ShEx: Shape Expressions language

Kat Thornton, Tom Baker, Andra Waagmeester, Eric Prud'hommeaux SWIB-2018

Bonn, 2018-11-26

2. Against a schema.

XML Schema Definition language: schema prescribes conditions to which an XML document must conform to be considered valid.

<xsd:element name="shipTo" type="USAddress"/>

<xsd:sequence>

XML Data

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<purchaseOrder orderDate="1999-10-20">
  <shipTo country="US">
    <name>Alice Smith</name>
    <street>123 Maple Street</street>
    <city>Mill Valley</city>
    <state>CA</state>
    <zip>90952</zip>
  </shipTo>
  <br/><billTo country="US">
    <name>Robert Smith</name>
    <street>8 Oak Avenue</street>
    <city>Old Town</city>
    <state>PA</state>
    <zip>95819</zip>
 </billTo>
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

D:\data\purchase_order23.xml is valid.

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

RDF Graph
bf:Person> rdf:type <bf:Work> rdf:type <samples9298996> bf:creator
bf:Person>

 bf:class rdf:type rdf:type bf:label http://id.local/gov/.../PZ3> bf:title "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870" bf:label "Oliver Twist" "PZ3.D55O165PR4567"

1. Validate graph.

2. Against a schema.

Shape Expressions language (ShEx): schema prescribes conditions to which an RDF graph must conform to be considered valid.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
   rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

2. Against a schema.

Shape Expressions language (ShEx): schema prescribes conditions to which RDF data must conform to be considered valid.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

2. Against a schema.

ShExJ syntax, interchangeable with ShExC.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
   rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape¹

¹ Note: a pre-processing step uses the ShEx ShapeMap language to associate an RDF nodes with ShEx shapes, here: <samples9298996>@<Work>. Associations can be enumerated (in "fixed shape maps") or generated automatically (in "query shape maps") depending on the degree of control desired.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape: Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements **Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement**

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape: Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]

AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape: Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value Has zero or more "bf:class" statements taking objects that match the "Classification" shape

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
rdf:type bf:Person;
bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D550165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  pf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape:
Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements
Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement
Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value
Has zero or more "bf:class" statements taking objects
that match the "Classification" shape

Has one or more "bf:creator" statements taking objects

Has one or more "bf:creator" statements taking objects that match either the "Person" or the "Organization" shape

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;

  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape:
Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements
Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement
Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value
Has zero or more "bf:class" statements taking objects
that match the "Classification" shape
Has one or more "bf:creator" statements taking objects
that match either the "Person" or the "Organization"
Shape

And zero or more "bf:derivedFrom" statements taking an IRI as object.

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape:

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
[<a href="http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND

EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov"

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov" has zero or one "rdf:type bf:LOC" statements

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov" has zero or one "rdf:type bf:LOC statements optionally has an additional "rdf:type" statement

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]

AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov" has zero or one "rdf:type bf:LOC statements optionally has an additional "rdf:type" statement has exactly one "bf:label" statement with a literal value

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
   rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]

AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

2. Against a schema.

Shapes can combine constraints with AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses.

Validation

1. Validate data.

3. To yield a validation result

Terminology summarized

- A ShEx Schema holds a collection of...
 - Shape Expressions, which logically combine...
 - Node Constraints, which MUST match nodes in RDF Data, and...
 - Shapes, which MUST match triples in RDF Data as specified in...
 - Triple constraints, which MUST match triples touching a given node in RDF Data in terms of...
 - Predicates
 - Direction
 - Cardinality
 - Value

Active and friendly development community

- W3C Shape Expressions Community Group (ShEx CG)
 - https://www.w3.org/community/shex CG homepage
 - http://shex.io ShEx homepage
 - http://shex.io/shex-primer/ primer
 - http://shex.io/shex-semantics/ main specification
 - https://rawgit.com/shexSpec/shex.js/master/doc/shex-simple.html validator

Focus Node and Neighborhood of a Node

- Focus Node = node that is being validated (here :alice)
- Neighborhood of a node = set of incoming/outgoing triples

