

<http://data.vti.be/>  
mapping artistic practice in the performing arts

Ghent, Boekentoren  
June 5th, 2009

# overview

- short demo
- background
- open content
- linked data
- architecture
- discussion

vti

PLUG IN & PLAY

Help

About VTI

Legal

PERSONEN

ORGANISATIES

PRODUCTIES

SEIZOENEN

Taal: NL FR EN

Afmelden

Zoeken naar personen...

ZOEKEN

Meg Stuart

VTI > PERSONEN > MEG STUART

DETAILS

Naam	Meg Stuart
Klasse	Persoon
Geslacht	Vrouw
Taal	Nederlands
Land	België

DOCUMENTEN DOOR

Naam	Datum	Soort
No one is watching	04/08/1995	A/V
xxx, For Arlene and Coleagues	21/11/1996	A/V
No Longer Readymade	12/10/1993	A/V
Disfigure Study	15/10/1991	A/V
Insert Skin #1/They Live in Our Breath	21/11/1996	A/V
Insert Skin #3 (Splayed Mind out)	31/12/1996	A/V

PRODUCTIES

Naam	Functie	Seizoen
Disfigure Study	danser	2006-2007
sand table	concept	2005-2006
Disfigure Study	choreografie	1992-1993
soft wear	concept	2000-2001
soft wear	choreografie	2000-2001
soft wear	dansers & acteurs	2000-2001
Disfigure Study	choreografie	2004-2005

DOCUMENTEN OVER

Naam
Meg Stuart: interview
Metropolis: Meg Stuart
Esquisses théâtrales
Metropolis : Replacement
Harde confrontatie met wereld als doigedraaid mallemonen
"It's not funny" .. Pas vraiment drôle en effet
"DISFIGURE STUDY TOURT KORT DOOR

Tags

dans

Brussel

SAVE

X

Vlaams Theater Instituut

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore.

# data model

- detailed records for every performing arts **production**
  - near-exhaustive covering since 1993-1994
  - earliest data from the 1950's
  - plus: show dates for certain subsections of the data
- dynamic links to **people** and **organisations** responsible: 'credits'
- integrated with **documentation** & archives
- tagging & commenting

# organisations & people

- over the 1993-2005 period:
  - 6.653 productions in total, with credits for these pointing to:
    - 1.288 different organisations  
producers, coproducers, etc
    - 12.304 different people  
only 5.544 of these more than once on stage
- plus data for earlier & more recent seasons

# documentation

- 102.000 references of articles
  - from newspapers (itemized as press cuttings)
  - from 1200 periodicals (in sum 27.000 issues)
- 7.700 video's
  - VHS
  - Digital video
- 18.500 books
  - 50% drama texts (often unpublished)
  - 50% books relevant to performing arts practice, research & policy
- ephemera, photographs, posters...

# data integration

- VTi database is currently an island
  - what we type in, gets in
  - strong online data providers: IMDB, Amazon, WorldCat, Wikipedia, etc.
  - reuse of our data on actor's Facebook etc. only manually
- Dutch is not per se the language of professionals in Flanders
  - e.g. dance...

# business case

- effective metadata creation & management tools
  - backoffice automation
  - more international standards
- open content
  - integration with external data sources
  - facilitate reuse & identify overlaps
  - multilingual access
- inviting interface for research
- compliance with privacy regulations

# technology & infrastructure

- VTi was planning a database upgrade
- VTi is phasing out Microsoft OS and office software
  - issues with sustainability (patents, IT commerce...)
  - open source software is well proven
- super connectivity to the building
  - dark fibre 1 Gb/s upstream & downstream
- OpenID for all systems



# solution

- splitting up the database
  - contact details, sensitive or private information and library lending
  - open data: productions, credits, documents
- no use cases where full referential integrity is needed
  - recurring (yearly?) manual check

# CiviCRM on Drupal

- CiviCRM is an open-source CRM for non-profit organisations
  - Memberships
  - Event registration & payment
  - Grants
  - Mailings
  - Contacts with many-to-many relationships
  - Self-service portal
- VTi designed a CiviLending module to integrate with the CiviCRM communication tools
  - is being built by KRIMSON Drupal Architects



