

Ontology Design By Enrichiching Taxonomies

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February 3, 2021



About the Speakers

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Semantic Web Company is a leading provider of graph-based metadata, search, and analytic solutions and the developer of PoolParty Semantic Suite software.





Outline

- 1. Data, Information, and Knowledge Problems
- 2. Knowledge Organization Systems
- 3. Ontology Types and Approaches
- 4. Using and Applying Ontologies to Taxonomies
- 5. Creating Knowledge Graphs
- 6. Ontology Modeling Issues and Tips



1. Introduction

Data, information, and knowledge problems and solutions





Data, Information, and Knowledge Problems & Solutions

Problems

- Data silos
- Heterogeneous data sources
- Mix of unstructured and structured data
- Same things with different names
- Localized meanings
- Change

Causing

- Inefficiencies
- Missed opportunities
- Poor decisions

Solutions

- Sharing data
- Reusable data sets
- Semantic links
- Semantic data fabric
- Unified views

Provided by

- Data-centric architecture
- Knowledge graphs
- Ontologies

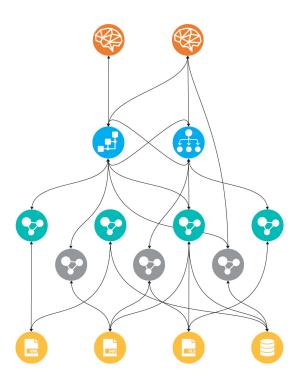
Results in

- Better decisions
- Customer satisfaction
- Knowledge discovery





Knowledge Graphs



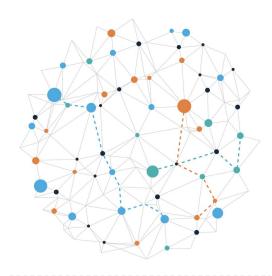
SEMANTIC AI APPLICATION

CONCEPTUAL AND LINGUISTIC MODEL

ENTERPRISE KNOWLEDGE GRAPH

(VIRTUAL) Data Graph

CONTENT & DATA LAYER



An Enterprise Knowledge Graph contains business objects and topics that are closely linked, classified, semantically enriched, and connected to existing data and documents.





Ontologies

Ontologies provide:

- The semantic structure of a knowledge graph:
 - A template for the types, attributes and possible relationships between entities
 - The meaning of the defined nodes and edges
- A standard method to name and link all business objects
- A knowledge model for the domain
- > The term "ontology" is sometimes used to mean any structured knowledge model, including vocabularies. We'll use it in the above stricter sense only.



2.
Knowledge
Organization Systems

Taxonomies, thesauri, and ontologies: types, comparisons, and standards





Knowledge Organization Systems

Knowledge models and knowledge organization systems (KOS)

- Knowledge model names of entities and their relationships in a particular domain, to support knowledge and reasoning about what is in the domain.
- Knowledge organization system (KOS) a system or structure of concepts to support the organization of knowledge and information in order to make their management and retrieval easier.
- A knowledge model may comprises one or more KOS.
- Sometimes a knowledge model and a KOS are the same (e.g., an ontology)
- A KOS may be of limited use, and thus not constitute a knowledge model.

(e.g., a single taxonomy)





Knowledge Organization Systems

- Any system of concepts, terminology, classification, etc. to organize, define, manage, and/or retrieve information.
- A scheme to organize concepts/terms for organizing, classifying, defining, tagging, or retrieving information, rather than any method to organize knowledge directly.
- Includes more than just "controlled vocabularies"

KOS types:

term lists synonym rings Controlled name authorities Vocabularies taxonomies thesauri glossaries dictionaries gazetteers terminologies categorization schemes classification schemes subject heading schemes semantic networks ontologies





Term list

- Also called a "pick list"
- A simple, flat list of terms
- Usually alphabetical, but could be in other logical order
- Lacking synonyms, it is usually short enough for quick browsing
- Often used for various metadata values
- Part of a *set* of controlled vocabularies, such as facets of a faceted taxonomy
- Sometimes "controlled vocabularies" is used to mean term lists, because they are the most basic kind.



Select All Danish English French German Italian Portuguese Spanish Turkish Ukrainian

Language of publication

Select All Almanac/Yearbook Atlas Audio Blog Chronology Collection Dictionary Directory Encyclopedia Factbook Handbook Images Magazine/Journal Monograph Newsletter Newspaper Newswire Pamphlet Report Textbook Transcript Video

Publication format

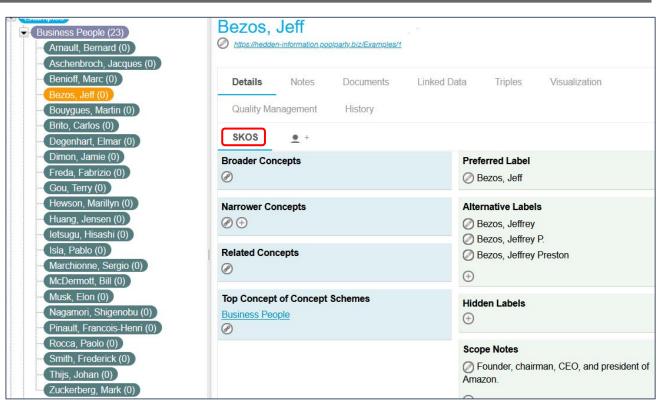
Country of publication





Name authority

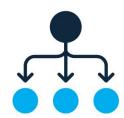
- Also called Authority file
- For named entities/ concrete entities/ proper nouns
- A controlled vocabulary with preferred names and variant/alternative names.
- May or may not have hierarchical relationships between named entities.
- Usually has additional information/attributes (metadata) for each named entity (although





Taxonomy

 A KOS with broader/narrower (parent/child) relationships that include all concepts to create a hierarchical structure.



