articles or databases.

Common elements for names

<rs>: referring string, phrase referring to any named entity. The most flexible, but only used if not really a name. Typically for “he/her,” “that guy” &c.

<name> -- any lexical item recognized as a proper name, often classified with a **type** attribute

<persName>, **<placeName>**, **<orgName>**: More precise way of representing
<name type="person"> &c.

(Carlyle, *French Revolution*)

So it was, we say, in those conquests of
 <placeName>Flanders</placeName>,
 thirty years ago:
 but so it no longer is. Alas, much more lies sick than poor
 <persName>Louis</persName>: not the
 <rs>French King</rs> only, but the
 <name>French</name> Kingship; this too, after long rough
 tear and wear, is breaking down. The world
 is all so changed; so much that seemed vigorous has
 sunk decrepit, so much that was not is
 beginning to be!—Borne over the
 <name>Atlantic</name>, to
 the closing ear of
 <persName>Louis, King</persName> by the Grace of God, what sounds are these;
 muffled ominous, new in our centuries?
 <placeName>Boston Harbour</placeName> is black with
 unexpected Tea: behold a <name>Pennsylvanian</name> Congress gather; and ere long, on
 <placeName>Bunker Hill</placeName>,
 <name>DEMOCRACY</name> announcing, in rifle-volleys
 death-winged, under her Star Banner,
 to the tune of Yankee-doodle-doo, that
 <rs>she</rs> is born, and, whirlwind-like,
 will envelope the whole world!.

Common elements for names

- The **@ref** attribute is a standard pointer on name elements (@corresp also used, but don't worry about that).
- The `<persName>` has its own internal identifier and links to a Wikidata identifier.
- When the **@ref** includes a **#** in front of its value, that means it is an internal pointer.
- `<geogName>` can include constituent parts like the proper name and the feature.
- `<orgName>` describes a proper name for an organisation.
- Within place names, you can also be more specific, distinguishing between, say, regions and neighborhoods.

(Carlyle, *French Revolution*)

```
<placeName
  ref="https://www.geonames.org/8504924/county-of-flanders.html">
  <region>Flanders</region>
</placeName>

<persName
  ref="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q7738">
  Louis
</persName>

<rs ref="#Louis15">French King</rs>

<geogName><name>Boston</name>
<geogFeat>Harbour</geogFeat></geogName>

<orgName ref="myOrgs:PC123">
  Pennsylvanian Congress
</orgName>

<district>Bunker Hill</district>
```

Better yet.

A more careful encoding of Carlyle's passage would distinguish the component parts of the names.

```
<p>So it was, we say, in those conquests of <placeName
  ref="https://www.geonames.org/8504924/county-of-flanders.html"
  ><region>Flanders</region></placeName>, thirty years ago: but so it no longer is. Alas, much
  more lies sick than poor <persName xml:id="l15" ref="https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q7738"
  >Louis</persName>: not the <rs ref="#l15">French King</rs> only, but the French Kingship;
  this too, after long rough tear and wear, is breaking down. The world is all so changed; so much
  that seemed vigorous has sunk decrepit, so much that was not is beginning to be!—Borne over the
  <geogName>Atlantic</geogName>, to the closing ear of <persName ref="#l15">Louis,
  King</persName> by the Grace of God, what sounds are these; muffled ominous, new in our
  centuries? <geogName><name>Boston</name>
  <geogFeat>Harbour</geogFeat></geogName> is black with unexpected
  <objectName>Tea</objectName>: behold a <orgName>Pennsylvanian Congress</orgName> gather; and
  ere long, on <placeName><district>Bunker Hill</district></placeName>, DEMOCRACY announcing, in
  rifle-volleys death-winged, under her Star Banner, to the tune of Yankee-doodle-doo, that she is
  born, and, whirlwind-like, will envelope the whole world!</p>
```

Why encode these things?

