6.2   BBC Artists

6.2.1   Background

The BBC Music Beta project[8] is an effort by the BBC to build semantically linked and annotated web pages about artists and singers whose songs are played on BBC radio stations. Within these pages, collections of data are enhanced and interconnected with semantic metadata, letting music fans explore connections between artists that they may have not known existed.

Previously, writers at the BBC would have to write (and keep up to date) interesting and relevant content on every single artist page they published. Instead, on the Music Beta project, the BBC is pulling in information from external sites such as MusicBrainz and Wikipedia and aggregating this information to build their web pages.

For this purpose, the BBC has adopted the RDF standard, and has mapped its own data schema with that published by MusicBrainz to utilize the unique identifiers that MusicBrainz provides. This allows the BBC site to leverage public domain content, augmenting the profile pages found there. MusicBrainz is an open content music "metadatabase" that lists information for over 400,000 artists; the information contained in the info-boxes on Wikipedia pages is captured in DBPedia.

6.2.2   Example

As an example, we can look at the BBC Artist web page for John Lennon.[9] At first sight, this web page looks like a regular web page with artist information such as biographical information, professional information such as artists that John Lennon played with and the bands he played in, reviews of albums, etc. But the page is also a rich set of RDF triples, using the MusicBrainz identifier for John Lennon 4d5447d7 as a resource to state such information as:

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[8]http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists.
[9]http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists/4d5447d7-c61c-4120-ba1b-d7f471d385b9.