- Has a focus on categorizing and organization concepts.
- May or may not have "synonyms" to point to the correct, preferred terms/labels
- May comprise several hierarchies or facets.
 (A facet can be considered as a hierarchy.)
- "Taxonomy" sometimes refers to any kind of controlled vocabulary (term list, authority file, synonym ring, classification scheme, thesaurus, etc.)





Hierarchical

Taxonomy

Example

Taxonomy Examples

Leisure and culture

- Arts and entertainment venues
- Museums and galleries
- Children's activities
- Culture and creativity
- . Architecture
- Crafts
- . Heritage
- . Literature
- . Music
- . Performing arts
- . Visual arts
- . Entertainment and events
- . Gambling and lotteries
- . Hobbies and interests
- . Parks and gardens
- . Sports and recreation
- . Team sports
- . . Cricket
- . . Football
- . . Rugby
- . Water sports
- . Winter sports
- Sports and recreation facilities
- Tourism
- . Passports and visas
- Young people's activities

Career Level

- Student
- Entry Level
- Experienced
- Manager
- Director
- Executive

Faceted

Taxonomy

Example

Function

- Customer Service & Support
- Delivery
- Engineering
- Finance
- General Management
- Legal & Regulatory Affairs
- Marketing & Advertising [more]

Industry

- Agriculture
- Apparel & Fashion
- Automotive
- Aviation & Aerospace
- Banking
- Biotechnology
- Broadcast Media
- Chemicals [more]



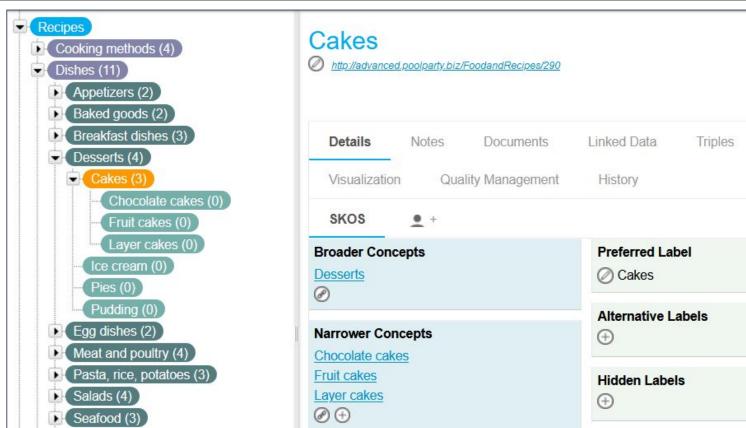


Hierarchical taxonomy example

Concepts have broader concepts and narrower concepts.

Screenshot from Poolparty







Thesaurus

- A KOS that has standard structured relationships between terms/concepts
 - Hierarchical: broader term/narrower term (BT/NT)
 - Associative: related terms (RT)
 - Preferred terms and Alternative terms (as equivalence relationship USE/UF) or preferred

labels and alternative labels.

- Created in accordance with standards:
 - ISO 25964-1 Part 1, Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies
 - ANSI/NISO Z39.19 Guidelines for Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies
- The kind of KOS most used in indexing articles for library/ academic research; existed, originally in print, since 1960s

materials acquisitions

- UF acquisitions (of materials) library acquisitions
- BT collection development
 - accessions approval plans gifts and exchanges materials claims materials orders subscriptions
- RT book vendors jobbers subscription agencies subscription cancellations



ASIS&T Thesaurus entry example



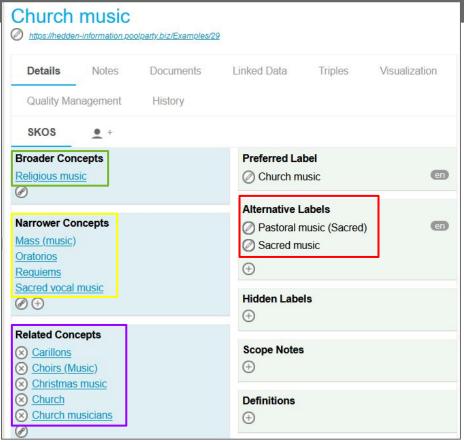
ANSI/NISO thesaurus model and SKOS model compared