- Standardise references to the same thing. E.g. “King Louis”, “Sun King”, “Louis XIV”, “tyrant”.
- Standardise the editor’s preferred description of an object or organisation.
- Always remember the importance of editorial judgment!
- Enable fine-grained searching of data-centric projects, e.g.
 - stable references to authority files and gazeteers
 - biographical dictionaries
 - geographical dictionaries
 - extracted indices

Named Entities

<person> corresponding with **<persName>**

<place> corresponding with **<placeName>** and **<geogName>**

<org> corresponding with **<orgName>** and **<relation>**, **<event>**

<object> corresponding with **<objectName>**

All other types of names are:

<name type="[whatever]"> text </name>

Organising Names: Prosopography

Besides simply tagging each name as we just did with Carlyle, you have three options for organising your biographical data.

1. Using a `@key` (or `@ref`). So, Louis XV would be
`<persName key="Louis XV (15 February 1710 – 10 May 1774)">Louis</persName>`
2. Put the `<person>` data in the `<teiHeader>`: either `<particDesc>`, nested within the `<profileDesc>`, or with `<listPerson>` elements, nested within `<sourceDesc>`.
3. Create a separate prosopography XML file using `<listPerson>` entries.

Organising Names: Prosopography in <teiHeader>

TEI	teiHeader	profileDesc	particDesc	listPerson	person
90		<profileDesc>			
91		<creation>			
92		<date>1839</date>			
93		</creation>			
94		<particDesc>			
95		<listPerson>			
96		<person xml:id="rwe">			
97		<persName>			
98		<forename type="first">Ralph</forename>			
99		<forename type="middle">Waldo</forename>			
100		<surname>Emerson</surname>			
101		</persName>			
102		<birth>1803–</birth>			
103		<death>1882.</death>			
104		</person>			
105					
106		<person xml:id="tc">			
107		<persName>			
108		<forename>Thomas</forename>			
109		<surname>Carlyle</surname>			
110		</persName>			
111		<birth>1795–</birth>			
112		<death>1881.</death>			
113		</person>			
114					

Organising Names: Prosopography in <teiHeader>

```
TEI  teiHeader  profileDesc  particDesc  listPerson  person
90  <profileDesc>
91    <creation>
92      <date>1839</date>
93    </creation>
94    <particDesc>
95      <listPerson>
96        <person xml:id="rwe">
97          <persName>
98            <forename type="first">Ralph</forename>
99            <forename type="middle">Waldo</forename>
100           <surname>Emerson</surname>
101          </persName>
102          <birth>1803&#8211;</birth>
103          <death>1882.</death>
104        </person>
105
106        <person xml:id="tc">
107          <persName>
108            <forename>Thomas</forename>
109            <surname>Carlyle</surname>
110          </persName>
111          <birth>1795&#8211;</birth>
112          <death>1881.</death>
113        </person>
114
```

Organising Names: Prosopography in <teiHeader>

TEI teiHeader profileDesc particDesc listPerson person

```
283
284 ▾ <person xml:id="eha">
285 ▾   <persName>
286     <forename type="first">Elizabeth</forename>
287     <forename type="middle">Haven</forename>
288     <surname>Appleton</surname>
289   </persName>
290   <birth>1815&#8211;</birth>
291   <death>1890</death>
292 ▾   <note>Elizabeth ("Lizzy") Appleton was a cousin of C. P. Cranch who hailed from
293     the Baltimore Appletons. She came to Cincinnati in 1832, as her father was
294     engaged in the manufacturing of white wax. See <bibl><title>In Memory of
295       Elizabeth Haven Appleton is Printed this Selection from Her
296       Lectures</title> (<pubPlace>Cincinnati</pubPlace>: <publisher>Robert
297       Clarke & Co.</publisher>, <date>1891</date></bibl>. Cranch is
298     mentioned on page 6.</note>
299   </person>
300
```

