



About the VSSIG

RDA's Vocabulary and Semantic Services Interest Group

Last updated (Dec. 2018) by *John Graybeal*, Stanford University

Presented at RDA France annual meeting (JNSO 2018, Paris, France) by *Clement Jonquet* (University of Montpellier)



MEMBERSHIP

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Groups: 95

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Vocabulary Services Interest Group

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IG

i Group details

Status: Recognised & Endorsed

Chair (s): Adam Shepherd, Simon Cox, Yann Le Franc, John Graybeal

Secretariat Liaison: enquiries@rd-alliance.org

TAB Liaison: Rainer Stotzka

Case Statement: [Download](#)



IG Established

The VSSIG is using a **Slack Group: <https://vocabulary-services.slack.com/>** to continue the development of the workplan. To get an invitation to the channel, visit <http://bit.ly/rda-vssig-slack-invite>, or contact one of the group chairs. The VSSIG has a number of task groups formed around particular topics. If you want to propose or sign up for the task groups, there is a [groups sign-up page](#) with [instructions](#).

Vocabulary Services Interest Group

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TAB Liaison: Rainer Stotzka

Public - accessible to all site users

[Join Group](#)

Mission and Background

Mission: Advance harmonization and best practices in the development, publication, discovery, and use of controlled vocabularies and ontologies.

We want to provide an agile forum for the semantic community to collaborate to solve mutual issues.

Background:

- Started as the RDA *Vocabulary Services* Interest Group, and in 2017 transitioned to the *Vocabulary and Semantic Services* Interest Group.
- Serves as a community center to pursue common interests, typically as Task Groups of no preset duration.

Membership and Task Groups

- **176 members** (115 on Slack)
- **8 task groups** (requires ≥ 3 members & 1 chair)

Task Group Name	# Members	# Leads
Requesting changes (to ontologies)	20	1
Maintaining high-quality and trusted vocabularies	16	1
Strategies for aggregating vocabularies	20	1
Strategies for selecting from vocabularies	22	2
Ontology metadata	22	4
Harmonizing measurement parameters	16	2
Vocabulary API white paper	12	2
Semantic Assets for material science	6	1

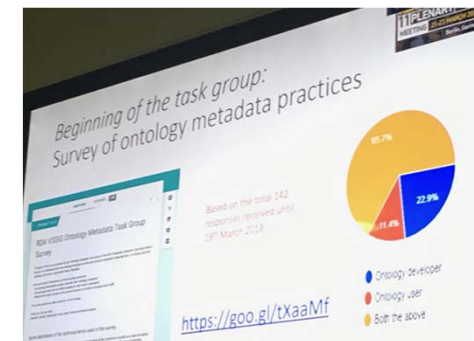
Last updated 2018.12.01 by John Graybeal from [Signup Sheet](#)

Latest News



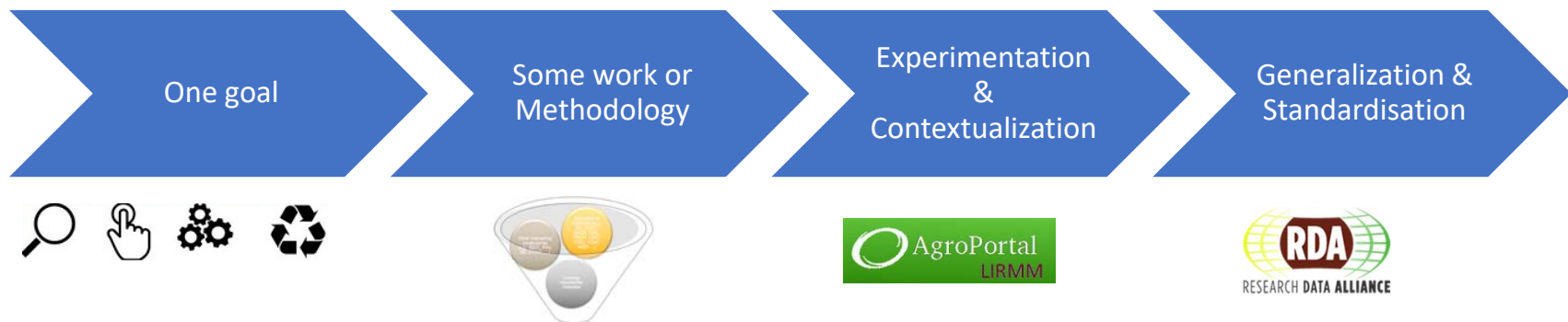
At 11th Plenary in Berlin:

