



Citation for published version:

Patel, M 2001, 'Harvesting RDF metadata: Building digital library portals with harvested metadata workshop', Paper presented at Building Digital Library Portals with harvested metadata, First EU-DL All projects concertation meeting, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 8/02/01 - 8/02/01.

Publication date:
2001

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

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Unspecified

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Harvesting RDF metadata
Building digital library portals with
harvested metadata workshop
EU-DL All Projects concertation meeting
DELOS Network of Excellence
Standardisation Forum -February 2001

Manjula Patel

UKOLN

University of Bath

Bath, BA2 7AY

Email

`m.patel@ukoln.ac.uk`

URL

`http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/`

UKOLN is funded by Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the Higher Education Funding Councils, as well as by project funding from the JISC and the European Union.

1 UKOLN also receives support from the University of Bath where it is based.

Outline

- Namespaces and application profiles
- SCHEMAS registry
- How to register a schema/application profile?
- Preparing your application profile for registration
- SCHEMAS application profile format
- Conclusions



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Namespaces and application profiles

Namespaces:

Declare names and definitions of vocabulary terms

(e.g. Dublin Core standard, LCSH controlled vocabulary)

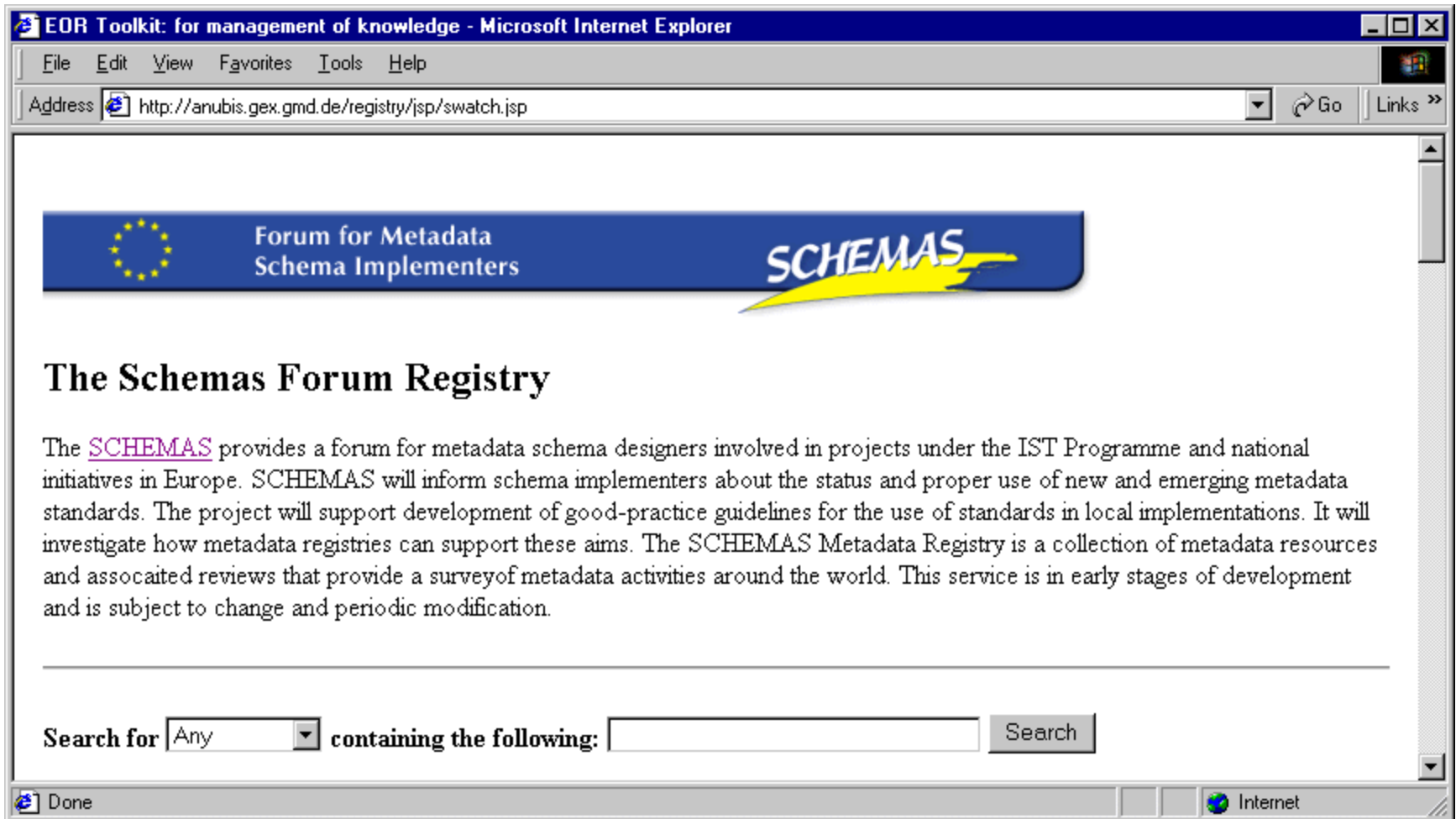
Application profiles (APs):

