WRITING FRAGIDS

AN INTRODUCTION

Version: 2021-09-03

BACKGROUND

RDF

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~ Resource Description Framework

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~ Name: jargon, obscurity

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~ Essentially a framework for making claims or assertions

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~ Name: jargon, obscurity

~ Essentially a framework for making claims or assertions

~ Semantically interoperable

RDF DATA MODEL

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~ Graph structure

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~ Every datum is a triple: subject, predicate (!), object

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~ Subject: URI

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~ Object: URI or literal (data)

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~ Graph structure

~ Every datum is a triple: subject, predicate (!), object

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~ w3.org/TR/rdf11-primer

BACKGROUND

IRI / URI

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~ International / Universal Resource Identifier

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~ RFC 3986-87

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~ Superset of URNs, URLs

IRI / URI

~ International / Universal Resource Identifier

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~ Superset of URNs, URLs

~ scheme ":" hier-part ["?" query] ["#" fragment]

URI EXAMPLES

~ foo://example.com:8042/over/there?name=ferret#nose
~ ftp://ftp.is.co.za/rfc/rfc1808.txt
~ http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt
~ ldap://[2001:db8::7]/c=GB?objectClass?one
~ mailto:John.Doe@example.com
~ news:comp.infosystems.www.servers.unix
~ tel:+1-816-555-1212
~ telnet://192.0.2.16:80/
~ urn:oasis:names:specification:docbook:dtd:xml:4.1.2

URI REQUIREMENTS

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~ Persistence

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~ Persistence

~ Uniqueness

URI REQUIREMENTS

~ Persistence

~ Uniqueness

~ Interoperability

BACKGROUND
TEXTS

We refer to texts

We refer to texts
either abstractly

We refer to texts
either abstractly
or concretely

We refer to texts
either abstractly
or concretely

"The *Iliad* says..."

We refer to texts
either abstractly
or concretely

"The *Iliad* says..."
"This particular edition of the *Iliad* says..."

TEXTS

Conceptual   Material

TEXTS

Conceptual   Material

terms

TEXTS

	Conceptual	Material
terms	work version	

TEXTS

terms	Conceptual	Material
	work version	text bearing object = scriptum

TEXTS

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examples		

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terms	work version	text bearing object = scriptum
examples	• *The Iliad* • Alexander's translation of *The Iliad* • *Frankenstein* • Mel Brooks's *Young Frankenstein*	

TEXTS

	Conceptual	Material
terms	work version	text bearing object = scriptum
examples	• *The Iliad* • Alexander's translation of *The Iliad* • *Frankenstein* • Mel Brooks's *Young Frankenstein*	• this particular manuscript (one-item set) • this book (many-item set) • this digital file (many-item set)

THE TASK

WRITE RDF TRIPLES ABOUT TEXTS

SCOPE

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~ Non-digital texts

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~ Non-digital texts
~ Works and scripta

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~ Non-digital texts
~ Works and scripta
~ Tokens, characters

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~ Tokens, characters
~ Discontinuous phrases

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~ Non-digital texts

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~ Discontinuous phrases

~ RDF claims must generally applicable

WHAT WE CAN DO NOW

Shakespeare wrote *Henry V.*

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```
@prefix db: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/> .
@prefix dce: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .

db:William_Shakespeare dce:creator db:Henry_V_(play)
```

turtle syntax

Plato's *Republic* quotes from Homer's *Iliad*.

Plato's *Republic* quotes from Homer's *Iliad.*

```
@prefix db: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/> .
@prefix cito: <http://purl.org/spar/cito/> .

db:Republic_(Plato) cito:cites db:Iliad
```

Plato's *Republic* quotes from Homer's *Iliad.*

```
@prefix db: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/> .
@prefix cito: <http://purl.org/spar/cito/> .

db:Republic_(Plato) cito:cites db:Iliad
```

Thanks a lot.

DESIDERATUM: SPECIFICITY

We already create and consume

We already create and consume specific, human-readable references

We already create and consume
specific, human-readable references
that are persistent, unique, interoperable.

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How to convert this convention to URIs?

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"The duke yet lives that Henry shall depose"

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"The duke yet lives that Henry shall depose"

