

Gazettes Project   
HTML-RDFa for Notice Type 2903

Version 1

Wednesday 26th June 2013

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# Gazettes Project HTML-RDFa for Notice Type 2903

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## Introduction

The Gazettes Renewal project uses a subset of XTHML with additional RDFa metadata as the fundamental storage format for notices. To date, the main notice type that has been dealt with is by the project is type 2903 – Deceased Estates.

As the project has progressed, the storage format has changed. More recent formats have been closer to the originally proposed format, after having moved away considerably. The present document is intended to provide an accessible overview of a snapshot of the storage format as it stands on the date of this document.

## Overview

Every notice is captured in its own XHTML file, which uses the HTML5 doctype declaration and the XHTML namespace:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html xmlns=”http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml”>

<head>

<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8" />

<title>Deceased Estates</title>

</head>

<body>

<article>

<h1>Deceased Estates</h1>

<div class=”rdfa-data”>

**<!—- RDFa “GRAPH” INFORMATION GOES HERE -->**

</div>

**<!-- THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE NOTICE AND EXTENDED RDFa “LEAF NODE” INFORMATION GOES HERE -->**

</article>

</body>

</head>

</html>

## Example: Conceptual link between the two sections

All information in the rdfa-data <div> is captured in side <span> elements as attributes. These span elements are empty, but not self-terminating. I.e. <span></span>, not <span/>.

In the following example:

<span about=”this:deceasedPerson” property=”person:hasEmployment” resource=”this:employmentOfDeceased”/>

The deceased person who is the subject of the notice had as their last occupation the contents of the resource referred to by the URI “this:employmentOfDeceased”.

In the main content area of the notice (at present) pertinent information is captured in name-value pairs using XHTML’s <dt> and <dd> tag pairings. In relation to the rdfa-data <span> given above we find the following:

<dt>Former occupation</dt>

<dd about="this:employmentOfDeceased" property="person:jobTitle" typeof="person:Employment">Farmer</dd>

Therefore the last occupation of the deceased person was as a farmer.

Effectively, the main content area contains the atomic data “leaf nodes”, while the rdfa-data <div> contains a conceptual graph of the information provided.

## The Use of Name-Value Pairs in the Main Content

In the main content of the document, atomic information is currently represented using <dt> and <dd> pairings, with the following format:

<dt>[user-visible name of the field]</dt>

<dd [RDFa derived attributes go here]>[actual content goes here]</dd>

There are a number of common patterns with respect to how the attributes on the <dd> tags are encoded, as follows:

Pattern 1

<dd about=”[resource URI]” property=”[name of the property]”>[value of the property]</dd>

This is the closest thing approximating a “standard” way of encoding leaf node information.

Pattern 2

<dd about=”[resource URI] content=”[date]” datatype=”xsd:date” property=”[name of property]”>

<time datetime=”[date]”>[date]</time>

</dd>

This pattern is used to record date information, the primary application of which to date has been the date of death (i.e. *property=”personal-legal:dateOfDeath”*).

Pattern 3

<dd about=”[resource URI]” foaf:[FOAF identifier]=”[content]” property=”foaf:[FOAF identifier]”>

[value of the property]

</dd>

In this case an attribute from the foaf namespace (http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/) is used in order to capture the content as an attribute of the <dd> tag in addition to being the tag’s contents. For example,

*foaf:familyName=”Jones”*

is used to actually capture the information, while the property attribute is set to indicate which FOAF attribute is in use:

*property="foaf:familyName"*

## Significant Resources

All resources are represented by a URI. The following resources are the most significant in relation to the representation of 2903 Deceased Estates data as it stands at present.

https://www.thegazette.co.uk/id/notice/6126

This is the URI representing the notice in question. A form of this extended with a # is also referred to by the shorthand prefix “this:” in other URIs in the document. For example, in the context of this particular notice:

*this:deceasedPerson*

is effectively the same URI as:

*https://www.thegazette.co.uk/id/notice/6126#deceasedPerson*

https://www.thegazette.co.uk/id/notice/6126/provenance

This URI represents the history of the notice (i.e. what has happened to it, and information about its background and ancestry).

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/Geo5/15-16/19/section/27

Relates to the Trustee Act 1925, Part II - Indemnities, Section 27 (Protection by means of advertisements). This act provides some of the legal framework attached to the posting of notices in the Gazette.

this:notifiableThing

A URI representing the real-world, actual thing that the notice is about. In this case it relates to the act of announcing a deceased estate.

this:deceasedPerson

The person who has died, and whose estate is the focus of the deceased estates notice.

this:employmentOfDeceased

The last occupation of the deceased person prior to death.

this:addressOfDeceased-address-{n}

Former addresses of the deceased person. The last address prior to death is given the resource URI this:addressOfDeceased-address-1. Any previous addresses are numbered 2, 3, and so on.

this:estateExecutor

The person named by the maker of a will, or nominated by the testator, whose job it is to carry out the directions contained in the will. Usually, the executor offers the will for probate. They are responsible for disbursement of property, obtaining information about heirs, collecting and arranging payment of debts, calculating taxes, and filling out various forms.

this:addressOfExecutor

The postal address of the executor. At present the executor is only permitted one address.

## The Person Model

The model used to represent a person, either the deceased or the executor, is taken from the FOAF (“friend of a friend”) project, which itself has an RDF based schema.

<dt>Surname:</dt>

<dd xmlns:foaf="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/" about="this:deceasedPerson" foaf:familyName="Jones" id="surName" property="foaf:familyName" typeof="gaz:Person">Jones</dd>

<dt>First name:</dt>

<dd xmlns:foaf="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/" about="this:deceasedPerson"

foaf:firstName="Indigo" id="foreName" property="foaf:firstName" typeof="gaz:Person">Mary</dd>

<dt>Middle name:</dt>

<dd xmlns:foaf="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/" about="this:deceasedPerson"

foaf:givenName="Thomas" id="middleName" property="foaf:givenName" typeof="gaz:Person">Marigold</dd>

<dt>Maiden name:</dt>

<dd about="this:deceasedPerson” property="foaf:hasMaidenName" typeof="gaz:Person">Forester</dd>

<dt>Alternative name:</dt>

<dd about="this:deceasedPerson” property="person:alsoKnownAs" typeof="gaz:Person">Marie Hopchurch</dd>

<dt>Alternative name:</dt>

<dd about="this:deceasedPerson" property="person:alsoKnownAs" typeof="gaz:Person">Mari-G</dd>

In the FOAF model, a person’s name is divided into *foaf:firstName* and *foaf:familyName* (the surname). We have used the *foaf:givenName* property to identify the middle names of any given individual, thus the person represented in the example is Mary Marigold Jones. A FOAF property is also included to represent a person’s maiden name, foaf:maidenName.

In the case of alternative names by which a person may have been known, we use the property *person:alsoKnownAs*. This is a repeating field. In the case of repeating fields, at present, both the <dt> and <dd> tags are repeated, once for each field.

## The Address Model

The model used to represent addresses, either the former addresses of the deceased or the address of the executor, is derived from the vCard file format, which is a standard for electronic business cards.

The following example illustrates how a vCard address is encoded in the HTML-RDFa:

<dt>Person address details:</dt>

<dd about="this:addressOfDeceased-address-1 property="vcard:street-address">12 Newton Lodge Drive</dd>

<dd about="this:addressOfDeceased-address-1" property="vcard:extended-address">Localfield</dd>

<dd about="this:addressOfDeceased-address-1" property="vcard:locality">Westerfield</dd>

<dd about="this:addressOfDeceased-address-1" property="vcard:region">Smallshire</dd>

<dd about="this:addressOfDeceased-address-1" property="vcard:country-name">United Kingdom</dd>

<dd about="this:addressOfDeceased-address-1" property="vcard:postal-code">LS7 3JP</dd>

The fields should be self-explanatory, however, note that “*vcard:locality*” is interpreted as town/city in our front end implementation as things stand at present, while “*vcard:region*” is interpreted as county.

Ref

RDFa Resource and Class URIs.xlsx