Organising Names: Prosopography in a separate file

```
<text>
  <body>
    <div1 type="list">
      <listPerson type="other">
        <person xml:id="HI">
          <persName type="display">Sir Henry Irving</persName>
          <persName type="full"><surname>Broadribb</surname>, <forename type="first"
            >John</forename>
            <forename type="middle">Henry</forename></persName>
          <birth when="1838">1838</birth>
          <death when="1905">1905</death>
          <sex/>
          <note><p>English stage actor Henry Irving was born John Henry Broadribb, the son
            of a traveling salesman in Somerset. His first professional appearance was
            as the Duke of Orleans in Bulwer-Lytton's <hi rend="italic">Richilieu</hi>
            in September 1856 at the New Royal Lyceum Theatre, Sunderland. In 1871 he
            joined the Lyceum Theatre in London under the management of Hezekiah
            Bateman, where he won acclaim for his performance in <hi rend="italic">The
              Bells</hi>, an adaptation of Erckmann-Chatrian's <hi rend="italic">Le
              Juif Polonais</hi>. He took over the management of the Lyceum Theatre
              from Batemen in 1878, the beginning of his long stage and personal
              partnership with Ellen Terry. In 1895 he became the first actor to receive a
              knighthood. During a provincial farewell tour in Bradford he was taken ill
              and died of a stroke hours later.</p></note>
          </person>
```

Linking personography data

Letter file

```
<text type="letter">
  <body>
    <pb facs="irving.jpg" xml:id="pb0001" n="1"/>
    <head type="metadata">
      <name ref="#HI">Henry Irving</name> to <addressee>
        <name ref="#SLC">Samuel L. Clemens</name>
      </addressee>
      <date when="1884-03-31">31 March 1884</date> &#x2022; <name type="place">New York, N.Y.</name>
      <source>(MS: CU-MARK, UCLC 41956)</source>
    </head>
  </div>
</text>
```

Personography file

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<text>
  <body>
    <div1 type="list">
      <listPerson type="other">
        <person xml:id="HI">
          <persName type="display">Sir Henry Irving</persName>
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            and died of a stroke hours later.</p></note>
          </person>
```

Web interface



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Henry Irving to Samuel L. Clemens
31 March 1884 • New York, N.Y.
(MS: CU-MARK, UCLC 41956)

Persons Mentioned

Sir Henry Irving (1838–1905)

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      <date when="1884-03-31">31 March 1884</date> &#x2022; <name type="place">New York, N.Y.</name>
      <source>CU-MARK, UCLC 41956</source>
    </head>
  </div>
</text>
```

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```

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What else can be said about <person> entries? Quite a lot!

- **faith** specifies the faith, religion, or belief set of a person.
- **langKnowledge** (language knowledge) summarizes the state of a person's linguistic knowledge, either as prose or by a list of **langKnown** elements.
- **nationality** contains an informal description of a person's present or past nationality or citizenship.
- **sex** specifies the sex of a person.
- **age** specifies the age of a person.
- **socecStatus** (socio-economic status) contains an informal description of a person's perceived social or economic status.
- **occupation** contains an informal description of a person's trade, profession or occupation.
- **residence** describes a person's present or past places of residence.
- **affiliation** contains an informal description of a person's present or past affiliation with some organization, for example an employer or sponsor.
- **education** contains a description of the educational experience of a person.
- **floruit** contains information about a person's period of activity.
- **persona** provides information about one of the personalities identified for a given individual, where an individual has multiple personalities.
- **state** contains a description of some status or quality attributed to a person, place, or organization often at some specific time or for a specific date range.
- **trait** contains a description of some status or quality attributed to a person, place, or organization typically, but not necessarily, independent of the volition or action of the holder and usually not at some specific time or for a specific date range.

What about events in their lives?

- **<birth> and <death> are the only specific events.**
- <event> is used for recording any other kind of event (if you want to record moments like date of marriage).
- How can we connect these people?!
Relationships: The <relation> (relationship) element describes any kind of relationship or linkage amongst other entities.
- Nested under any of the following groupings
listEvent listNym listObject listOrg listPerson
listPlace listRelation

- More on Relationships: 'mutual' (e.g. sibling) v. non-mutual or directed relationships (e.g. parent).