Church music UF Pastoral music (Sacred) (Subjects) **UF Sacred music (Subjects)** BT Religious music (Subjects) NT Mass (Music) (Subjects) NT Oratorios (Subjects) NT Requiems (Subjects) NT Sacred vocal music (Subjects) RT Carillons (Subjects) RT Choirs (Music) (Subjects) RT Christmas music (Subjects) RT Church (Subjects) RT Church musicians (Subjects) RT Classical music (Subjects) RT Contemporary Christian music (Sub RT Devotional exercises (Subjects) RT Easter music (Subjects) RT Liturgics (Subjects)

RT Liturgics (Subjects)

RT Organ music (Subjects)

ANSI/NISO thesaurus model





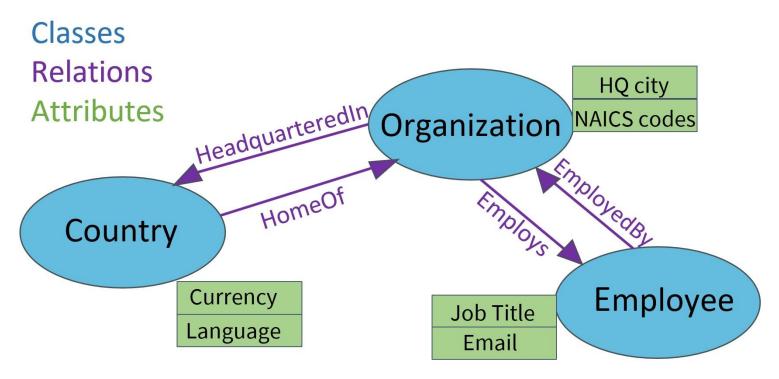


Ontology

- The most complex or semantically rich kind of KOS
- Arguably not even a KOS, as it's for knowledge representation, not organization
- A formal naming and definition of the types, properties and interrelationships of entities in a particular domain.
- Comprises classes, relations, and attributes. Theses are linked in triples.
- Relations contain meaning, are "semantic."
- W3C guideline: OWL Web Ontology Language Guide W3C Recommendation (2004) http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-owl-guide-20040210/









Ontology model example



Controlled Vocabularies / Knowledge Organization Systems

More

Less Support for Complexity / Expressiveness

Term List Taxonomy Name Authority **Thesaurus** Ontology Ambiguity control Ambiguity control Ambiguity control Ambiguity control Ambiguity control Synonym control (Synonym control) Synonym control (Synonym control) Hierarchical relationships Hierarchical relationships Semantic relationships Associative relationships **Attributes** (Attributes) Classes





Standards are of two basic types:

- 1. Standards for design
 - supports an expected experience and results by varied users without training
- 2. Standards for specifications (measurements, protocols, coding, etc.)
 - supports exchange and interoperability

Standards for knowledge organization systems of each type:

- 1. Standards for design:
 - ISO 25964 (2011 and 2013) Thesauri and Interoperability with Other Vocabularies ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005 Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies www.niso.org/publications/ansiniso-z3919-2005-r2010
- 2. Standards for specifications, interoperability, and machine readability: Dublin Core, MARC, ZThes, DD 8723-5, SKOS, RDF, RDFS, and OWL



ISO 25964 and ANSI/NISO Z39.19 - Examples from guidelines:

- Concepts are things: nouns or noun phrases
- No duplicates: Concept labels must be unique
- No relationship clashes: A pair of concepts can be either hierarchically or associatively related to each other, but not both.
- No circular relationships: hierarchical relationship logic extends:
 - Concept A is narrower to Concept B, and
 - Concept B is narrower to Concept C,
 - Concept C cannot be narrower to Concept A.







ISO 25964 and ANSI/NISO Z39.19 - Hierarchical relationship

Reciprocal (bi-directional) relationship, but asymmetrical



Fruits NT (has narrower concept) Oranges

Oranges BT (has broader concept) Fruits

Three types:

- 1. Generic Specific: "is/are a kind of"
- 2. Generic Instance: "is an instance of"
- 3. Whole Part: "is/are within"

Hospitals NTG Children's hospitals

Hospitals NTI Massachusetts General Hospital

Hospitals NTP Emergency rooms





SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System) principles

- A KOS is a group of concepts identified with URIs and grouped into a concept scheme.
- Concepts can be labeled with any number of lexical strings (labels) in any natural language, such as prefLabel and altLabel.
- Concepts can be documented with notes of various types: scope notes, definitions, editorial notes, etc.
- Concepts can be linked to each other using hierarchical and associative semantic relations.
- Concepts can be grouped into collections, which can be labeled and/or ordered.
- Concepts of different concept schemes can be mapped using four basic types of mapping links.





Concepts	Labels & Notation	Documentation	Semantic Relations	Collections	Mapping Properties
Concept	prefLabel	note	broader	Collection	broadMatch
ConceptScheme	altLabel	changeNote	narrower	orderedCollection	narrowMatch
inScheme	hiddenLabel	definition	related	member	relatedMatch
hasTopConcept	notation	editorialNote	broaderTransitive	memberList	closeMatch
topConceptOf		example	narrowerTransitive		exactMatch
		historyNote	semanticRelation		mappingRelation
		scopeNote			







Knowledge Organization System Standards: Ontologies

RDF (Resource Description Framework)

- A World Wide Web (W3C) recommendation https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts
- "A standard model for data interchange on the Web"
- Requires the use of URIs to specify things and to specify relations.
- Models all information as subject predicate object triples.

