The New Normal of RDA

An Overview of Structure and Concepts

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Some Good News

- The new normal of RDA is much better than other “new normals” of 2020
- You can often get the same results with new RDA that you did with original RDA
  - Some notable exceptions like the definition of Person
  - Assuming you still want the same results, but if you don’t, there are many options
- New RDA incorporates a linked open data implementation of RDA for your metatdata’s future

New RDA Toolkit Status

- Beta site became official on Dec. 15, 2020
  - End of the RDA Restructure and Redesign (3R) Project
  - Address changed to access.rdatoolkit.org
  - Contains the official version of the RDA standard
- Original RDA Toolkit
  - Currently available through link in new Toolkit or at original.rdatoolkit.org
  - Contains the original version of RDA (last updated 2017)
  - No determination has been made yet about when the original RDA Toolkit will be removed

When to Implement?

- Cataloging communities are determining their own implementation timelines for new RDA
  - PCC will not be implementing new RDA before June 2022
- MARC/RDA Working Group writing proposals and discussion papers to update MARC 21 for new RDA
  - See new field 881 (Manifestation Statements)
  - Work expected to continue through January 2022

Foundation and Structure

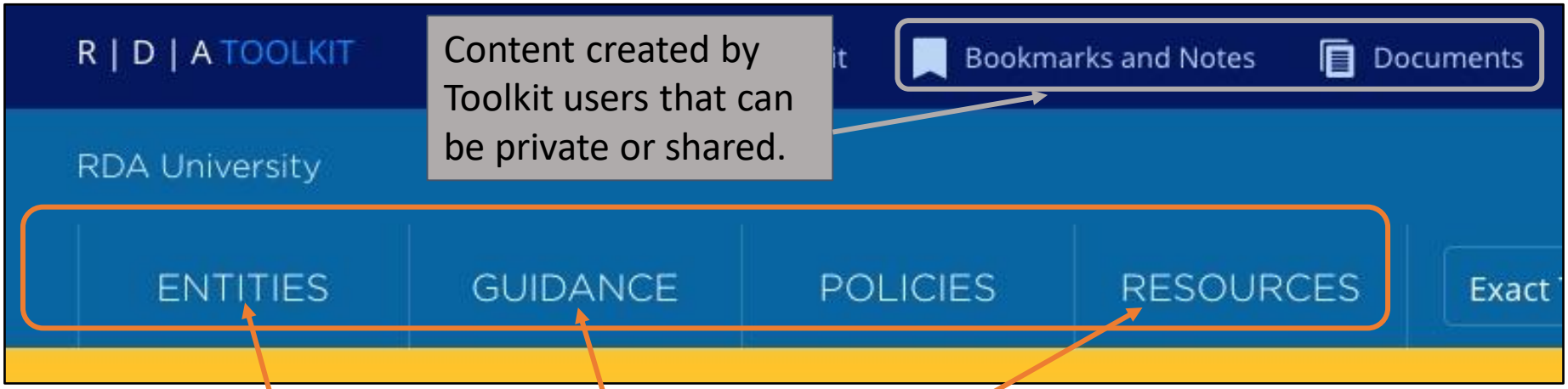
RDA and LRM

- Original RDA was based on 3 models: FRBR, FRAD, and FRSAD
- Those three models were consolidated into the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM)
- New RDA is based on LRM
- LRM is an entity-relationship model

Entity-Relationship Model

- "An entity-relationship model (or ER model) describes interrelated things of interest in a specific domain of knowledge. A basic ER model is composed of entity types (which classify the things of interest) and specifies relationships that can exist between entities (instances of those entity types)"—Wikipedia
- RDA consists of entities that are described by elements
  - Relationship elements relate two RDA entities
  - Attribute elements provide characteristics of an RDA entity

RDA Toolkit Content Organization



RDA is found in these three tabs. Resources contains a mixture of RDA content (e.g., Glossary) and other content (e.g., Revision History and Community Resources).

R|D|A TOOLKIT

RDA Structure

- Content is chiefly organized around RDA entities
- Each entity has its own page with elements listed
- Each element has its own page
  - Related Elements section links to inverse elements and broader and narrower elements in the element hierarchy
- Guidance area contains instructions that apply to several parts of RDA and background information
- Resources contains Glossary and Vocabulary Encoding Schemes

RDA Entities

- RDA Entity
  - Note capital “E”
- Work
- Expression
- Manifestation
- Item
- Place
- Agent
- Person
- Collective Agent
- Corporate Body
- Family
- Nomen
- Timespan