Consist of data elements drawn from one or more namespaces, optimised for a particular local application

- need to declare which elements are being used
- may specify dependencies e.g. mandate schemes
- may adapt existing definitions for local purposes
- may declare rules for content (usage guidelines)
- may specify whether an element is mandatory, optional or repeatable




SCHEMAS Registry



Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address <http://anubis.gex.gmd.de/registry/jsp/swatch.jsp> Go Links >>

 Forum for Metadata Schema Implementers **SCHEMAS**

The Schemas Forum Registry

The [SCHEMAS](#) provides a forum for metadata schema designers involved in projects under the IST Programme and national initiatives in Europe. SCHEMAS will inform schema implementers about the status and proper use of new and emerging metadata standards. The project will support development of good-practice guidelines for the use of standards in local implementations. It will investigate how metadata registries can support these aims. The SCHEMAS Metadata Registry is a collection of metadata resources and associated reviews that provide a survey of metadata activities around the world. This service is in early stages of development and is subject to change and periodic modification.

Search for containing the following: Search

Done Internet



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EOR Toolkit

- EOR (Extensible Open RDF) Toolkit:
(<http://eor.dublincore.org> - *Eric Miller, OCLC*)
- Harvests RDF schemas from distributed servers on the web
- Creates central index for searching
- Schema browser -hyper-links not only between vocabularies, but between related terms



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RDF Schemas

- W3C Candidate Recommendation (**March 2000**)
- Rich, web-based publication format for declaring semantics (XML for exchange)
- Capability to explicitly declare semantic relations between vocabulary terms
- Machine readable, but also defines properties and classes with human readable labels and comments



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Registering an AP

For applications with a simple data model :

- submit a URL to an RDF/XML encoding
- fill in template files and submit to registry
- fill in a web form that generates appropriate RDF/XML

For applications with complex data models:

For the moment, point to a web-page with a human-readable schema



Preparations for registration ...

- **which vocabulary terms are new**
- **which elements reference other namespace**
- **honour elements predefined in other namespaces**
- **which elements need a modified definition/label**
- **which encoding schemes are required**
- **refinements of existing vocabulary terms**
- **which elements mandate a scheme**
- **mandatory, optional or repeatable elements**



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Example: Renardus

Renardus metadata set (based on v0.1 draft)

Dublin Core element set (dc):

Title, Creator, Description, Subject, Identifier,
Language, Type

Dublin Core element qualifiers (dcq):

Alternative (*Title*)

Encoding schemes (dc):

Subject, Type

New elements (rmes):

Country, Full Record URL, SBIG ID



Example: Renardus

New elements, qualifiers and schemes would go into a Renardus namespace schema (rmes)

Renardus application profile schema collects together usage declarations i.e. re-using elements, qualifiers and schemes from dc, dcq and rmes.



