

allowing for knowledge to be reused; for example, if we find RDF on the web describing Amsterdam, we can reuse that information just by using that URL. Indeed, there is a set of best practices, called the *Linked Data principles*,¹ that encourage us to reuse and make available information to help create this global graph.

1. Use URIs as names for things.
2. Use HTTP URIs so that people can look up those names.
3. When someone looks up a URI, provide useful information, using the standards (RDF).
4. Include links to other URIs so that they can discover more things.

While the RDF data model does not require that we follow these principles, by doing so we can take advantage of the contributed knowledge of others. Notice how we have reused this information from DBpedia.org in our examples. You can follow these URLs to find out more information about the referred to concepts.

2.2.5 Pointing to Statements and Graphs

Sometimes it is useful to be able to point to particular statements and parts of graphs, such as when assigning a degree of belief in a statement or identifying where a statement has come from. For example, we may want to say that the statement about the location of the Baron Way Building was created by a person, Frank. RDF provides two mechanisms for doing so.

One is called *reification*. The key idea behind reification is to introduce an auxiliary object, say, *LocationStatement*, and relate it to each of the three parts of the original

¹<http://www.w3.org/DesignIssues/LinkedData.html>.