- ~50 attended VSSIG session
- Progress reported out by several task groups
- “low-maintenance & bring what you can” mode
 - Task Groups may be relatively inactive
 - No plans to engage for the 12th Plenary (no one from IG co-chairs will be there)



A return of experience with the Ontology Metadata task group

Biswanath Dutta, Clement Jonquet, Barbara Magagna, Anne Toulet
(Work in progress)



Ontology repositories help to make ontologies FAIR

F_{indable}



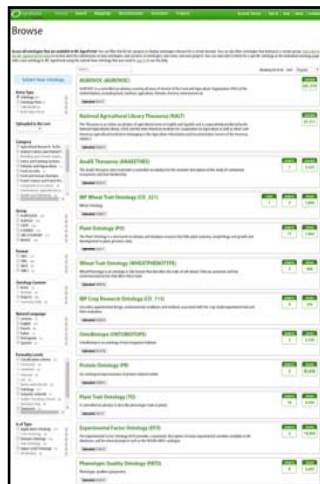
A_{ccessible}



I_{nteroperable}



R_{e-usable}



API Documentation

General Usage

This API is composed of a set of resources (Classes, and not related ontologies (Classes, Annotations, Recommendations) that are connected together via links. Much like webpages, we recommend that you try viewing the API using a web browser. Classes and Properties work very well with a REST client like curl or a web browser. For more information, please see the documentation on [Media Types and Request Methods](#) or view our [API Examples](#), available in JSON, Python, Ruby and other languages (please email api@ontoportal.org if you would like examples in another language).

Common Parameters

Parameter	Possible Values	Description
apikey	[your api key]	An API Key is required to access any API call. It can be provided in three ways: 1. Using the <code>apikey</code> query string parameter 2. Providing an <code>Authorization</code> header 3. Using a web browser to explore the API, if you provide your API Key using method 1, it will be stored in a cookie for subsequent requests. You can

