THEORETICAL MODEL

The theoretical model, in the development of our project, is the abstract bridge between the E/R model and the Conceptual model. While the E/R model represents the connection between real items and entities, the Theoretical model expresses these relationships in abstract and general terms. The theoretical model graph is the visual representation of this process of abstraction and was useful to us in thinking about a conceptual model.

- **What**

  The project's core concept is One Thousand and One Nights collection itself. Our intention was to show the different concepts generated from this starting point. These concepts space from general themes to works of art. We use DC Terms, CRM and EAD to describe works of art specifically, while, RDF, DBPedia, SKOS and FOAF to express more general features and relations.

- **Who**

  In our project we can distinguish people for their different roles: creators of works of art or One Thousand and One Nights characters. Regarding the creators, it was very important to describe their nationality, specifying birth countries and places through ontologies such as DBpedia and Person Core Vocabulary. It was even more important to define their occupation to underline the variety of fields where our "concept" manifested: that was done using Core Concepts Ontology. The result is infact a multicultural plethora of countries and art disciplines.

  Different degrees of relationships between people and items/entities were described using RDF, FOAF, GeoNames, DCterms and OWL ontologies.

- **When**

  In our project we selected just one date entity, which is the very year when One Thousand and One Night met the Western culture and became a concept more than a book. It is a real turning point in our scenario: we selected a unique date as it is not possible to mark the end of this orientalism trend. Thus we adopted a few basic time ontology describing the format (EAD, Time Ontology) and the relation with other resources (RDF, DC Terms, FOAF).

- **Where**

  Places are very important in our project, they witness One Thousand and One Night's spreading from its Middle-East roots to Western culture. This spreading gave birth to a real "easternizing" trend and fascination. We identified both historical places, like Persian Empire, both landmarks present on nowadays maps and still functioning. Given this variety, our decision to use different ontologies: some of them specific for geographical description as GeoNames and Basic Geo, and some others accounting for more general relationship between them, like RDF, DBpedia and Schema.