W3C RDF

RDFS (RDF-Schema)

- A W3C recommendation https://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/RDFS
- Published as part of the RDF Specification Suite Recommendations in 2004
- "A general-purpose language for representing simple RDF vocabularies on the Web"
- Goes beyond RDF to designate classes and properties of RDF resources.

OWL (Web Ontology Language)

- A W3C specification https://www.w3.org/OWL
- "A Semantic Web language designed to represent rich and complex knowledge about things, groups of things, and relations between things"
- Based on RDF and RDFS. OWL is W3Cs attempt to extend RDFS.











Knowledge Organization Systems: Summary

Taxonomies

- All concepts belong to a limited number of top-concept hierarchies or facets
- Loosely follow ANSI/NISO and ISO guidelines for organizing concepts.
- SKOS is the recommended specifications standard.
- Supports classification, categorization, concept organization.
- Approach is usually a top-down navigation through concepts.
- Especially serving end-users when browsing.

Thesauri

- All concepts have relationships, but "hierarchies" may be as few as 2 concepts.
- Strictly follow ANSI/NISO or ISO for organizing concepts.
- SKOS is the recommended specifications standard.
- Supports concept scoping, disambiguation, relationships with similar concepts.
- Approach is concept-centered and what concepts are related.
- Especially serving indexers indexing, researching searching.

Ontologies

- All concepts have relationships, but not necessarily hierarchical, rather semantic.
- Organizational principles are stateable in the ontology.
- OWL and RDFS are recommended standards.
- Support modeling and understanding of a domain.
- Approach emphasizes entities and their interrelations.
- Especially serving knowledge modeling, knowledge graphs, reasoning



Types of ontologies and differing approaches to ontology design





Components of an OWL ontology

Entities – subjects or objects of properties (domains and ranges)

- Classes
 - Named sets of concepts that share characteristics and relations
 - May group subclasses or individuals (instances of the class)
 - In SKOS: Concept schemes, Top concepts of a scheme, Concepts (usually with narrower concepts)
- Individuals
 - Members or instances of a class.
 - In SKOS: Concepts (that are named entities or without narrower concepts)

Properties – predicates about individuals (instances)

- Object properties
 - Relations between individuals
 - May be directed (single direction), symmetric, or with an inverse (different in each direction)
 - In SKOS: Relationships
- Datatype properties
 - Attributes or characteristics of individuals
 - The object of a datatype property is a value.
 - In SKOS: Attributes

Literals – values of attributes, with just a *lexical form* and a *datatype*.





Upper or foundation ontologies (top-level ontology, upper model)

- A generic, standard framework to serve as a high-level model for a domain ontology, taxonomy, or other KOS
- Examples: gist, Basic Formal Ontology (BFO), Suggested Upper Merged Ontology (SUMO), General Formal Ontology (GFO)

Domain or ontologies

- Concepts and relations belong to a specific subject domain
- Examples: Systems Biology Ontology, Gene Ontology, BBC Ontology, Financial Industry Business Ontology (FIBO)

Actually, a continuum of how generic or specific an ontology may be.

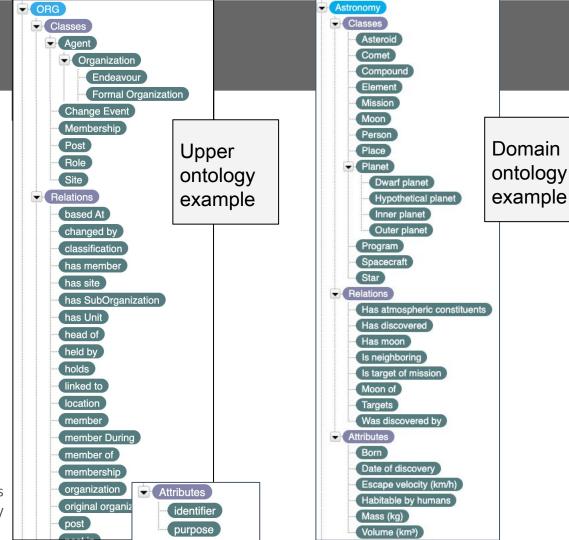




- An upper ontology is not always smaller than a domain ontology, but it is more generic.
- An upper ontology is intended to be extended to define a domain ontology.
- A domain ontology may also be extended or applied to more specific instances.



Screenshots from Poolparty





- "Ontology" may refer to
 - a generic model (upper or domain) or
 - a combination of a taxonomy with a semantic ontology layer.
- If an ontology is not a semantic layer to taxonomies, then it likely needs to contain specificity within it.
- If an ontology is a semantic layer overlaying and linked to taxonomies, then it need not be as large, detailed and specific, even if it's a domain ontology.