SPARQL httpd server v1.1.5-122-1

KB ontologies_api

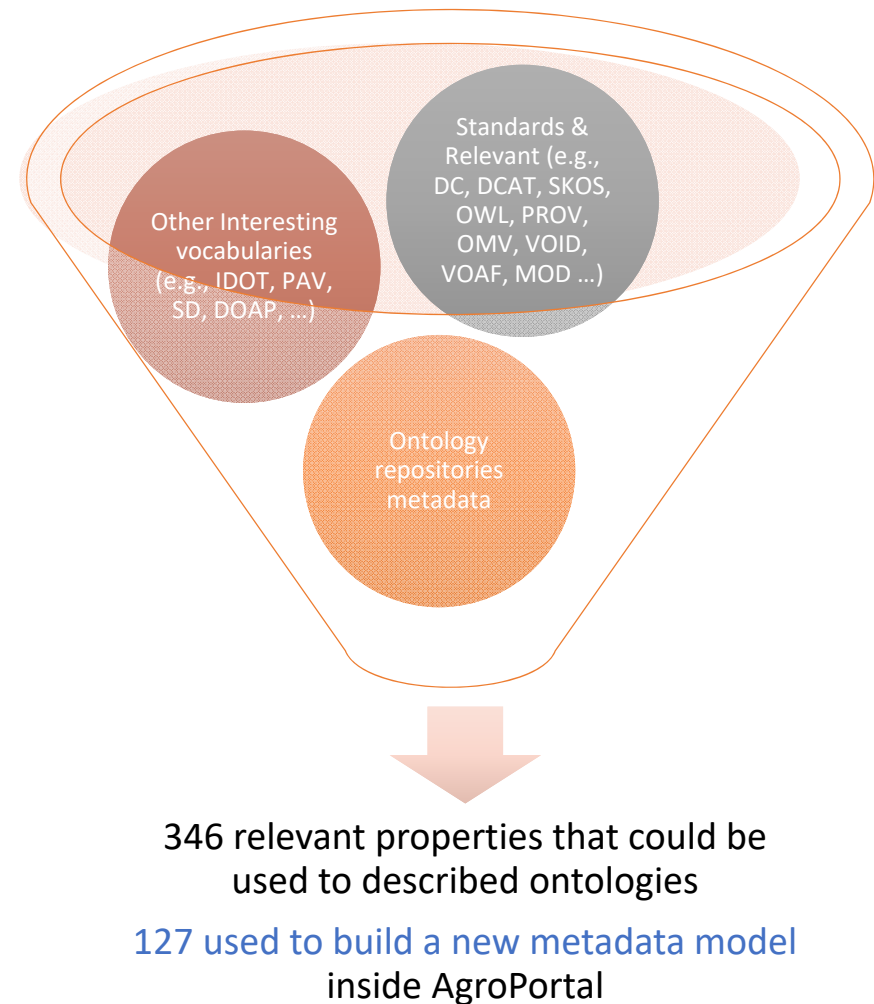
```
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>

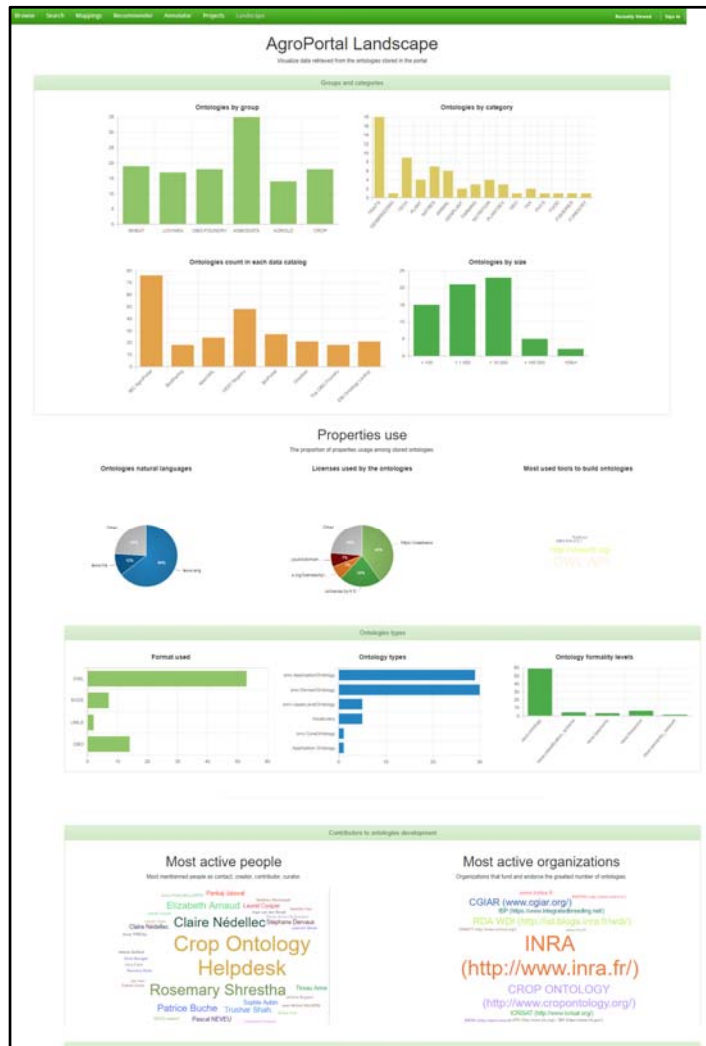
SELECT * WHERE {
  ?s ?p ?o
} LIMIT 10
```



