

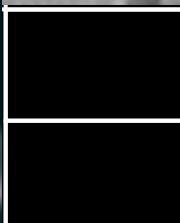
THE
NATIONAL
ARCHIVES



Closure Workshop

:: Project Omega

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Background

- Project Omega
 - A new canonical centralised catalogue for TNA
 - Currently being built
 - Suitable for Physical, Digital, and Hybrid
 - Support Redactions, and Surrogates
 - Follows the principles of Open Government
 - Will replace PROCat/ILDB, SAR, DRI Catalogue, and others



Editorial Access Control

- Can we allow someone to access a record?
- What does access mean?
 - Politically - e.g. Public?
 - Temporal - When?
 - Channel - e.g. In-person, Postal Mail, or Web (Direct, or 3rd-party e.g. Ancestry)?
 - Geographical - e.g. At Kew?
- How do we manage changes to access?
- What about redactions?



Editorial Access Control

- **Legislative Mechanisms for Control**
 - Public Records Act
 - FOI (Freedom of Information) Exemptions
 - LCI (Lord Chancellors Instruments)
 - Various legacy assertions (*maybe not legislative!*)



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Inherited - Closure in ILDB

- **ILDB is the database that underlies PROCat**
- **Informed by the SAR database**
- Four data properties (à la TNA-CS13):
 - Closure Type
 - Closure Code
 - Closure Status
 - Record Opening Date



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Example Closure in ILDB

- **Closure Type:**
 - “N”
 - i.e. Normal closure before FOI Act (from January 2005)
- **Closure Code**
 - “30”
 - i.e. 30 Years
- **Closure Status**
 - “C”
 - i.e. Closed or Retained Document, Closed Description
- **Record Opening Date**
 - “2053-10-24”



Envisioned - Gradated Access

- Authored by Digital Archiving
- Would like to provide more granular access to records based on Context
 - e.g. Government departments can access their own records
 - e.g. Press may be able to have a different level of access
 - Location / Time / Agent aware



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Problems with Closure

- Evolved rather than designed
- In the form of four data properties:
 - As defined by TNA-CS13
 - As implemented in PROCat/ILDB
- Possible to create non-sensical/conflicting statements about access
 - Yes, some exist in PROCat/ILDB!
 - Possibly unintentional mistakes?... or special use-cases?
- Inflexible/Inextensible
 - Can't express gradated access or other models
- Doesn't reflect/model the real world
 - Today we talk about FOI exemptions



Project Omega Requirements

- We must be able to store existing Closure information
- We must be able to support Gradated Access
- We want the flexibility to explore and use new systems of Editorial Access Control in future
- The concept of “Closure” will likely be replaced in due-time with something better - larger project!