The following attributes are available:

- @name supplies a name for the kind of relationship of which this is an instance
- @active identifies the 'active' participants in a non-mutual relationship, or all the participants in a mutual one
- @mutual supplies a list of participants amongst all of whom the relationship holds equally
- @passive identifies the 'passive' participants in a non-mutual relationship

Relating named entities to each others

```
<person xml:id="SS">
  <persName>Siegfried Loraine Sassoon</persName>
</person>
<person xml:id="HG">
  <persName>Hester Gatty</persName>
</person>
<person xml:id="GS">
  <persName>George Sassoon</persName>
</person>
<!--...-->
<relationGrp type="children">
  <relation name="parent" active="#SS"
    passive="#GS"/>
  <!--...-->
</relationGrp>
```

TEI Places

<place>

<placeName>

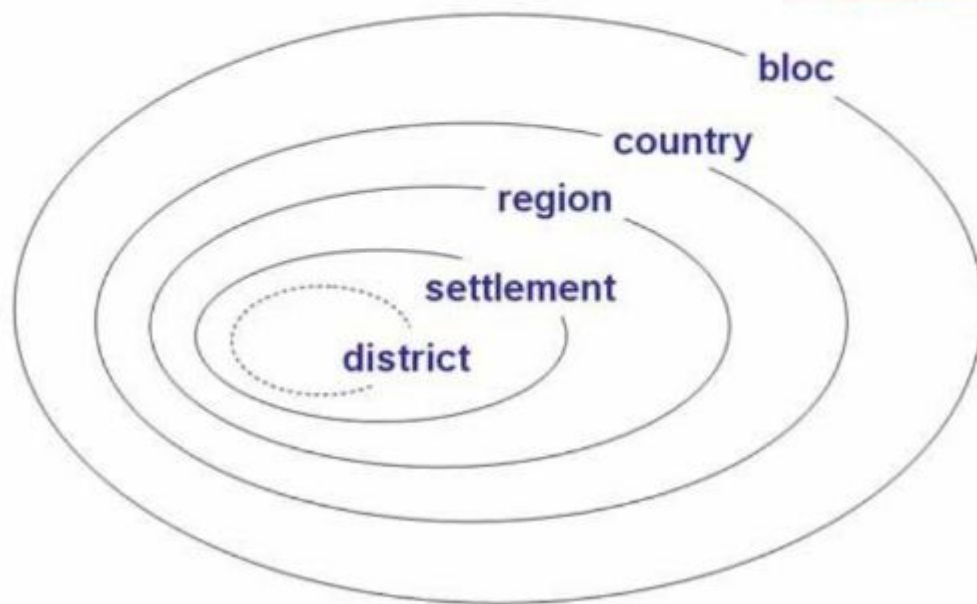
<bloc>

<country>

<settlement>

<district>

Geo-political Place names



Places

Any place name instance should include structured information about what kind of place it is. A city is <settlement>, a neighborhood is a <district> and so on.

The <location> element can contain

- A structured description using the hierarchy of place name components mentioned earlier (a politico-geographical location)
- geographical coordinates

Places (and political implications of encoding)

```
<place xml:id="craiglockhart">  
  <placeName>Craiglockhart War Hospital</placeName>  
  <settlement>Edinburgh</settlement>  
  <region>Scotland</region>  
  <country key="UK">United Kingdom</country>  
  <location>  
    <geo>55.91812, -3.24019</geo>  
  </location>  
</place>
```

Places: places nested within places

```
<place type="soverignState">
  <placeName>United Kingdom</placeName>
  <placeName type="full">United Kingdom of Great Britain and
    Northern Ireland</placeName>
  <place type="country">
    <placeName>Scotland</placeName>
    <place xml:id="edinburgh" type="city">
      <placeName>Edinburgh</placeName>
      <place xml:id="craiglockhart2">
        <placeName>Craiglockhart War Hospital</placeName>
        <location>
          <geo>55.91812, -3.24019</geo>
        </location>
      </place>
    </place>
  </place>
</place>
```