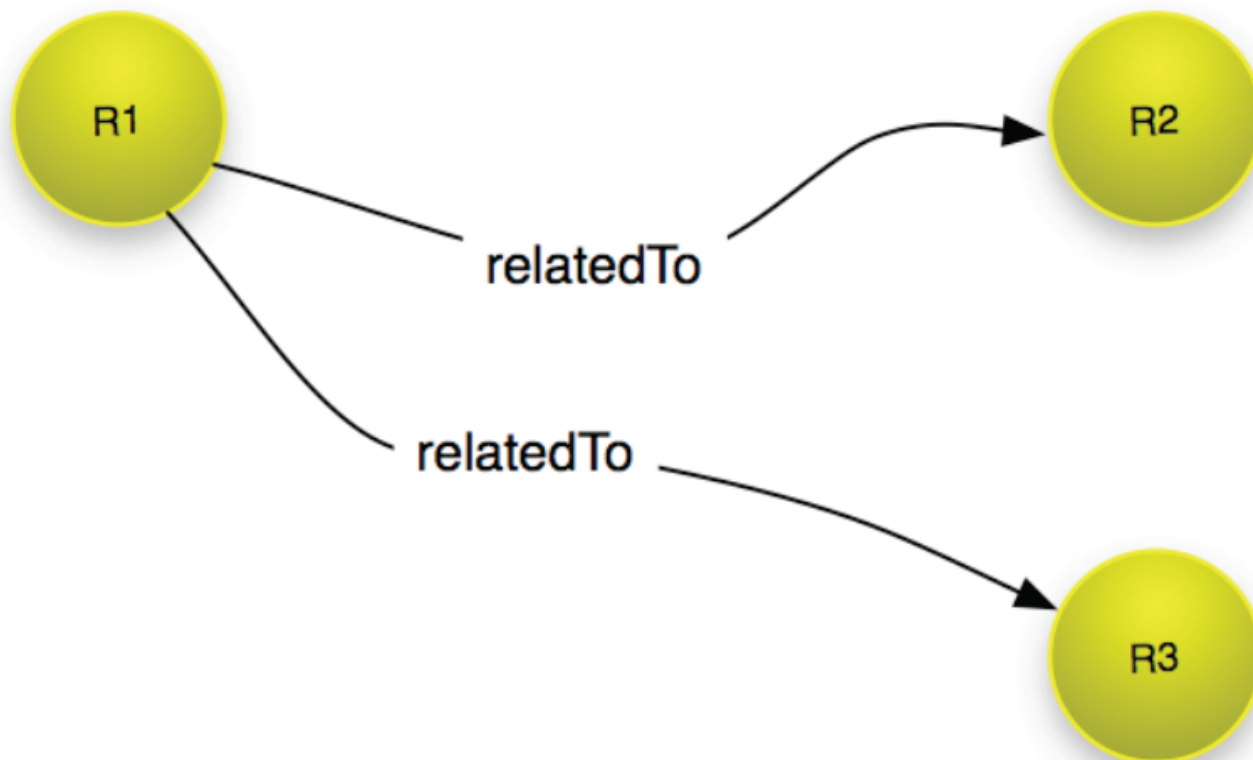
# Custom development

- Migration of MSSQL to PostgreSQL
- Ruby on Rails application on top:
  - Anonymous browsing in NL/FR/EN
  - Identified users get more data (CultuurDatabank, unedited seasons, extra fields) and more tools (tagging, post-its)
  - Admin users get all fields plus edit functionality
- Entire application will be available open source by Sept 2009
  - Is being built by 10to1
  - Will be adopted by Contredanse also
- Plus: RDF



# relationships are key

## Resource Description Framework (RDF)



# relationships as hyperlinks

useit.com → Alertbox

## Alertbox: Current Issues in Web Usability

Bi-weekly column by Dr. [Jakob Nielsen](#), principal, [Nielsen Norman Group](#)

### Email Newsletter

Get a short newsletter by email when a new Alertbox goes online:

Your email address:

**Privacy policy:** Email addresses are never sold or given out to *anybody*.

This is an announcements-only list with very low volume: one short message every two weeks.

Unsubscribe instructions are listed at the bottom of every email.

### Archive

Read these first: [Usability 101](#) and [Top 10 mistakes of Web design](#).

- [Write for Reuse](#) (March 2, 2009)
- [Mobile Web 2009 = Desktop Web 1998](#) (February 17, 2009)
- [Macintosh: 25 Years](#) (February 2, 2009)
- [PR on Websites: Press Area Usability](#) (January 20, 2009)
- [10 Best Intranets of 2009](#) (January 5, 2009)

- [Interaction Elasticity](#) (December 15, 2008)
- [American English vs. British English for Web Content](#) (December 1, 2008)
- [Agile Development Projects and Usability](#) (November 17, 2008)
- [Aspects of Design Quality](#) (November 3, 2008)
- [Transactional Email and Confirmation Messages](#) (October 20, 2008)
- [When to Use Which User Experience Research Methods](#) (October 6, 2008)
- [About Us Information on Websites](#) (September 29, 2008)
- [Store Finders and Locators](#) (September 15, 2008)
- [Site Map Usability](#) (September 2, 2008)
- [10 Best Application UIs of 2008](#) (August 12, 2008)
- [Nielsen Norman Group: The First Decade](#) (August 8, 2008)
- [Weekly User Testing: TiVo Did It, You Can, Too](#) (July 28, 2008)
- [Enterprise Portals Are Popping](#) (July 14, 2008)
- [Reduce Bounce Rates: Fight for the Second Click](#) (June 30, 2008)
- [Extreme Usability: How to Make an Already-Great Design Even Better](#) (June 23, 2008)
- [Writing Style for Print vs. Web](#) (June 9, 2008)
- [OK-Cancel or Cancel-OK?](#) (May 27, 2008)
- [Link List Color on Intranets](#) (May 13, 2008)
- [How Little Do Users Read?](#) (May 6, 2008)
- [Right-Justified Navigation Menus Impede Scannability](#) (April 28, 2008)
- [25 Years in Usability](#) (April 21, 2008)
- [Four Bad Designs](#) (April 14, 2008)
- [Middle-Aged Users' Declining Web Performance](#) (March 31, 2008)
- [Bridging the Designer-User Gap](#) (March 17, 2008)
- [Company Name First in Microcontent?](#) Sometimes! (March 3, 2008)
- [Top-10 Application-Design Mistakes](#) (February 19, 2008)
- [User Skills Improving, But Only Slightly](#) (February 4, 2008)



## Design Issues

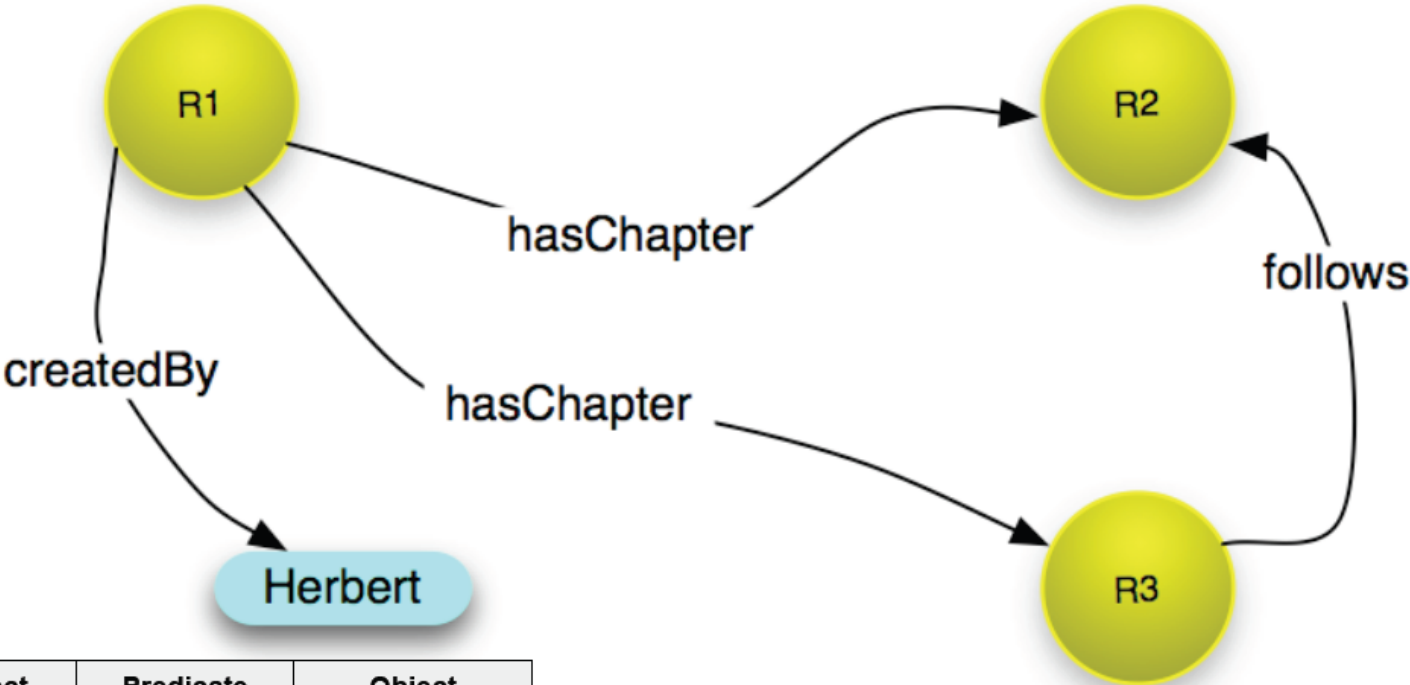
### Architectural and philosophical points