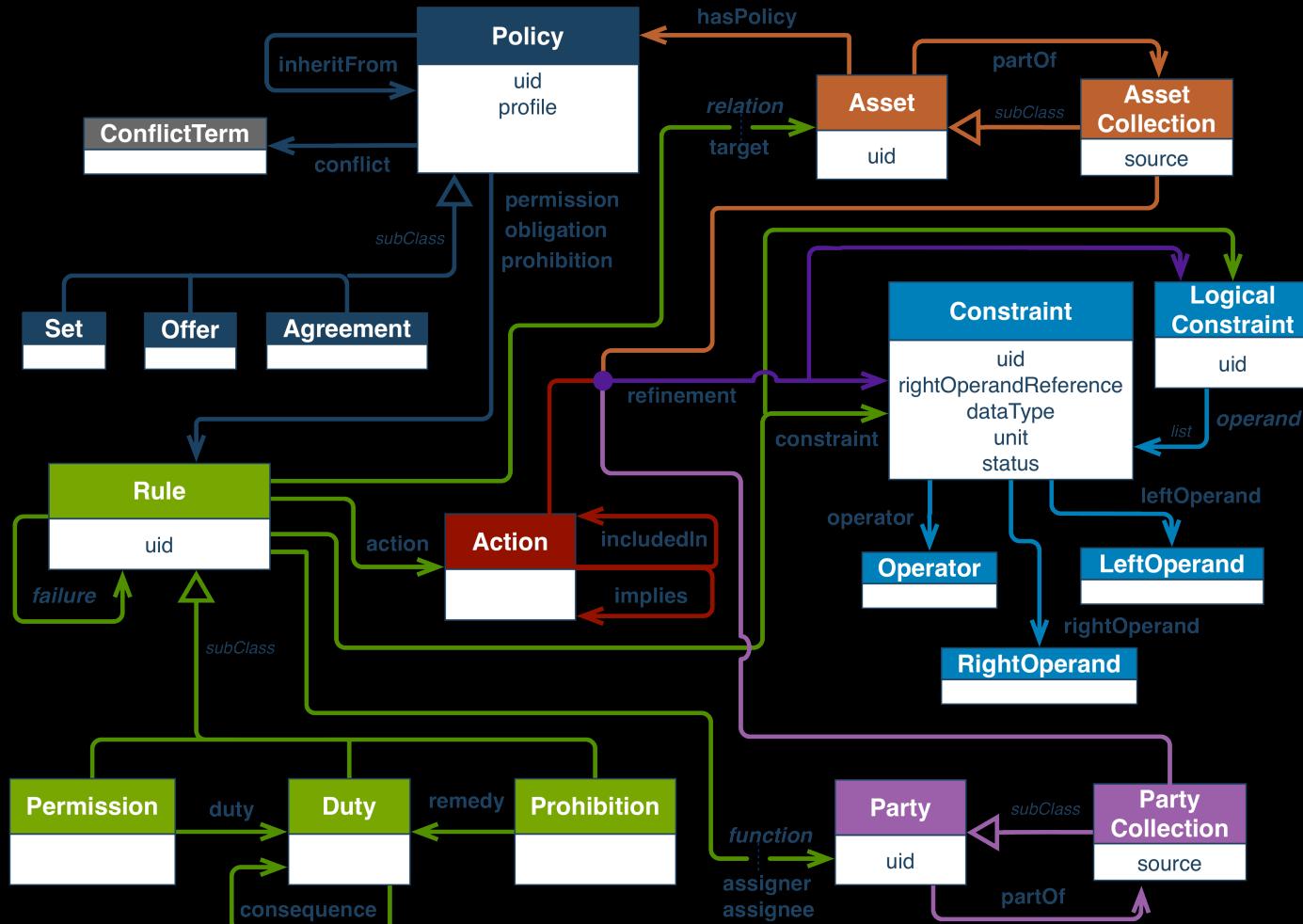
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Project Omega Approach

- Select a standard that offers powerful abstractions, and is computable
- ODRL (Open Digital Rights Language) from the W3C
 - Define: Policies, Rules, Constraints, and Actions
 - Apply to: Asset(s) and Party(s)
- Examine Closure closely, and ascertain what Policies it is comprised of
- Assert that Gradated Access can be modelled as a series of ODRL policies
- Express Closure as a set of ODRL Policies, etc.



ODRL (Open Digital Rights Language)



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Status of ODRL in Omega

- We have ODRL Guidance and Documentation
- Closure has been modelled as a series of ODRL Policies
 - <https://github.com/nationalarchives/tna-cat/tree/master/Omega/standards-experiments/ODRL>
- Closure data from PROCat/ILDB Items has been exported into ODRL
- Next stages:
 - Express “*Agreements*” in ODRL that define how the records may be used.
 - Implement ODRL reasoning engine service
 - Redesign and replace “*Closure*” with a suitable alternative?



For more information:

- Internal Website - www.omg.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk
 - Online from 2023-10-27
- Implementing Closure with ODRL
 - <https://national-archives.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/PACT/pages/157941789/Implementing+Closure+with+ODRL>
 - <https://github.com/nationalarchives/tna-cat/tree/master/Omega/standards-experiments/ODRL>
- Project Omega Catalogue Model Proposal (TNA-CMP20/1)
 - <https://cdn.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/omega-catalogue-model-proposal.pdf>
- Project Omega - Catalogue Data Model (TNA-OCDM20/1)
 - <https://cdn.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/omega-catalogue-data-model.pdf>
- Project Omega - DORIS Analysis (TNA-OCDA22/1)
- Various Articles and Presentations
 - 2021-09-13 - Developing a Pan-Archival Linked Data Catalogue - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLOQo7412r4>
 - 2021-07-23 - Omega API Initial Talking Points - <https://slides.com/adamretter/omega-api-initial-talking-points>
 - 2021-04-07 - What is a Record? - <https://slides.com/adamretter/omega-what-is-a-record>
 - 2020-05-29 - Omega Catalogue Data Model - <https://slides.com/adamretter/omega-catalogue-data-model>
 - 2020-01-28 - Pan-Archival Cataloguing - <https://slides.com/adamretter/tna-pan-archival-cataloguing>



Project Omega offers the potential for

**radical transformation
and improvement of
business processes**

at The National Archives



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Thank you

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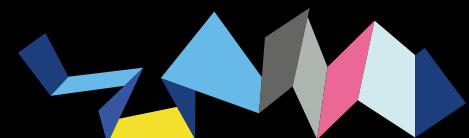
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