XML namespace mechanism

...used to pull in namespaces ...

```
<rdf:RDF
```

```
  xmlns:rdf = "http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
```

```
  xmlns:rdfs = "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"
```

```
  xmlns:dc = "http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#"
```

```
  xmlns:dcq = "http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#">
```



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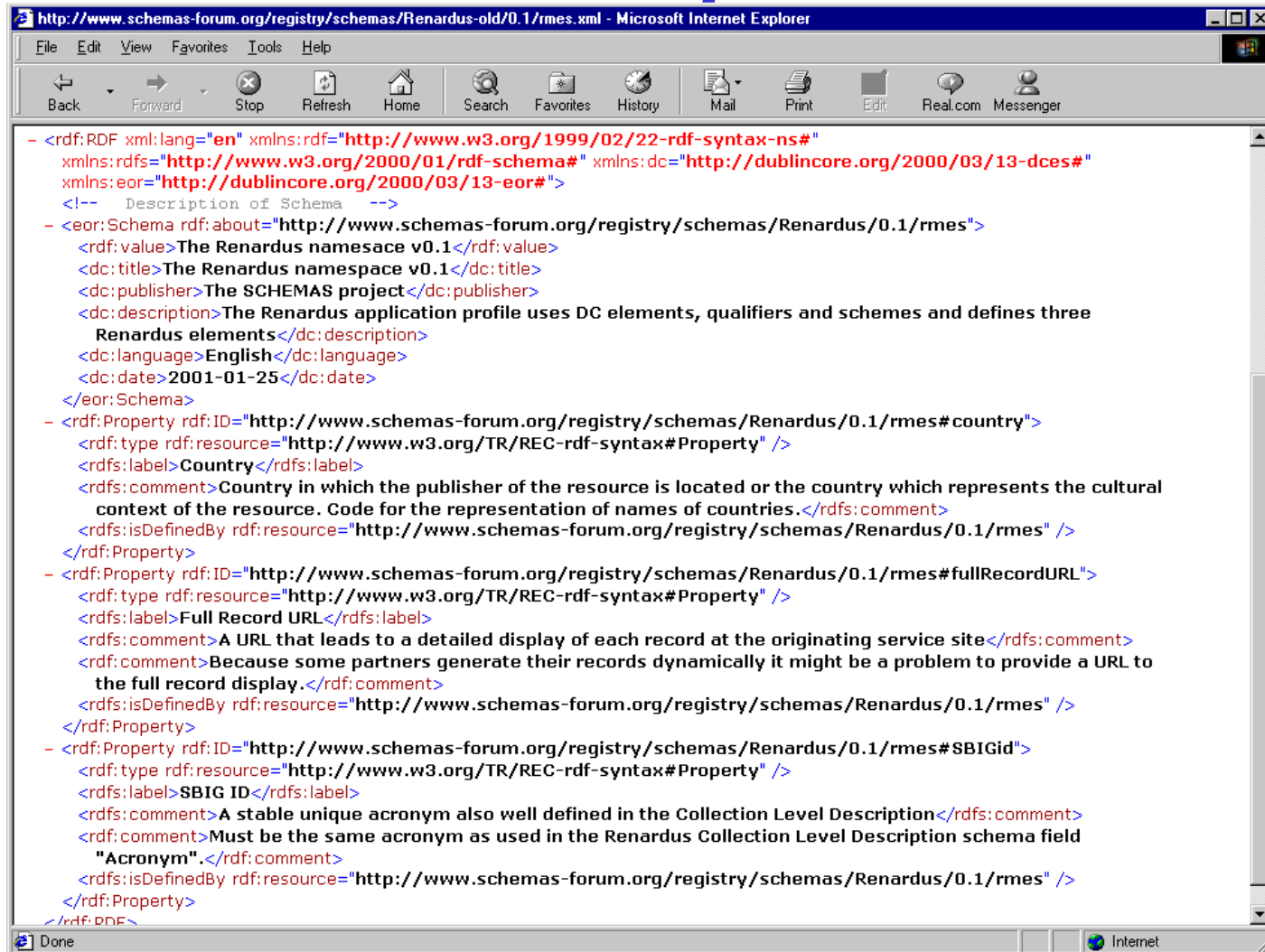
Example: Renardus namespace

Define a new term and associated semantics:

```
<rdf:Property rdf:ID=  
  "http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes#country">  
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-rdf-syntax#Property"/>  
  <rdfs:label>Country</rdfs:label>  
  <rdfs:comment>Country in which the publisher of the resource is located or the  
    country which represents the cultural context of the resource. Code for  
    the representation of names of countries.  
</rdfs:comment>  
  <rdfs:isDefinedBy rdf:resource =  
    "http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes"/>  
</rdf:Property>
```



Renardus namespace



```
http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus-old/0.1/rmes.xml - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit Real.com Messenger
- <rdf:RDF xml:lang="en" xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#" xmlns:dc="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#"
  xmlns:eor="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-eor#"
  <!-- Description of Schema -->
- <eor:Schema rdf:about="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes">
  <rdf:value>The Renardus namespace v0.1</rdf:value>
  <dc:title>The Renardus namespace v0.1</dc:title>
  <dc:publisher>The SCHEMAS project</dc:publisher>
  <dc:description>The Renardus application profile uses DC elements, qualifiers and schemes and defines three
    Renardus elements</dc:description>
  <dc:language>English</dc:language>
  <dc:date>2001-01-25</dc:date>
</eor:Schema>
- <rdf:Property rdf:ID="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes#country">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-rdf-syntax#Property" />
  <rdfs:label>Country</rdfs:label>
  <rdfs:comment>Country in which the publisher of the resource is located or the country which represents the cultural
    context of the resource. Code for the representation of names of countries.</rdfs:comment>
  <rdfs:isDefinedBy rdf:resource="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes" />
</rdf:Property>
- <rdf:Property rdf:ID="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes#fullRecordURL">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-rdf-syntax#Property" />
  <rdfs:label>Full Record URL</rdfs:label>
  <rdfs:comment>A URL that leads to a detailed display of each record at the originating service site</rdfs:comment>
  <rdf:comment>Because some partners generate their records dynamically it might be a problem to provide a URL to
    the full record display.</rdf:comment>
  <rdfs:isDefinedBy rdf:resource="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes" />
</rdf:Property>
- <rdf:Property rdf:ID="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes#SBIGid">
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-rdf-syntax#Property" />
  <rdfs:label>SBIG ID</rdfs:label>
  <rdfs:comment>A stable unique acronym also well defined in the Collection Level Description</rdfs:comment>
  <rdf:comment>Must be the same acronym as used in the Renardus Collection Level Description schema field
    "Acronym".</rdf:comment>
  <rdfs:isDefinedBy rdf:resource="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes" />
</rdf:Property>
</rdf:RDF>
Done Internet
```



Example: DC-Education namespace

Define a new qualifier to a predefined term:

```
<rdf:Property rdf:ID="http://dublincore.org/2000/08/22-dced#mediator">  
  <rdfs:label>Mediator</rdfs:label>  
  <rdfs:comment>
```

An entity that mediates access to the resource. Comment: The audience for a resource in the education/training domain are of two basic classes: (1) an ultimate beneficiary of the resource (usually a student or trainee), and (2) frequently, an entity that mediates access to the resource (usually a teacher or trainor). The Mediator element refinement represents the second of these two classes.

```
</rdfs:comment>
```

```
<rdfs:subPropertyOf rdf:resource=
```

```
"http://dublincore.org/2000/08/22-dced#audience" />
```

```
</rdf:Property>
```



SCHEMAS AP format

- Still under development
- Machine processible (RDFS)
- Flat structure -can capture a flat list of elements, but not (yet) complex data models
- New terms within the EOR vocabulary:
 - **uses** in order to declare reuse of predefined vocabulary terms
 - **comment** in order to provide local usage guidelines



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Example: Renardus AP

...declare usage of elements from multiple namespaces:

```
<!-- semantics from the DCMES, dc:title and dcq:alternative-->
```

```
<eor:uses
```

```
  rdf:resource = "http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#title" />
```

```
<eor:uses
```

```
  rdf:resource = "http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#alternative" />
```



Example: Renardus AP

...adapt the definition for dc:creator:

Dublin Core namespace:

Creator: An entity primarily responsible for making the content of the resource

Renardus application profile:

<eor:uses>

<rdf:Description about="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#creator">

<rdfs:comment>

Creator(s) are person(s) which are responsible for the intellectual content of the document(s), e.g. webmasters are not creators.

