

Podcast Ontology Writeup

The boundaries of my ontology are a selection of podcasts that I have listened to on my smartphone using the Apple Podcasts app. I chose to use this as a boundary in order to keep the ontology a manageable size, as there are likely thousands of podcasts available on iTunes. I also chose to sample my own podcast collection to include podcasts across the categories as indicated by iTunes.

Podcast categories were identified by iTunes, which has a set list of categories. To identify the category of a podcast, I located its iTunes page, which indicates how the podcast is categorized. I included a link to each of these iTunes pages as an annotation for each podcast entity in the PodcastTitle.

The boundaries for country of origin were defined by the podcasts themselves, as were the number of hosts. The country of origin was identified by my own listening habits – for instance, I know that Casefile is produced in Australia and Someone Knows Something is produced in Canada.

When defining the object properties for podcasts, I tended to use the “only” identifier, as some of the properties are set. For instance, the podcast categories are set based on the iTunes page, and the country of origin for each is set based on where the podcast is produced.

Some of my object properties utilized the “some” identifier. I primarily used this when identifying the number of hosts. Many podcasts have a set number of hosts, but sometime include additional guest hosts, so the actual host number may vary by episode. I also used “some” where podcasts may include a mixture of content genres. For example, some story-telling podcasts like “This American Life” may include fictional stories occasionally, but are generally non-fiction based. Podcasts I categorized as “only” one genre included some that are based on true crime, and thus all episodes would be based only on non-fiction.