A new metadata model to better support description of ontologies and their relations

- Building a list of properties to describe ontologies
- Pickup properties and relations from 23 existing vocabularies
- Existing properties in ontology repositories (especially BioPortal)





AgroPortal Landscape page

► Display “per property”

- Global presentation of the properties
- Synthesis diagrams & listing
- Metadata **automatically extracted** from the files and authored by us and the ontology developers
- Allows to explore the agronomical ontology landscape by automatically aggregating the metadata fields of each ontologies in explicit visualizations (charts, term cloud and graphs).



Jonquet, C., Toulet, A., Dutta, B., Emonet, V.: **Harnessing the power of unified metadata in an ontology repository: the case of AgroPortal.** *Data Semantics*, 2018.

Beginning of the task group:

Survey of ontology metadata practices

QUESTIONS RÉPONSES 144

Rubrique 1 sur 5

RDA VSSIG Ontology Metadata Task Group Survey

The goal of this survey initiated by the "ontology metadata" task group of the RDA Vocabulary Semantic Services Interest Group, is to understand how the ontology developer community authors metadata to describe their ontologies and how ontology users use or appreciate these metadata.

We would like to find answers to following key questions:

- Do ontology developers actually describe their ontology metadata?
- Do ontology users rely on/utilize metadata in their use of ontologies?
- What are the ways to improve the current situation and make ontologies more FAIR?

The survey should not take more than 10-15 minutes.

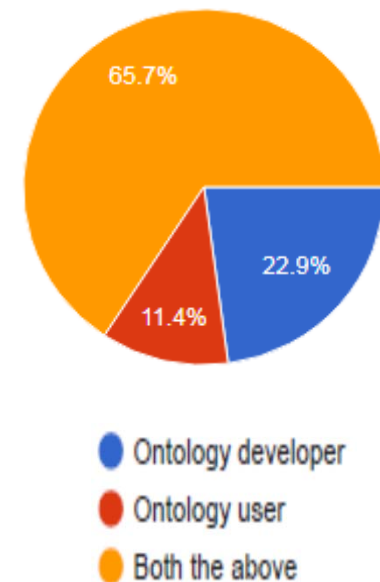
Thank you for your help,
Clement Jonquet, Biswanath Dutta, Anne Toulet and Barbara Magana

Some definitions of the technical terms used in this survey

- Ontology: by ontology we mean not only an OWL structure that respects all the conditions to qualify as a fully formalized ontology. We include every semantic resource which formalizes some knowledge (vocabulary, thesaurus, taxonomy, terminology, etc.). The point is not to focus on the level of formalization of the semantic resource, but on its metadata description.
- Ontology metadata: by metadata we mean any property used to describe the ontology itself or relations between the described ontology and other resources.
- Metadata vocabularies: to avoid confusion with ontologies, we here call metadata vocabularies the semantic resources (e.g., Dublin Core, VoID, Ontology Metadata Vocabulary, DCAT, MOD, etc), which can be used to describe ontologies (or at least offer a list of metadata properties).
- Metadata authoring: the process of choosing and editing a metadata property when describing an ontology.

