2.2.1   Resources

We can think of a resource as an object, a "thing" we want to talk about. Resources may be authors, apartments, tennis players, places, people, hotels, search queries, and so on. Every resource has a URI. A URI can be a URL (Uniform Resource Locator, or web address) or another kind of unique identifier. URI schemes have been defined not only for web locations but also for telephone numbers, ISBN numbers, and geographic locations. URIs provide a mechanism to unambiguously identify the "thing" we want to talk about. Thus, if referring to a swimming pool, we can use a URI assigned to swimming pools and not have it be confused with billiards (pool) or a group of people (the pool of programmers). This is known as the homonym problem.

The use of a URI does not necessarily enable *access* to a resource. However, using dereferencable URLs for resource identifiers is considered good practice. It enables users to either retrieve a resource itself (in the case of an image) or a further description of that resource (in case of a person). This practice is assumed throughout the book. The use of URIs is one of the key design decisions behind RDF. It allows for a global, worldwide unique naming scheme. The use of such a scheme greatly reduces the homonym problem that has plagued distributed data representation until now.

2.2.2   Properties

Properties are a special kind of resource; they describe relations between other resources – for example, "friend of," "written by," and "located in." Like all resources, properties are identified by URIs. We can also dereference property URLs to find their descriptions.

2.2.3   Statements

Statements assert the properties of resources. A statement is an entity-attribute-value triple, consisting of a resource, a property, and a value. The value can either be a