```
@prefix db: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/> .
@prefix *la: <http://example.org/linguistic-annotation/> .
@prefix olia: <http://purl.org/olia/olia.owl#> .

db:Henry_VI,_Part_2 *la:hasFeature olia:DirectObject
```

STUDIES IN TEXT REUSE

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Plato *Resp.* 328e6 quotes *Il.* 6.211

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Plato *Resp.* 328e6 quotes *Il.* 6.211

"the threshold of old age"

STUDIES IN TEXT REUSE

Plato *Resp.* 328e6 quotes *Il.* 6.211

"the threshold of old age"

```
@prefix db: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/> .
@prefix cito: <http://purl.org/spar/cito/> .

db:Republic_(Plato) cito:cites db:Iliad
```

TRANSLATION STUDIES

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"incline"

```
@prefix saws: <http://purl.org/saws/ontology#> .

?????? saws:isDirectTranslationOf ??????
```

CHALLENGES

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~ URI for a specific portion of text?

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~ URI for a specific portion of text?

~ Texts with multiple reference systems

CHALLENGES

~ URI for a specific portion of text?
~ Texts with multiple reference systems
~ Texts with ambiguous reference systems

CHALLENGES

~ URI for a specific portion of text?

~ Texts with multiple reference systems

~ Texts with ambiguous reference systems

~ How to conceptualize/approach works?

PREVIOUS APPROACHES

GENERAL

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~ Canonical Text Services (CTS)

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~ ???

AD HOC

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~ Sharing Ancient WisdomS (SAWS) (CTS-inspired)

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~ Perseus (CTS-inspired)

AD HOC

~ Sharing Ancient WisdomS (SAWS) (CTS-inspired)

~ Perseus (CTS-inspired)

~ Distributed Text Services (various)

PROBLEMS

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~ URN schemes not registered with IANA

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~ (In praise of tag URNs.)

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~ How to find URIs?

~ Domain model lacking

~ Works tethered to messy, inconsistent catalogs

~ "Canonical" references?? (uniqueness in jeopardy)

~ Dependent upon specific digital corpora (persistence in jeopardy)

STEP BACK

RETHINK THE PROBLEM

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~ Start with references that are tractable

~ Define a rigorous syntax

A PROPOSAL

WRITING FRAGIDS

FRAGID

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~ Fragment identifier, e.g.,
http://example.org/index.html#hello

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~ W3C Draft: Best Practices for Fragment Identifiers and Media Type Definitions

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~ Most (all?) fragid schemes target digital media...

~ ...but no reason they couldn't be applied to the nondigital world

THE BASIC IDEA

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Start with a base URI for a work or scriptum.

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Specify how you're interpreting the URI.

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Start with a base URI for a work or scriptum.
Specify how you're interpreting the URI.
Declare the reference system.
Drill down with the reference system.
Qualify with tokens/characters.

EXAMPLES

Walter Burkert, *Lore and Science in Ancient Pythagoreanism*, page 14 line 2

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http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/860129739#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=.;14:2$

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http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/860129739#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=.;14:2$

1. $wf0: — version number

Walter Burkert, *Lore and Science in Ancient Pythagoreanism*, page 14 line 2

`http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/860129739#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=.;14:2$`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)

Walter Burkert, *Lore and Science in Ancient Pythagoreanism*, page 14 line 2

`http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/860129739#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=.;14:2$`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI `as` a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=m;` — ref. system `type` is material (not logical)

Walter Burkert, *Lore and Science in Ancient Pythagoreanism*, page 14 line 2

`http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/860129739#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=.;14:2$`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=m;` — ref. system type is material (not logical)
4. `r=.;` — the reference scriptum is the base URI, *qua* scriptum

Walter Burkert, *Lore and Science in Ancient Pythagoreanism*, page 14 line 2

`http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/860129739#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=.;14:2$`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=m;` — ref. system type is material (not logical)
4. `r=.;` — the reference scriptum is the base URI, *qua* scriptum
5. `14:2` — material unit 14, subunit 2

Plato, *Resp.* 328e6

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http://dbpedia.org/resource/Republic_(Plato)#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/16888

Plato, *Resp.* 328e6

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Republic_(Plato)#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/16888`