Après la section 1 Passer à la section suivante

Based on the total 142
responses received until 19th
March 2018

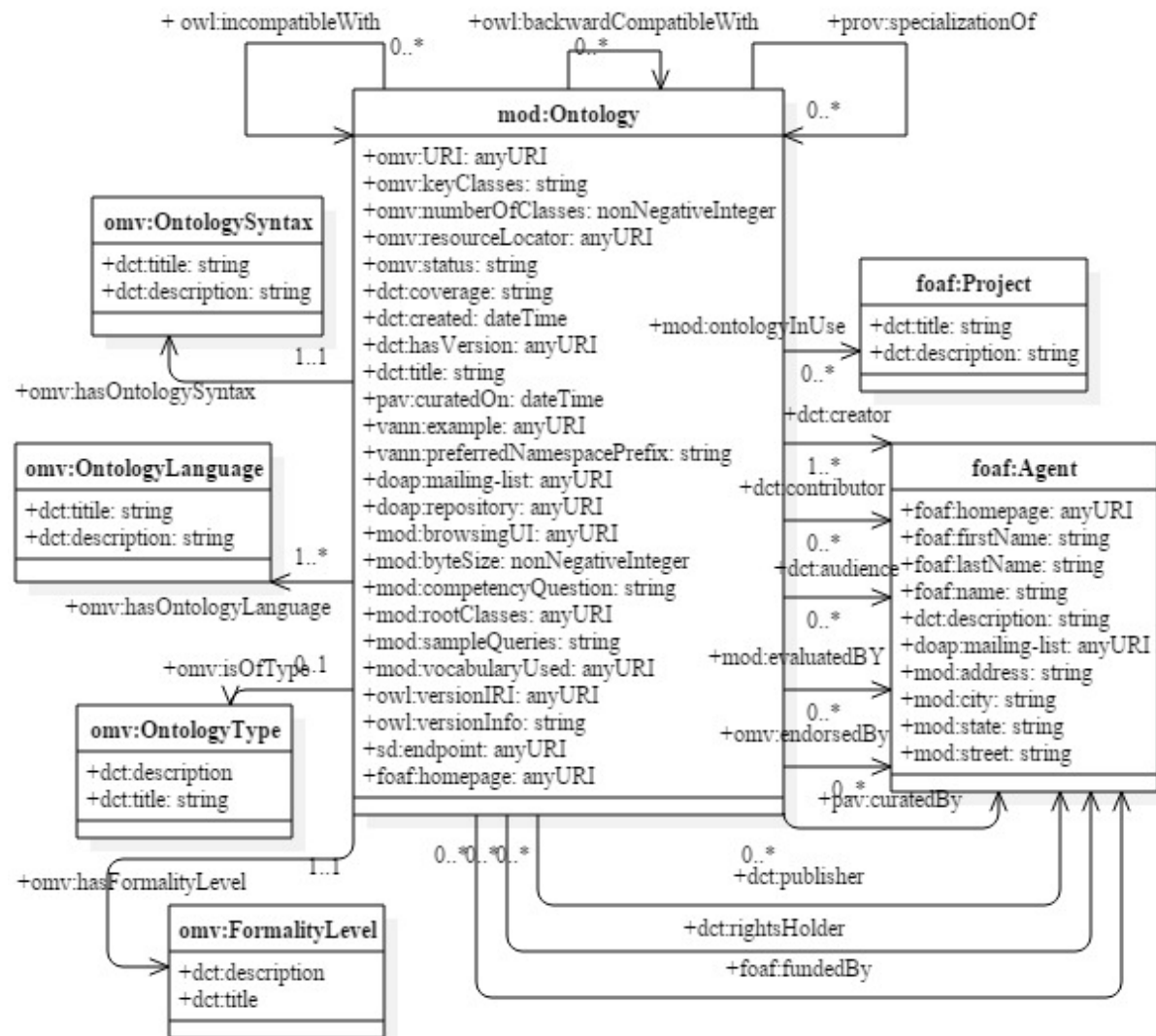


Generalizing this with MOD discussed in the group

- Metadata vocabulary for Ontology Description and publication (v.1.2)
- 88 properties, only 13 new ones
- <https://github.com/sifrproject/MOD-Ontology>



Dutta, B., ... Jonquet, C.: **New Generation Metadata vocabulary for Ontology Description and Publication**. *11th Metadata and Semantics Research Conference, MTSR'17*. , Tallinn, Estonia (2017).



Merci

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With the support of:

