Vocabularies (Schemas) at W3C

Some Observations and Some Options

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SemTechBiz
5 Jun 2013
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)
- 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