

Vocabularies (Schemas) at W3C

Some Observations and Some Options

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Data Interoperability

- Millions of data producers (eg websites)
 - Big, general ones (eg Wikipedia)
 - My neighborhood event
 - Your gene-splicing experiment
- Millions of data consumers (eg webapps)
 - Big, general ones (eg Google)
 - Specific business websites (eg BBC)
 - Apps (eg local events)
- How can they all communicate?
 - HTTP (etc) + RDF + Vocabularies

Does that help?

- Same IRI (great)
foaf:given_name
- Perfectly convertible
vcard:givenName
- Lossy conversion
foaf:firstName, foaf:name
- No known conversion (not much help)

Toward Interoperability

- Use very clear properties/classes
 - “say what you mean” - Jason Douglas
- Collaborate
 - Get consensus with folks working on the same problem
- Relate to Prior Work
 - bi-directional conversion axioms if possible
- Provide Good Namespace Website
- Help people find suitable vocabs
 - promote your work; review the work of others

W3C Vocabulary Services

- Groups
- Hosting
- Directory

<http://www.w3.org/2013/04/vocabs> (draft)

Groups

- Community Groups
 - Propose a group for your vocabulary
 - Go looking for potential collaborators
 - <http://www.w3.org/community>
- WebSchemas Group for general advice
 - public-vocabs@w3.org
- Working Groups, Business Groups, etc

Hosting

- Any W3C group can post to
 - [http://www.w3.org/ns/\(groupname\)](http://www.w3.org/ns/(groupname))
- Different URL? Ask.
- Non W3C group? Ask.
- Nice website? Under development
- Nice development tools? Maybe
- Purpose: helping data interop

Directory (DRAFT Plan)

- We'll start with a simple database of vocabs and sources of vocab data
- Add datasources for reviews/endorsements
- Make a simple browse/comment website
- Open data, so others can provide UIs
- Goal: make it easy to find vocabs and select the best for your purpose.

(NOT YET APPROVED; DONATIONS WELCOME)

Interoperability?

- Groups: Collaboration and Consensus
- Hosting: Decent website, Long-Term Stability
- Directory: Help users make good choices
 - Convergence + Innovation