Organisation data

- **<orgName>** is the proper name for an organisation.
- **<org>** provides information about an identifiable organization such as a business, a tribe, or any other grouping of people.
- **<listOrg>** contains a list of **<org>** elements
- **<org>** elements may self-nest (as can **<place>** elements... but not **<person>** elements)

```
<orgName ref="#royalist">Royalist
Camp</orgName> of Jales
```

TEI	teiHeader	profileDesc	particDesc	listOrg	org
91		<profileDesc>			
92		<particDesc>			
93		<listOrg>			
94			<org xml:id="royalist">		
95			<orgName>Royalist</orgName>		
96			<addName>Royalist Army</addName>		
97			<desc>This refers to the groups of supporters of		
98			the French monarchy before and after the		
99			Revolution</desc>		
100			</org>		
101			</listOrg>		

Other things: dates, numbers, bibliographic entries &c.

[7]

In the name of god A men 1591
 beginge the 19 of febreary my
 lord stranges⁽²⁾ mene A ffoloweth
 1591

- Rd at fryer bacvne the 19 of february . . satterdaye⁽³⁾ . . xvij s iij d
 Rd at mvlomvrco the 20 of february xxix s
 Rd at orlando the 21 of february xvj s vj d
 Rd at spanes comodye donne oracioe⁽⁴⁾ the 23 of february xij s vj d
 Rd at sy^r John mandevell the 24 of february xij s vj d
 Rd at harey of cornwell the 25 of february 1591 xxxij s
 ✕ Rd at the Jewe of malltuse the 26 of februarye 1591 ls
 — Rd at clorys & orgasto the 28 of february 1591 xvij s
 Rd at mvlamvlluco the 29 of februarye 1591 xxxiij s
 Rd at poope Jone the 1 of marche 1591 xv s
 Rd at matchavell the 2 of marche 1591 xiiij s
 ne— Rd at harey the vj the 3 of marche 1591 iij¹ xvj s 8 d
 Rd at bendo & Richardo the 4 of marche 1591 xvj s
 — Rd at iij plays in one the 6 of marche 1591 xxxj s vj d
 Rd at harey the vj⁽⁵⁾ the 7 of marche 1591 iij li
 Rd at the lockinglasse the 8 of marche 1591 vij s
 Rd at senobia the 9 of marche 1591 xxij s vj d
 ✕ Rd at the Jewe of malta the 10 of marche 1591 lvj s
 Rd at harey the vj the 11 of marche 1591 xxxxvij s vj d
 — Rd at the comodey of doneoracio the 13 march 1591—x— xxviij s

(1) *xij* ⁴ *J. ha* | *xi* is written over *J*, *d* over *h*, and *a* stands free. The letters *J. ha* appear to be in the ink of the opposite page, which is dated 1591; they occur again on f. 7.

(2) *stranges* | *strangers* Greg.

(3) *satterdaye* | interlined.

(4) *oracioe* | so Malone; *oracoe* Greg; *i* and *o* are run together.

(5) *harey the vj* | *hary vj* Greg.

```
<div xml:id="f7r">
  <div xml:id="Receipt_159202">
    <!--Receipts from Feb_1592-->
    <!--receipts converted to pence-->
    <ab>In the name of god A men 1591<lb/>beginge the 19 febreary my<lb/>lord stranges
      mene A ffoloweth<lb/>1591</ab>
    <l>Rd at <bibl type="play" corresp="#FBAFB"><hi rend="italic">fryer
      bacvne</hi></bibl><date when="1592-02-19">the 19 of
        febreary</date>...satterdaye <num n="207">xvij s iij d</num></l>
    <l>Rd at<bibl type="play" corresp="#TBOA"><hi rend="italic">
      >mvlomvrco</hi></bibl><date when="1592-02-20">the 20 febreary</date>
      <num n="348">xxix s</num></l>
    <l>Rd at <bibl type="play" corresp="#ORL"><hi rend="italic">orlando</hi></bibl><date
      when="1592-02-21">the 21 of febreary</date>
      <num n="198">xvj s vj d</num></l>
    <l>Rd at <bibl type="play" corresp="#TSC"><hi rend="italic">spanes comodye donne
      oracioe</hi></bibl><date when="1592-02-23">the 23 of febreary</date>
      <num n="162">xij s vj d</num></l>
    <l>.....</l>
  </div>
</div>
```

