DEPARTMENT OF

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

STUDENT NAME: MUNEEB AHMED KHAN

MATRICULATION: VR545124

SUBMITTED TO

MATTEO CRISTANI

Museum Sculpture Ontology

Formal Ontology Design and Logical Validation Report

1. Introduction

This ontology models the domain of **museums and sculptures**, including artifacts, artists, materials, exhibitions, gallery rooms, and institutional structure.

The goal is to:

- Represent museum artifacts formally using OWL
- Enforce structural constraints using restrictions
- Enable logical inference (e.g., classification, cardinality validation)
- Ensure semantic consistency

The ontology is defined in OWL (RDF/XML) and contains:

- 10+ classes
- Object properties
- Datatype properties
- Logical restrictions (someValuesFrom, qualifiedCardinality)
- Named individuals

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2. Core Classes

Primary Domain Classes

- `Museum`
- `Artifact`
- `Sculpture`
- `Artist`
- `Person`
- `Curator`
- `Material`
- `Collection`
- `Gallery_Room`
- `Exhibition`
- `Time_Period`

3. Class Hierarchy (Taxonomy)

The ontology defines the following subclass relationships:

1. `Sculpture ⊆ Artifact`
2. `Artist ⊆ Person`
3. `Curator ⊆ Person`
4. `Gallery_Room ⊆ (partOfMuseum exactly 1 Museum)`
5. `Artifact ⊆ (createdBy exactly 1 Artist)`
6. `Sculpture ⊆ (hasMaterial some Material)`
7. `Exhibition ⊆ (exhibitsArtifact some Artifact)`

Interpretation

This means:

- Every sculpture is an artifact.
- Every artist and curator is a person.
- Every artifact must have exactly one creator.
- Every sculpture must have at least one material.
- Every exhibition must exhibit at least one artifact.
- Every gallery room must belong to exactly one museum.

This is strong modeling. You're enforcing structure, not just storing data.

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4. Object Properties

4.1 createdBy

- Domain: `Artifact`
- Range: `Artist`
- Restriction: exactly 1 Artist per Artifact

Logical meaning:

$\forall x\ (\text{Artifact}(x) \rightarrow \exists!y\ (\text{Artist}(y) \wedge \text{createdBy}(x,y)))$

Each artifact has exactly one creator.

4.2 hasMaterial

- Domain: `Artifact`
- Range: `Material`
- Restriction for Sculpture: some Material

Logical meaning:

∀x (Sculpture(x) → ∃y (Material(y) ∧ hasMaterial(x,y)))

Every sculpture must be made of at least one material.

4.3 displayedIn

- Domain: `Artifact`
- Range: `Gallery_Room`

An artifact must be displayed in a gallery room.

4.4 partOfMuseum

- Domain: `Gallery_Room`
- Range: `Museum`
- Restriction: exactly 1 Museum

Each gallery room belongs to one and only one museum.

4.5 exhibitsArtifact

- Domain: `Exhibition`
- Range: `Artifact`
- Restriction: some Artifact

Each exhibition must exhibit at least one artifact.

4.6 hasCollection

- Domain: `Museum`
- Range: `Collection`

4.7 containsArtifact

- Domain: `Collection`
- Range: `Artifact`

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5. Datatype Properties

- `title : Artifact → string`
- `creationYear : Artifact → integer`
- `museumName : Museum → string`
- `roomcode : Gallery_Room → string`

These enforce structured literal data.

6. Named Individuals (Instance Data)

Museum

- `Lahore_Museum`
  - Type: Museum
  - museumName = "Lahore Museum"

Gallery Room

- `Sculpture_Hall_1`
  - Type: Gallery_Room
  - partOfMuseum → Lahore_Museum
  - roomcode = "SH-01"

Artifact

- `Sculpture_001`
  - Type: Sculpture
  - title = "Gandhara Buddha Head"
  - creationYear = 200
  - hasMaterial → Stone
  - createdBy → Unknown_Sculptor
  - displayedIn → Sculpture_Hall_1

Artist

- `Unknown_Sculptor`
  - Type: Artist

Material

- `Stone`
  - Type: Material

Exhibition

- `Exhibition_2023`
  - Type: Exhibition
  - exhibitsArtifact → Sculpture_001

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7. Logical Validation (Proof of Consistency)

We verify that the ontology satisfies all imposed constraints.

Proof 1: Artifact Creator Constraint

Given:

- `Sculpture_001 rdf:type Sculpture`
- `Sculpture ⊆ Artifact`
- `Artifact ⊆ (createdBy exactly 1 Artist)`
- `Sculpture_001 createdBy Unknown_Sculptor`
- `Unknown_Sculptor rdf:type Artist`

Therefore:

- Sculpture_001 is an Artifact.
- It has exactly one creator.
- Creator is an Artist.

✓ Constraint satisfied.

Proof 2: Sculpture Material Restriction

Given:

- `Sculpture ⊆ (hasMaterial some Material)`
- `Sculpture_001 rdf:type Sculpture`
- `Sculpture_001 hasMaterial Stone`
- `Stone rdf:type Material`

Therefore:

∃y (Material(y) ∧ hasMaterial(Sculpture_001,y))

✓ Constraint satisfied.

Proof 3: Gallery Room Membership

Given:

- `Gallery_Room ⊆ (partOfMuseum exactly 1 Museum)`
- `Sculpture_Hall_1 rdf:type Gallery_Room`
- `Sculpture_Hall_1 partOfMuseum Lahore_Museum`
- `Lahore_Museum rdf:type Museum`

Exactly one museum is assigned.

✓ Cardinality satisfied.

Proof 4: Exhibition Restriction

Given:

- `Exhibition ⊆ (exhibitsArtifact some Artifact)`
- `Exhibition_2023 rdf:type Exhibition`
- `Exhibition_2023 exhibitsArtifact Sculpture_001`
- `Sculpture_001 rdf:type Artifact`

Therefore:

∃x (Artifact(x) ∧ exhibitsArtifact(Exhibition_2023,x))

✓ Restriction satisfied.

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8. Inferred Knowledge (Reasoner Output)

A reasoner would infer:

1. `Sculpture_001 rdf:type Artifact` (via subclass)
2. `Unknown_Sculptor rdf:type Person` (Artist ⊆ Person)
3. `Sculpture_001 rdf:type (hasMaterial some Material)`
4. `Sculpture_Hall_1 rdf:type (partOfMuseum exactly 1 Museum)`

The ontology is logically consistent and supports classification reasoning.

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9. Strengths of the Ontology

- Proper use of subclass hierarchy
- Use of existential restrictions (someValuesFrom)
- Use of qualified cardinality (exactly 1)
- Clear domain and range definitions
- Clean separation between object and datatype properties
- Real instance data supports reasoning

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10. Design Limitations (Be Honest)

1. No disjointness axioms (e.g., Artist disjoint Curator)
2. No inverse properties defined
3. No functional property declaration for createdBy
4. No transitive properties
5. No time modeling for exhibitions

This is structurally correct, but academically you could strengthen it.

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11. Conclusion

The Museum Sculpture Ontology successfully:

- **Models institutional museum structure**
- **Enforces creator cardinality**
- **Enforces sculpture material requirement**
- **Enforces exhibition participation**
- **Supports logical inference**
- **Remains consistent under OWL DL semantics**

The ontology is formally valid and semantically coherent.