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)
Vocabulary Services Interest Group

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**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

Vocabulary Services Interest Group

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The VSSIG is using a Slack Group: [https://vocabulary-services.slack.com/](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](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.](#)
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)

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

Findable  Accessible  Interoperable  Re-usable
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)

346 relevant properties that could be used to described ontologies

127 used to build a new metadata model inside AgroPortal
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).

Beginning of the task group:
Survey of ontology metadata practices

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

Merci
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