Elements For Names

In the core module:


author editor name publisher rs speaker

In the namesdates module

addName affiliation age birth bloc
climate country death district education event faith
floruit forename genName geo geogFeat geogName
langKnowledge langKnown listEvent listNym listOrg
listPerson listPlace listRelation location nameLink
nationality nym occupation
offset org orgName persName person
personGrp persona place placeName population
region relation residence roleName settlement sex
socecStatus state surname terrain trait

I want to know more!

- Chapter 13 of the TEI guidelines


< Text Encoding Initiative >

P5: Guidelines for Electronic Text Encoding and Interchange
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13.1 Attribute Classes Defined by This Module 13.2 Names 13.3 Biographical and Prosopographical Data 13.4 Module for Names and Dates	<h2>13 Names, Dates, People, and Places</h2> <p>This chapter describes a module which may be used for the encoding of names and other phrases descriptive of persons, places, or organizations, in a manner more detailed than that possible using the elements already provided for these purposes in the Core module. In section 3.5 Names, Numbers, Dates, Abbreviations, and Addresses it was noted that the elements provided in the core module allow an encoder to specify that a given text segment is a proper noun, or a <i>referring string</i>, and to specify the kind of object named or referred to only by supplying a value for the @type attribute. The elements provided by the present module allow the encoder to supply a detailed sub-structure for such referring strings, and to distinguish explicitly between names of persons, places, and organizations.</p> <p>This module also provides elements for the representation of information about the person, place, or organization to which a given name is understood to refer and to represent the name itself, independently of its application. In simple terms, where the core module allows one simply to represent that a given piece of text is a <i>name</i>, this module allows one further to represent a <i>personal name</i>, to represent the <i>person</i> being named, and to represent the <i>canonical name</i> being used. A similar range is provided for names of places and organizations. The main intended applications for this module are in biographical, historical, or geographical data systems such as gazetteers and biographical databases, where these are to be integrated with encoded texts.</p> <p>The chapter begins by discussing attributes common to many of the elements discussed in the remaining parts of the chapter (13.1 Attribute Classes Defined by This Module) before discussing specifically the elements provided for the encoding of component parts of personal names (section 13.2.1 Personal Names), place names (section 13.2.3 Place Names) and organizational names (section 13.2.2 Organizational Names). Elements for encoding personal and organizational data are discussed in section 13.3 Biographical and Prosopographical Data. Elements for the encoding of geographical data are discussed in section 13.3.4 Places. Finally, elements for encoding onomastic data are discussed in 13.3.6 Names and Nyms, and the detailed encoding of dates and times is described in section 13.3.7 Dates and Times.</p> <h3>13.1 Attribute Classes Defined by This Module</h3> <p>Most of the elements made available by this chapter share some important characteristics which are expressed by their membership in specific attribute classes. Members of the class att.naming have specialized attributes which support linkage of a naming element with the entity (person, place, organization) being named; members of the class att.dataable have specialized attributes which support a number of ways of normalizing the date or time of the data encoded by the element concerned.</p> <h4>13.1.1 Linking Names and Their Referents</h4> <p>The class att.naming is a subclass of the class att.canonical, from which it inherits the following attributes:</p> <p>att.canonical provides attributes which can be used to associate a representation such as a name or title with canonical information about the object being named or referenced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> @key provides an externally-defined means of identifying the entity (or entities) being named, using a coded value of some kind. @ref (reference) provides an explicit means of locating a full definition or identity for the entity being named by means of one or more URIs.

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