Components of all ontologies (upper and domain):

Classes

Relations (Object properties)

Attributes (Data properties)

Additional component in certain domain ontologies:

Instances (Individuals)

Questions regarding instances

- Are instances the most specific entity (any type), or only unique named entities?
- Are instances data?
- "An ontology need not include any individuals, but one of the general purposes of an ontology is to provide a means of classifying individuals, even if those individuals are not explicitly part of the ontology." - Ontology Components, Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontology_components



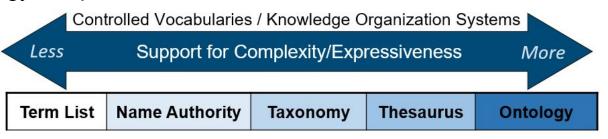
If instances are not explicitly part of the ontology, then they may be in a linked name authority or taxonomy.



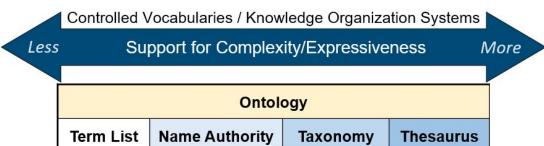
Ontology Approaches

Two approaches to developing domain ontologies:

1. The ontology comprises all entities: classes, subclasses, and instances.



2. The ontology comprises only the classes needed to describe the characteristics of the model





Ontology Approaches

Two approaches to domain ontologies:

- 1. Single knowledge organization system:
 - The ontology comprises all entities: classes, subclasses, and instances.
 - The ontology is as detailed as any taxonomy or thesaurus, but has the addition of semantic relations and attributes.
 - Classes have multiple levels of of subclasses.
 - Has individuals for unique named entity instances.
 - Modeled in dedicated ontology software.
- 2. Combination of a taxonomy with an ontology model:
 - The ontology comprises classes and subclasses to the extent needed to describe the generic characteristics of the model.
 - The ontology does not include all possible levels of hierarchy, nor any instances.
 - The ontology is a model that is applied as a semantic layer to a taxonomy or multiple taxonomies and/or thesaurus and name authorities.
 - More the hierarchy resides in the SKOS taxonomy.
- DataCentModeled in combination taxonomy/ontology software, such as PoolParty.



Ontology Approaches

1. Single knowledge organization system

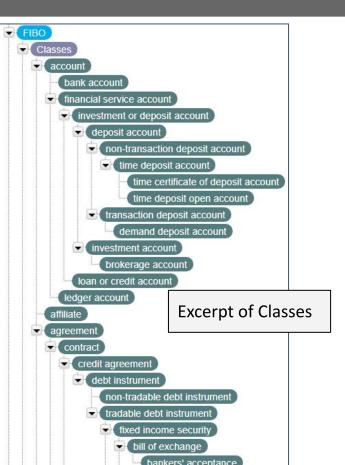
May become extensive.

Domain ontology example:

Financial Industry Business Ontology (FIBO)

Classes - 1384 Relations - 522 Attributes - 157





```
guarantees
has
      has accrual basis
   has address
         has electronic mail address
        has operating address
            has headquarters address
         has registered address
            has legal address
            has principal executive office address
         has telephone number
         has transliterated address
         verifies address
  has argument
                                 Excerpt of Relations
         has minuend
         has observed value
         has subtrahend
      has business day adjustment
      has business day convention
      has business recurrence interval convention
         has price and yield day count convention
```



2. Taxonomy + ontology layer

The ontology tends to be smaller and simpler.

Taxonomy may be based on SKOS, whereas ontology is based on OWL.

Domain ontology example:

Classes - 4

Relations - 6

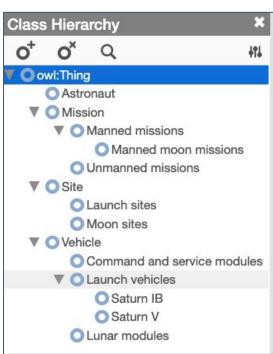
Attributes - 2

Taxonomy

DataCentric Screenshots
Architecture Forum from Poolparty

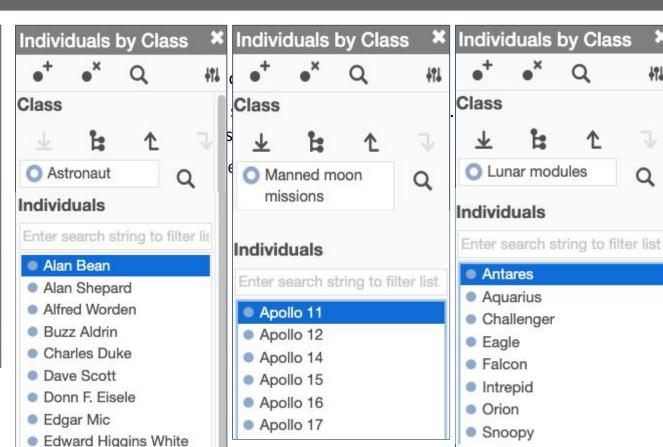
Recipes Cooking methods (5) Baking (0) Frying (0) Grilling (0) Roasting (0) Sauteeing (0) Dishes (10) Appetizers (2) Recipes Breads and muffins (2) Classes Breakfast dishes (3) Desserts (3) Cooking method Cakes (4) Dish Cheese cakes (0) Ingredient Chocolate cakes (0) Occasion Fruit cakes (0) Relations Layer cakes (0) **Features** Cookies and bars (4) ForCooking Pies (3) GoesWith Egg dishes (2) HasIngredient Meat and poultry (4) Pasta, rice, potatoes (3) IncludedIn Salads (4) Ontology PreparedBy Seafood (2) ServedOn Soups and stews (3) - Attributes Ingredients (4) Potential allergen Dairy Products (4) Served as Fruits (16) Grains (10) Vegetables (19) Occasions (5)



