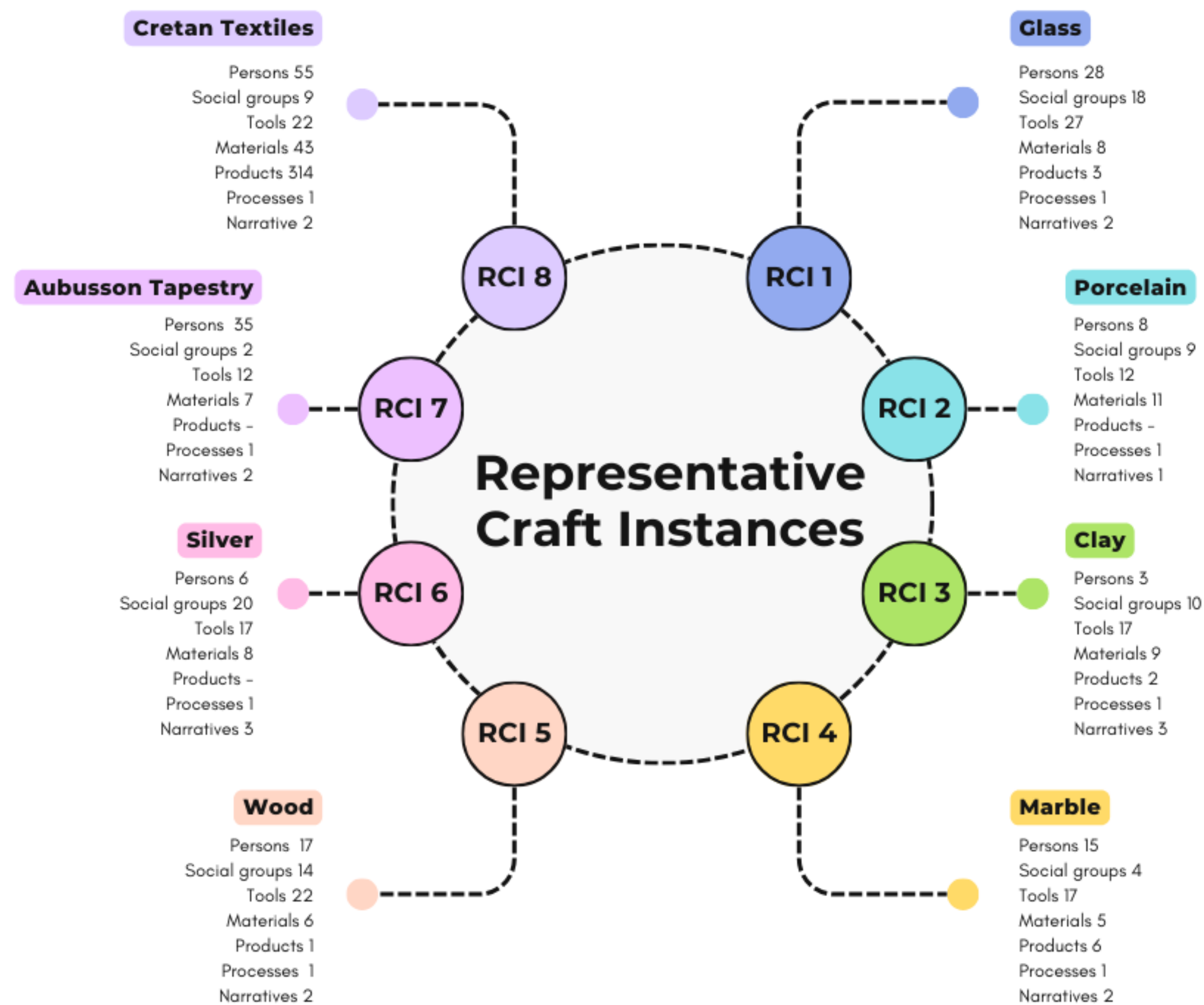


Weaving Knowledge: Building Narratives with Ontologies for Heritage Crafts

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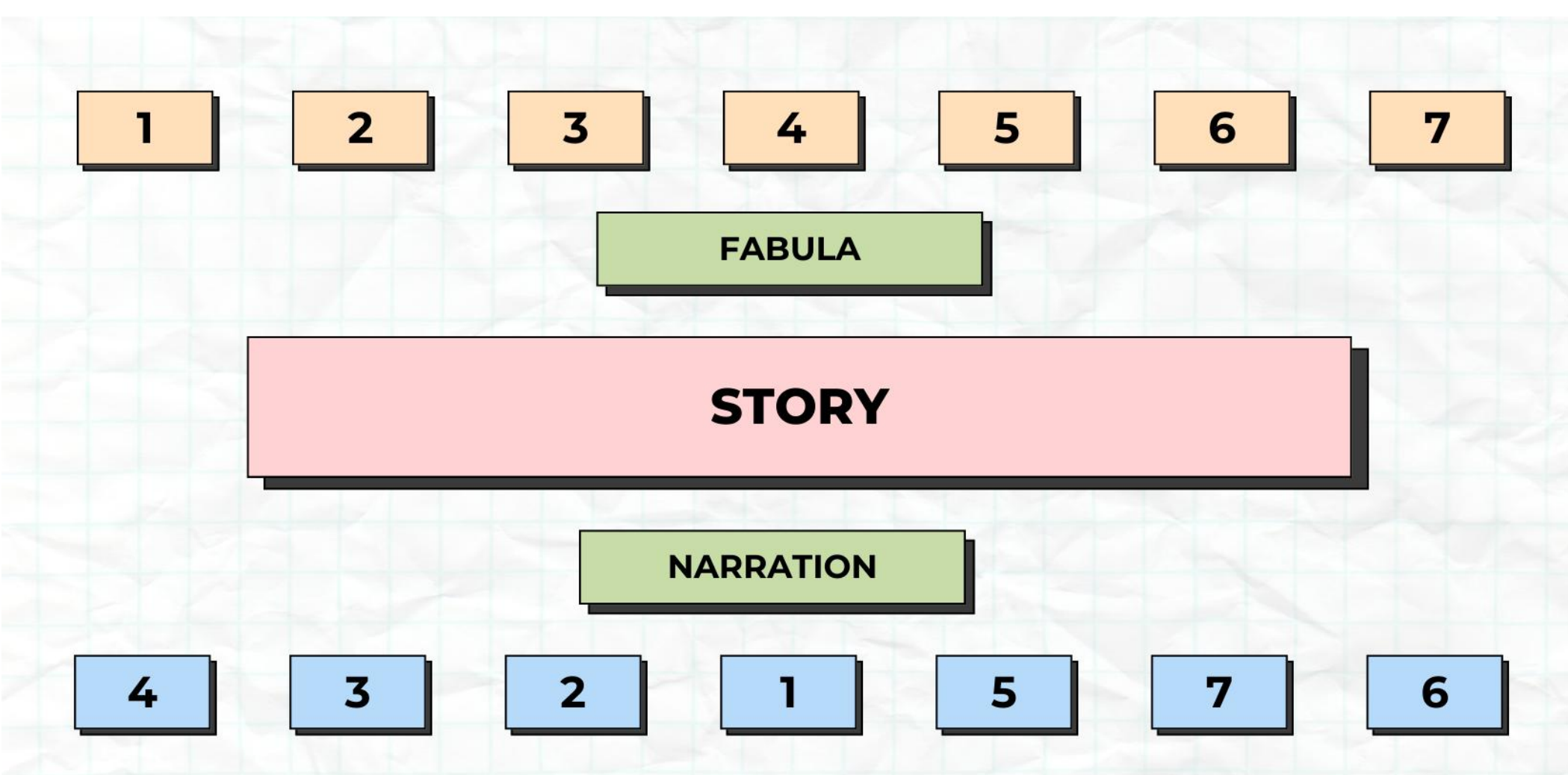
What Are Heritage Crafts and Why Narratives Matter?



Heritage Crafts (HCs) are living traditions—like weaving, porcelain-making, and woodwork—recognized by UNESCO as **Intangible Cultural Heritage**. They carry the knowledge, skills, and identities of communities across generations. **Narratives** are essential for preserving this cultural richness. They help us understand the evolution, technical depth, and social meaning of crafts. The **Craeft project** uses semantic technologies and ontologies to model these stories as interconnected events, linking **people**, **tools**, **materials**, and **places**. This ensures that both the tangible and intangible aspects of craft traditions remain accessible and meaningful for future generations.

What's one craft tradition from your country or family?

How Narratives Become Graphs?



In the Craeft project, narratives are transformed into **knowledge graphs** using a specialized **ontology** that connects diverse elements of craft knowledge. This ontology integrates vocabularies like **CIDOC CRM**, **NOnt**, **FRBRoo**, and **OWL Time** to ensure **semantic interoperability**. Central to this model is the split between **fabula** (the chronological sequence of events) and **narration** (the interpretive storytelling). Entities, such as **people**, **materials**, **places**, and **processes**, are **semantically annotated** and linked using identifiers from trusted thesauri like **AAT**, **ULAN**, and **Geonames**. The result is a **machine-readable**, **interoperable**, and **flexible** graph that captures the full richness of both traditional and contemporary craft narratives.