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Plato, *Resp.* 328e6

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1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)

Plato, *Resp.* 328e6

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Republic_(Plato)#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/16888`

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`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Republic_(Plato)#`**`$wf0:`**`a=w;`**`t=m;`**`r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/16888`

1. **`$wf0:`** — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=m;` — ref. system type is material (not logical)
4. `r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1688842;` — the reference scriptum is Stephanus's edition

Plato, *Resp.* 328e6

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Republic_(Plato)#`$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/16888

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI `as` a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=m;` — ref. system `type` is material (not logical)
4. `r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1688842;` — the reference scriptum is Stephanus's edition
5. `2.328.5.6` — material units 2 (volume), 328 (page), 5 (subpage), 6 (line)

Plato, *Resp.* 328e6

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Republic_(Plato)#$wf0:a=w;t=m;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/16888`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=m;` — ref. system type is material (not logical)
4. `r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1688842;` — the reference scriptum is Stephanus's edition
5. `2.328.5.6` — material units 2 (volume), 328 (page), 5 (subpage), 6 (line)

Problems: volume number, line discrepancies, modern editions with different material

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

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`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Henry_VI,_Part_2#$wf0:a=w;t=l;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/9352`

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Henry_VI,_Part_2#``$wf0:``a=w;``t=l;``r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/93528`

1. `$wf0:` — version number

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Henry_VI,_Part_2#`$wf0:a=w;t=l;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/9352`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Henry_VI,_Part_2#$wf0:a=w;t=l;r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/9352`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=l;` — ref. system type is logical (not material)

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Henry_VI,_Part_2#`**`$wf0:`**`a=w;`**`t=l;`**`r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/93528`

1. **`$wf0:`** — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=l;` — ref. system type is logical (not material)
4. `r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/935285574;` — the reference scriptum is Warren's edition

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Henry_VI,_Part_2#`**`$wf0:`**`a=w;`**`t=l;`**`r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/93528`

1. `$wf0:` — version number
2. `a=w;` — treat the base URI as a work (not a scriptum)
3. `t=l;` — ref. system type is logical (not material)
4. `r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/935285574;` — the reference scriptum is Warren's edition
5. `1.4.32` — logical units 1 (act), 4 (scene), 32 (line)

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

`http://dbpedia.org/resource/Henry_VI,_Part_2#``$wf0:``a=w;``t=l;``r=http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/93528`

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6. ~~`::Henry[1]`~~ — first instance of 'Henry'

Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, part 2, 1.4.32, 'Henry'

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   Problems: unqualified works cannot take tokens

WF DESIGN

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Everything above needs thoughtful, in-depth discussion

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~ Epistemology: scriptum reader?

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~ Things with too many URIs (scripta)

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~ Things without any URIs (works, work-versions)

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~ Syntax conflicts? Query constructor, other fragments.

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~ Error handling

VIABILITY

WRITING FRAGID VIABILITY

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Breakthrough technology?

WRITING FRAGID VIABILITY

Breakthrough technology?
Utter failure?

WRITING FRAGID VIABILITY

Breakthrough technology?
Utter failure?
Somewhere in-between?

WRITING FRAGID VIABILITY

Breakthrough technology?
Utter failure?
Somewhere in-between?

Failure can be success.

STATUS

WF STATUS

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~ Currently in conceptual phase

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~ Conversations will begin soon

WF STATUS

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~ Draft specifications, examples, test suites

WF STATUS

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~ Includes rudimentary demonstrations of WF-conformance for two media types (TEI, TAN)

WF STATUS

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~ Part of the work of consolidating Linked Open Data for linguistic annotations

WRITING FRAGIDS

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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