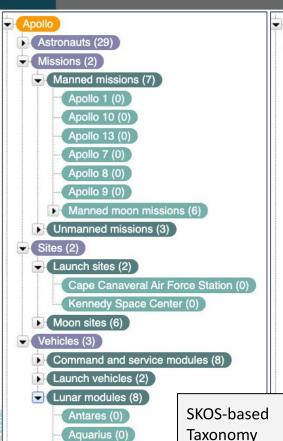


Fully expanded class hierarchy









Challenger (0)

Apollo Astronauts (29) Alan Bean (0) Alan Shepard (0) Alfred Worden (0) Buzz Aldrin (0) Charles Duke (0) Dave Scott (0) Donn F. Eisele (0) Edgar Mic (0) Edward Higgins White (0) Eugene Cernan (0) Frank Borman (0) Fred Haise (0) Gus Grissom (0) Harrison Schmitt (0) Jack Swigert (0) James Irwin (0) Jim Lovell (0) John Young (0)

Ken Mattingly (0)

Michael Collins (0)

Neil Armstrong (0)

Poto Coprad (0)

2. Taxonomy + ontology layer

All concepts (whether class-like or individuals) are maintained in the same hierarchy.

OWL classes, relations, and attributes are managed separately.

Example from PoolParty

Classes Astronaut Mission Site Lunar site Vehicle Relations HasLandingSite HasMembers CommandedBy **InvolvesVehicle** MemberOf CommanderOf PilotedBy PilotOf UsedInMission Attributes Birth date Birth place Coordinates Death date End of mission OWI -based Landing date

Moonwalker

Start of mission

Ontology

Apollo



Screenshots from Poolparty



Benefits of combining a high-level ontology as a semantic layer with a taxonomy

- Makes use of existing taxonomies, even multiple taxonomies
- Easier to model the ontology
 - Existing taxonomies provide a basis for knowledge modeling
 - No need to distinguish between sub-classes and individuals
- Supports expert specialization
 - Domain experts develop and maintain name authorities (instance entities)
 - Domain experts and/or taxonomists develop and maintain taxonomies
 - Ontologists develop and maintain the ontology
- More flexible and adaptable
 - The taxonomy changes more frequently than does the ontology
 - Taxonomies can easily be added
- Different purposes are served
 - The ontology is for modeling, reasoning, and analysis
 - The taxonomy is for tagging and information/data retrieval





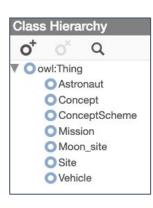
Not recommended approach to building ontologies: Importing taxonomies into an OWL-based ontology or dedicated ontology tool Why not?

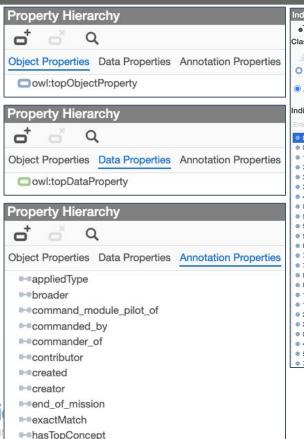
- Taxonomy hierarchies get converted to class-subclass hierarchies.
- The class-subclass hierarchy in ontologies is of the hierarchical type generic-specific ("is a kind of") only.
- Taxonomies may contain other types of hierarchies: whole-part and generic-instance, but they are not indicated as such.
- Importing taxonomies into ontologies will incorrectly treat...
 - whole-part taxonomy relations as class-subclass relations
 - generic-instance taxonomy relations as class-subclass relations, not class-instance affiliations

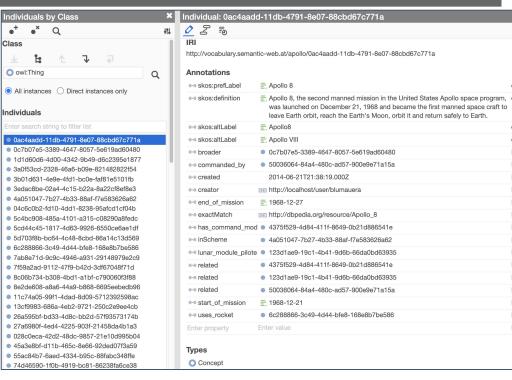




Problem from importing a SKOS taxonomy .ttls file into Protege







All properties are grouped as "Annotation" properties. Display of individuals is by URI ID, not by name.