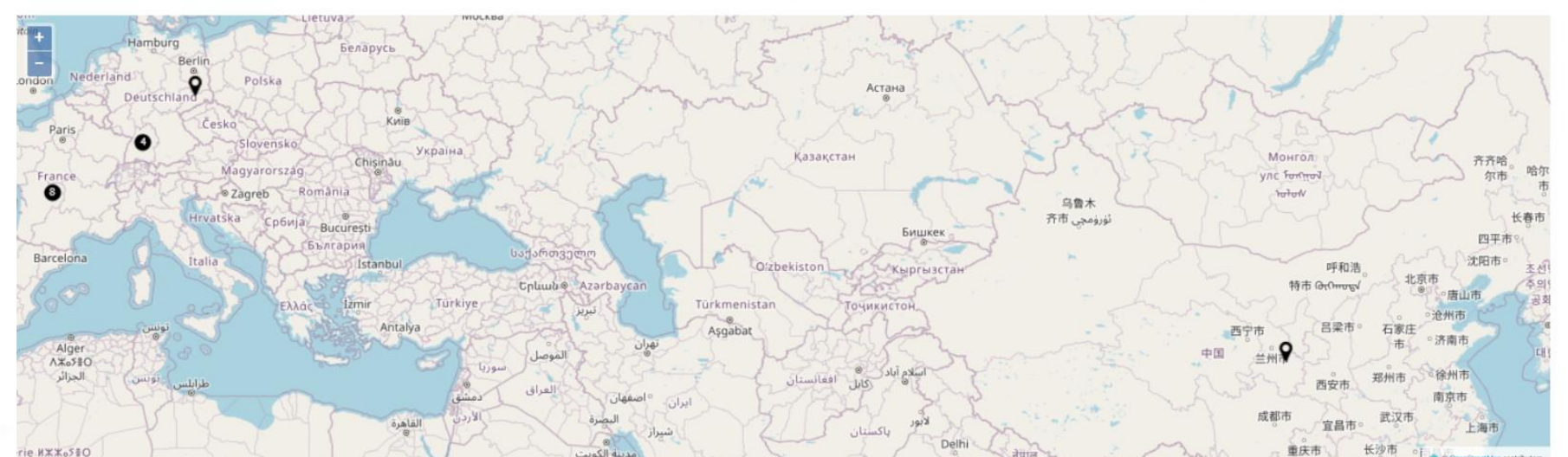
Fabula & Narration – What's the Difference?

Porcelain with a Past

A key narrative in the Craeft project is the story of **Limoges Porcelain** (RCI 2), a craft marked by refinement, innovation, and cultural significance. Though porcelain originated in China, its allure captivated European markets. A turning point came in **1768** with the discovery of **kaolin** near Limoges, leading to the rise of local production facilities by **1771**. By the **19th century**, Limoges had become the **epicentre of French porcelain**, known for its luminous white finish and exquisite craftsmanship, and was exported worldwide as a symbol of elegance and artistry.

Can We Preserve It All?

The screenshot shows the 'Story of Limoges Porcelain' website. It features a navigation bar with links to Home, Glass, Porcelain, Clay, Marble, Wood, Silver, Tapestry, Textiles, Music, Global, Recipes, and Help. The main content area is titled 'Narration: Story of Limoges Porcelain' and includes a 'View' button, a 'Narrative preview' button, a 'Timeline preview' button, and a 'Map preview' button. The 'Story of Limoges Porcelain' section includes a 'Narration' tab, a 'Presentation' tab, and a 'Story of Limoges Porcelain' tab. The 'Presentation' tab is active, showing a list of 'Related Events' and 'Key Actors'. The 'Related Events' list includes: 1300 - The Chinese guarded porcelain composition a secret; 1301 - Marco Polo brought a small jar from China back to Europe; 1400 - Chinese porcelain becomes popular; 1501 - Commercial trade routes to China; 1540 - Scientists across Europe experiment to make porcelain; 1710 - Establishment of Royal Polish and Electoral-Saxon Porcelain Manufactory; 1712 - Chinese porcelain manufacturing secrets were revealed; 1768 - Porcelain found at St. Yrieux; 1771 - Establishment of Porcelain professionals in Limoges; 1771 - Creation of The first porcelain with the Limoges mark; 1784 - A manufactory at Limoges was placed under the patronage of the comte d'Artois; 1789 - The French Revolution; 1810 - Restrictions of porcelain production lifted. The 'Key Actors' section includes: Augustus II the Strong, Marco Polo, European royalties, Dutch porcelain professionals, Portuguese porcelain profession..., Chinese porcelain professionals, European scientists, Enamel professionals in Limoges, Anne Robert Jacques Turgot, Porcelain professionals in Limoges, François Xavier d'Entrecasteaux, and Charles X.



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