These statements of architectural principle explain the thinking behind the specifications. These are personal notes by Tim Berners-Lee: they are not endorsed by W3C. They are aimed at the technical community, to explain reasons, provide a framework to provide consistency for future developments, and avoid repetition of discussions once resolved.

- [Preface](#)
- [The Stack of Specifications](#) (2002)
- [Web Architecture from 50,000 feet](#) (1998)
  - [Principles of Design](#) (1998-9)
  - [The Web Model: Information hiding and URI syntax](#) (Jan 98)
- [Axioms of Web architecture: URIs](#) (19 Dec. 96)
  - [Fragment Identifiers](#)
  - [Webizing an existing application](#) (2000/09)
  - [When to use XLink](#) (2002/06)
  - [What do HTTP URIs identify?](#) (2002/09)
  - [What HTTP URIs identify](#) (2005/6)
- [Links and laws](#) - what does a hypertext link imply? (April 1997)
  - [Myths about Links](#) (April 97)
  - [Persistent Domains](#) - an idea for persistence of URIs (2000/10)
- [The Myth of Names and Addresses](#)
- [Generic resources 3-95](#)
- [Metadata Architecture](#) (6 Jan 1997)
  - [Dictionaries in the Library?](#) On the two-level system design error (2000)
- [The meaning of a document](#) - grounding in a global namespace (1999 - in progress)
  - [The interpretation of an XML document](#) (2002)
- [Mandatory extensions: A fundamental design need](#) (1999? in progress)
- [Extensible languages and web evolution](#) (1998/Feb 1998)
- [Evolvability](#) (April 1998)
  - [Mandatory extensions](#) (2000/1)
- [A roadmap to the Semantic Web](#) (Sept 98)
  - [What the semantic Web isn't but can represent](#) (1998)
  - [Linked Data](#) (2006/7)
  - [RDF and Relational databases](#) (1998) (link added 2001)
  - [Conceptual Graphs and the semantic Web](#) (2001)
  - [Why RDF model is not exactly the XML model](#) (1999)
  - [Identity: how to identify what in RDF](#) (2000/02)
  - [Using labels to give semantics to tags](#) (2006/11)
  - [Interpretation expressed as RDF property](#) (language, etc) (2000/03)
  - [Semantic Web Toolbox: Logic & trust in XML-RDF](#) (1999)
  - [Semantics and Interpretation](#) (and dig sig) (1999/12/1) Philosophical bits
  - [Logic and the semantic web](#) (1999)
  - [The RDF-diff problem](#) - transmitting changes to graphs (2001, 2004)
  - [Rules and facts: Inference engines and the Semantic Web](#) (2000/1)
  - [Limiting the damage of an inconsistency](#) (2000/1)
  - [Notation3: Logic and Rules on RDF](#) - showing it is possible (2000/10)

# relationships as 'triples'

## Resource Description Framework (RDF)



Subject	Predicate	Object
R1	hasChapter	R2
R1	hasChapter	R3
R3	follows	R2
R1	createdBy	"Herbert"