4.
Ontologies Applied to
Taxonomies

Re-using ontologies, selecting from ontologies, creating custom schemes, and applying them to existing taxonomies





Reusing Ontologies

Why reuse ontologies?

- Many published taxonomies exist.
- Many ontologies are free and listed in directories.
- Many ontologies are intended for reuse all upper ontologies and many domain ontologies.
- The idea of ontology reuse often assumes application of a generic ontology to specific instances within custom taxonomies (exception: detailed biomedical ontologies).
- Reuse of an ontology need not be complete, but can be selective of parts of an ontology, as applicable.
- Reuse of ontologies or parts of ontologies can be from internal proprietary ontologies, and not just published ontologies.





Reusing Ontologies

Tips for reusing ontologies

- Domain ontologies are created for a specific domain context, which likely does not match yours exactly > Be selective
- Use existing ontologies as a starting point, to select from and add to
- You may select parts of more than one ontology, to create a new custom ontology as a mashup
- A tool, such as PoolParty, that supports creating a "custom scheme" from selected parts of of ontologies is a good option





Applying Ontologies to Taxonomies

Extending SKOS concepts to be part of an ontology

- Ontology class labels correspond/match the SKOS concept scheme or concept labels to which they will be applied
 - The ontology "layer" is not an upper hierarchical layer, but an overlay to the higher levels of the SKOS project.
 - Tip: consider using singular for ontology class names and plural for SKOS concept names
- There is no dilemma in determining if an entity is an individual/instance or a class, since the ontology layer comprises only classes.





Applying Ontologies to Taxonomies

Extending SKOS concepts to be part of an ontology

- An ontology or custom scheme is applied/linked to the taxonomy project or to a specific concept scheme.
- Classes are applied to the levels of concept schemes, top concepts, or broad-level concepts.
- Class properties (relations and attribute types) are then inherited by all narrower concepts.
- Relevant relations and attributes are available for all concepts in the taxonomy, based on their class assigned to their broader concept or concept scheme.
- Instantiating a relations between a pair of specific concepts or adding values to attributes must still be done manually, as it would have to be done in a detailed ontology.





Applying Ontologies to Taxonomies

Demo
of applying an ontology to a taxonomy
in a taxonomy/ontology tool
PoolParty





Building a knowledge graph





Creating a Knowledge Graph

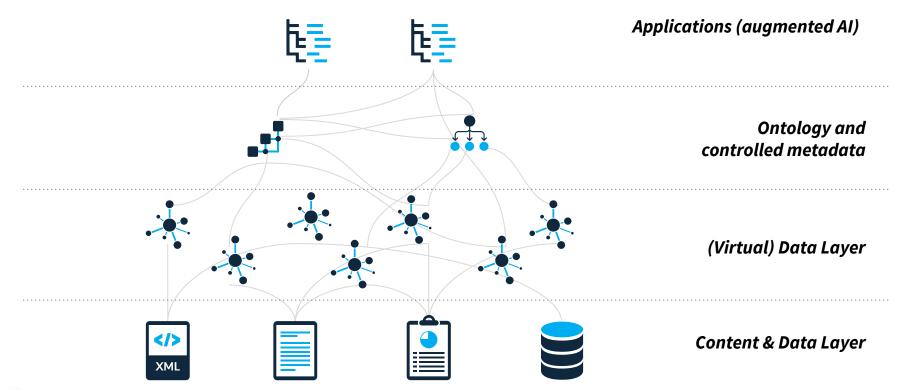
What is a knowledge graph?

- "A knowledge graph is a model of a knowledge domain"
- A knowledge graph represents unified information across an organization, enriched with context and semantics that are meaningful across information silos.





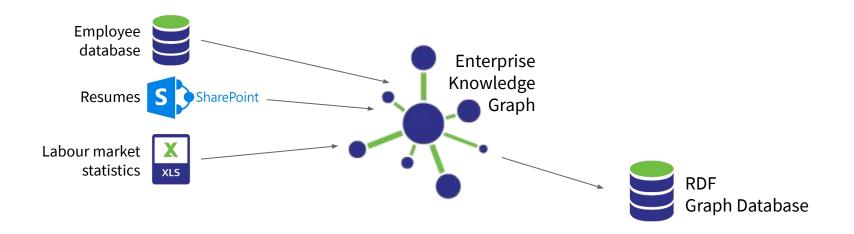
Knowledge graph and applications







Knowledge graphs for data integration and analytics



Metadata enrichment, linked data, text mining, entity-centric search, agile reporting





Building a knowledge graph

Data-centric approach

- Understand the data and purposes of the knowledge graph
 - Enlist domain experts
- Try to create a model that is as simple as possible, but no simpler.
 - A model should be independent of a specific application
 - But only the necessary parts of the domain should be modelled.





Example: Elevator specifications

Different perspectives

- Functional: Number of floors, dimensions, service capacity
- Engineering: Dimensions, power train, electrical, speed
- Purchasing: Manufacturer, price, maintenance options
- Regulatory: Standards certifications, requirements

Start small

- Only the relevant perspective(s) should be modeled
- Only relevant parts of a perspective should be modeled





Ontology + vocabularies = knowledge model

Division of labor:

- Model controlled vocabularies in SKOS
 - Taxonomies
 - Term lists
 - Name authorities
- Model entity types, attributes and semantic (non-hierarchical)
 relationships in OWL





Modelling a domain: Step by step

Goals

Reduce complexity. Make immediate progress

Steps

- Identify controlled vocabularies. Model in SKOS
 - Example: Cooking methods, ingredients, etc.
- Identify major Entities and Relationships
 - Traditional "Entity-Relationship (ER) modeling"
- Translate E-R model to OWL
- 4. Add essential and task-relevant properties to the entities





Example: Apollo space program

- 17 missions to space
- 6 moon landings
- Duration: 1961-1972
- Dramatis personae:
 - Launch vehicle, command module, landing module
 - Astronauts
 - Launch and landing sites





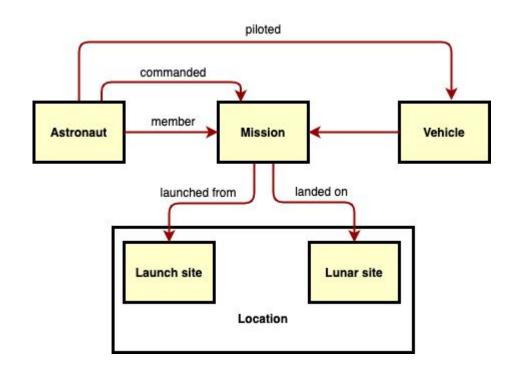
Example: Identify controlled vocabularies

- Astronauts
- Launch vehicles
- Lunar locations
- etc.





Example: Entity-Relationship model







Example: Express in OWL

Classes

- Astronaut
- Mission
- Location
 - Lunar site
 - Launch site
- Vehicle

Relationships

Astronaut

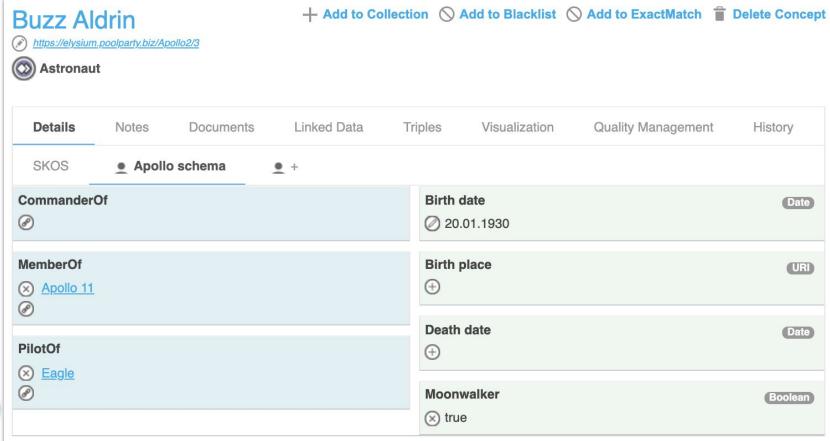
- member of Mission
- piloted Vehicle

Attributes





Example: Ontology as extended data model







Tips in ontology modeling





Ontology Design Tips

Reuse Relations between more than one pair of Classes.

Example: Relation inverse pair: requires / needed for is used between:

Class: Job role and Class: Certification

and

Class: Job role and Class: Skill

Consider whether classes that share a relation are subclasses of a common class

Reuse Attributes among more than one Class.

Example: Attribute: phone number

Class: Person

and

Class: Company





Ontology Design Tips

Determining whether a property should be an Attribute or a new Class + Relation For example:

- Class: Business name
- How to manage property of "location"?
 - Attribute: Location: text field in which to entry the address or geo-location coordinates
 OR
 - Class: Location to correspond to a term list or a hierarchical taxonomy concept scheme of countries, states/provinces, and cities
 And semantic relation: locatedIn (and possibly inverse: locationOf)
- Consider: Is there a use case for looking up Business Names by Location?





Ontology Design Tips

Keep it simple and high-level

Start with creating one candidate class per SKOS concept scheme

- Create semantic relations between pairs of classes
- Create attributes sufficient for business needs, not for everything possible.
 - > Not all classes need attributes, especially generic topical classes
- Remove candidate classes that end up being neither the domain nor range of any property (relation or attribute).

Identify use cases for linking other categories of concepts: to find X by Y.

- Create additional classes and relations for these uses cases.
- Determine if any of these can be established as subclasses of existing classes, if they share all relation types and attribute types.



Conclusions

"Ontology" can have multiple meanings

- 1. A fully built-out, semantically rich knowledge organization system (like a taxonomy or thesaurus), with the addition of semantic relationships and attributes, managed by the assignment of classes.
- 2. A somewhat generic knowledge model, comprising entities and properties, intended to be applied to or extended by means of linking to taxonomies (and possibly name authorities)
- 3. The *combination* of the generic knowledge model and the linked taxonomy(s) and name authorities.
- 4. A semantic model built on OWL





Questions / Contact

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