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Structured vocabularies

@ RIJKS MUSEUM

1 PROBLEM

Rijksmuseum uses 20 different vocabularies, within different systems. The goal is to create one structured vocabulary. We will help them by converting the current MARC file into a SKOS file.

2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Computer science:
What is the best mapping between MARC and SKOS?

Digital humanities:
What is special about MARC and SKOS?

3 APPROACH

1. Scan the dataset
2. Relate MARC fields to SKOS
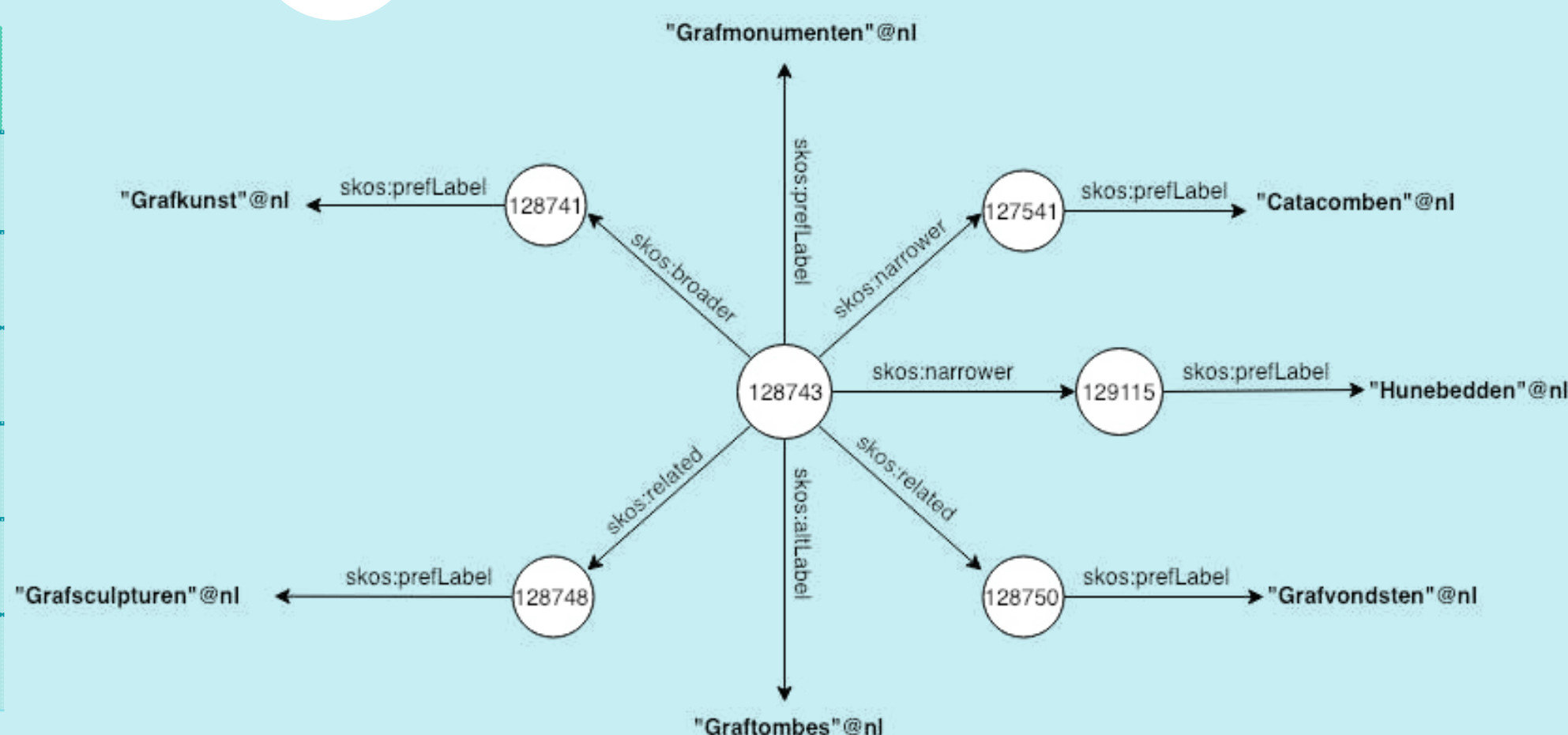3. Convert MARC into SKOS
4. Analyze vocabulary

MARC

Machine-Readable Cataloging. MARC is a term based model with tags in it. Each tag has its own meaning. It is old-fashioned.

SKOS

Simple Knowledge Organization System. SKOS is a concept based model with labels. Each label has its own meaning.

4 RESULTS

MARC	SKOS
tag 150	skos:prefLabel
tag 450	skos:altLabel
tag 550	
code g	skos:broader
code h	skos:narrower
no code	skos:related

Problems

Since there were many inconsistencies within the original MARC dataset, it was hard to analyse whether the vocabulary was correct. The made Python script adjusted for some errors, but sadly not all errors could be fixed.