**Triples**

# linked data = 'RDF light'

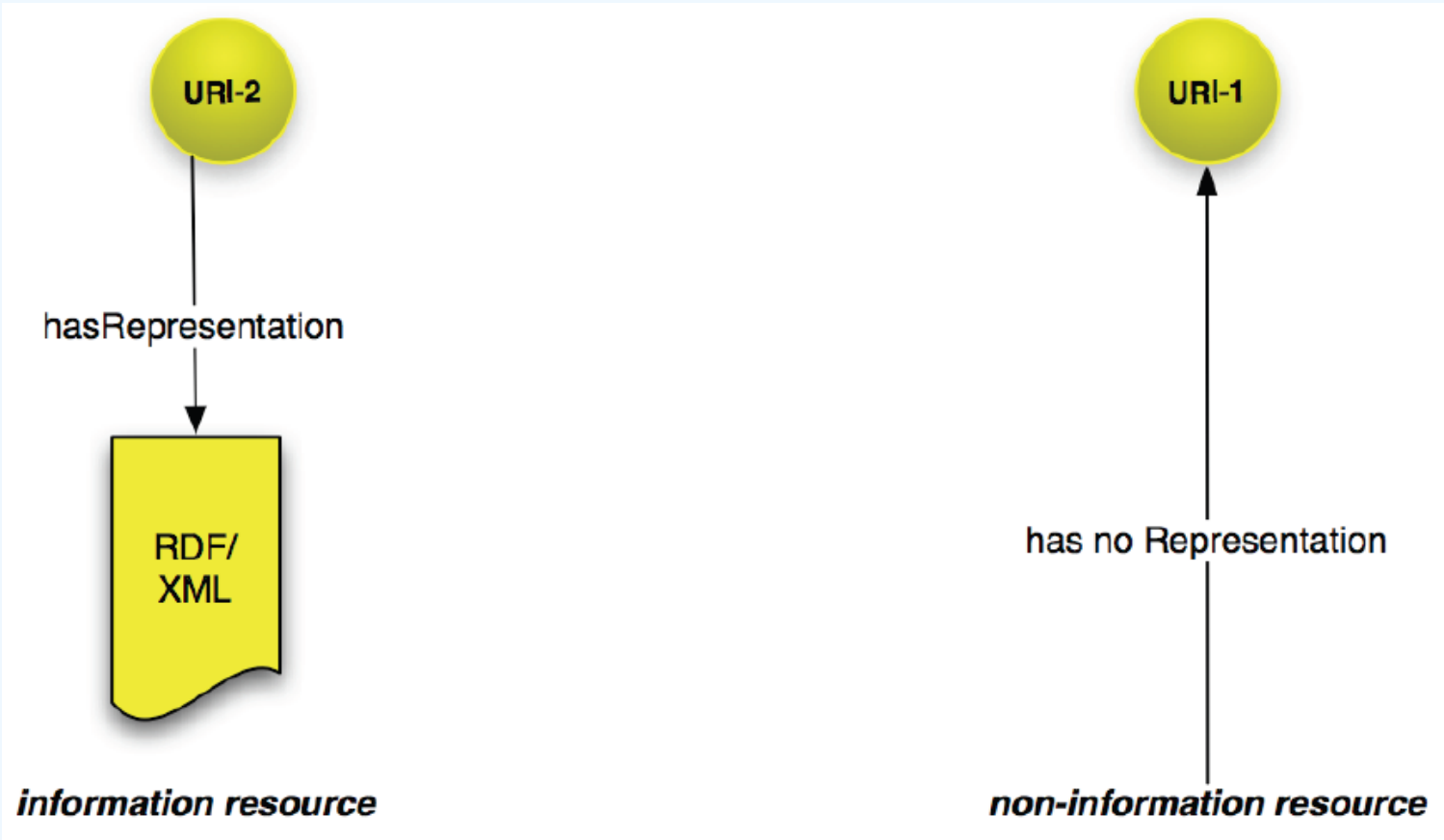
Tim Berners-Lee set the 4 principles:

1. Use URIs as names for real things, not just web pages
2. Use HTTP URIs so that people can look up those names
3. When someone looks up a URI, provide useful information
4. Include links to other URIs, so that they can discover more things

# cool URI's are stable identifiers

<http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.html>  
<http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.html?lang=fr>  
<http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.rdf>  
<http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.atom>

<http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens>





# what http:// does for you

http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.html  
http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.html?lang=fr  
http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.rdf  
http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens.atom

http://data.vti.be/arne+sierens