</rdfs:comment>

</rdf:Description>

</eor:uses>



Example: Renardus AP

...declare local usage guidelines for an existing element:

<eor:uses>

<rdf:Description rdf:about =

"http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#creator">

<eor:comment>

If this field is applicable it is strongly recommended to provide the creator.
For Renardus normalization process it is strongly recommended that last name and first name are clearly distinguishable.

</eor:comment>

</rdf:Description>

</eor:uses>



Example: Renardus AP

...declare reuse of controlled vocabularies:

```
<!-- dc:subject encoding scheme and associated classes -->  
<eor:uses rdf:resource =  
    "http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#SubjectScheme" />  
<eor:uses rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#LCSH" />  
<eor:uses rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#MESH" />  
<eor:uses rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#DDC" />  
<eor:uses rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#LCC" />  
<eor:uses rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#UDC" />
```



Example: Renardus AP

...mandate a scheme with a specific element:

```
<!-- mandate a DC subject scheme to be used with dc:subject -->
```

```
<eor:uses>
```

```
  <rdf:Description rdf:about = "http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#subject">
```

```
    <rdfs:range
```

```
      rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#SubjectScheme" />
```

```
    <rdfs:domain
```

```
      rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#subject" />
```

```
  </rdf:Description>
```

```
</eor:uses>
```



Renardus application profile

```
http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus-old/0.1/rmes-ap - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

- <rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#" xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-
  schema#" xmlns:eor="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-eor#" xmlns:dc="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#"
  xmlns:dcq="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#" xmlns:rmes="http://www.schemas-
  forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes#">
- <eor:Profile rdf:about="http://www.schemas-forum.org/registry/schemas/Renardus/0.1/rmes-ap">
  <eor:isProfileOf rdf:resource="http://www.renardus.org/" />
  <dc:title>Renardus Application Profile v0.1</dc:title>
  <dc:publisher>The SCHEMAS Project</dc:publisher>
  <dc:date>2001-01-25</dc:date>
  <dc:description>The Renardus Application Profile defines the set of semantics useful for supporting an academic
  subject gateway service in Europe. Please note that the Renardus metadata set is still under development and
  therefore subject to changes. A snapshot of the metadata set was taken in its v0.1 state in order to explore its
  characteristics.</dc:description>
  <!-- semantics from the DCHES -->
  <eor:uses rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#title" />
  <eor:uses rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#alternative" />
- <eor:uses>
- <rdf:Description about="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#creator">
  <rdfs:comment>Creator(s) are person(s) which are responsible for the intellectual content of the document
  (s), e.g. webmasters are not creators.</rdfs:comment>
  <eor:comment>If this field is applicable it is strongly recommended to provide the creator. For Renardus
  normalization process it is strongly recommended that last name and first name are clearly
  distinguishable.</eor:comment>
  </rdf:Description>
  </eor:uses>
- <eor:uses>
- <rdf:Description about="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#description">
  <eor:comment>For the Renardus normalization process it is not enough to provide only a URL, for cross-
  search reasons the field description must contain free text.</eor:comment>
  </rdf:Description>
  </eor:uses>
  <!-- dc:subject and encoding scheme -->
- <eor:uses>
- <rdf:Description about="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dces#subject">
  <eor:comment>Here is the place for all subject information used by partners like controlled keywords, free
  keywords, classification system(s) and/or captions. In the prototype system there will be no further
  distinction between the several kinds of subject. In the prototype system the provision of keywords is
  strongly recommended, in the final system the provision of keywords is required.</eor:comment>
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="http://dublincore.org/2000/03/13-dcq#SubjectScheme" />
  </rdf:Description>
  </eor:uses>
</eor:Profile>
</rdf:RDF>
```



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Conclusions

- Current SCHEMAS AP format meets requirements of simple discovery
- Limitations
 - Difficulties in capturing complex data models
 - Cannot readily model “obligation”, cardinality and encoding schemes (yet)
- Use of RDF to enhance cross-domain interoperability, as well as convergence and harmonisation within specific domains