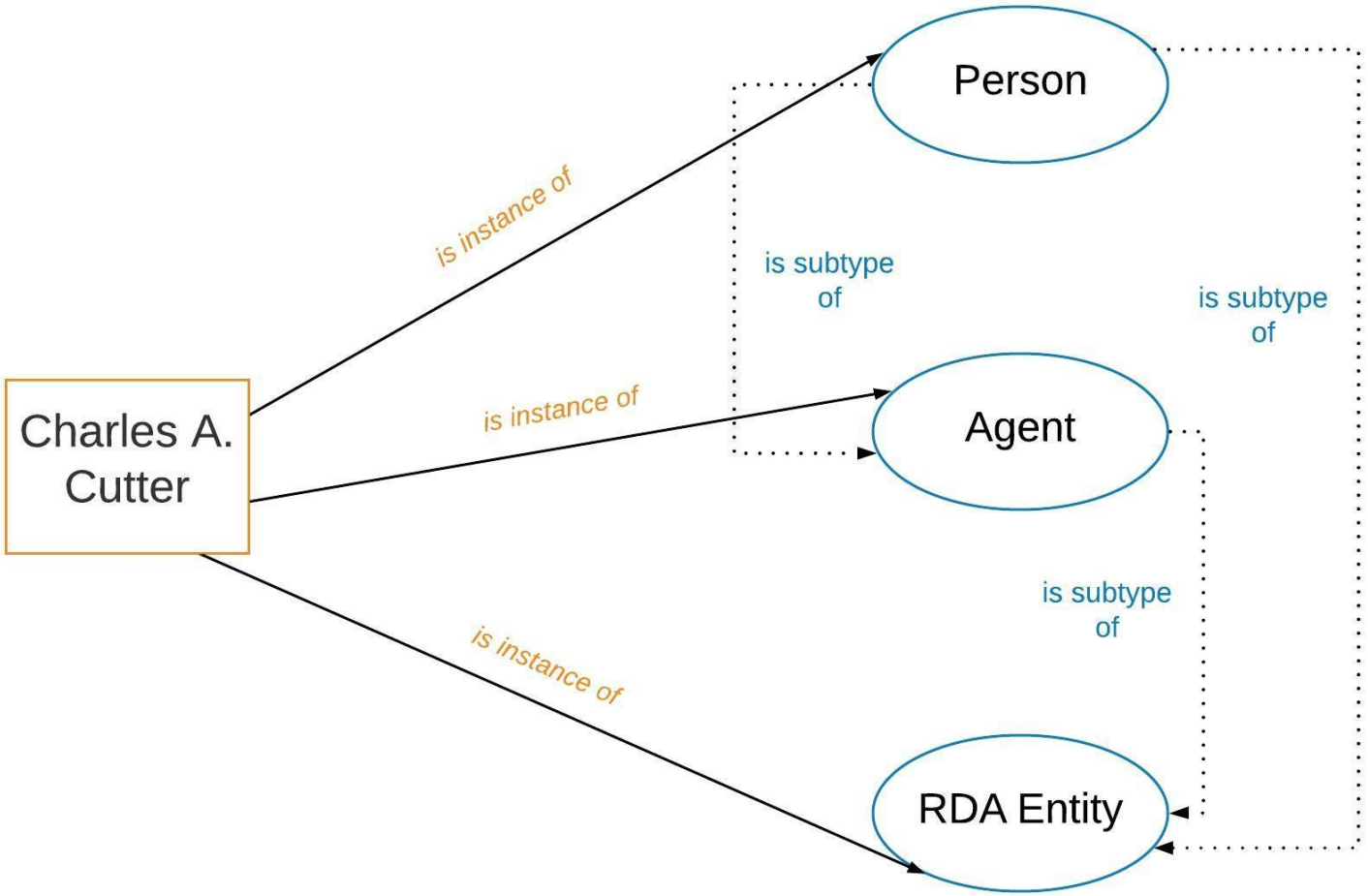
Entity Hierarchies

- **entity subtype:** A narrower category of an entity.
- **entity supertype:** A broader category of an entity.
- RDA Entity is an *entity supertype* of every other type of RDA entity
  - Work, Agent, etc. are *entity subtypes* of RDA Entity
- Agent has multiple levels of hierarchy
  - Person
  - Collective Agent
    - Corporate Body
    - Family
  - Agent is an *entity supertype* of Person and Collective Agent (and its subtypes)
  - Person, Collective Agent (and its subtypes) are *entity subtypes* of Agent

Characteristics of Entity Hierarchies

- An *entity subtype* can automatically be described as its *entity supertype*
  - Every Manifestation is an RDA Entity
  - Every Person is an Agent
- An *entity supertype* cannot automatically be described as its entity subtype
  - Every RDA Entity is not a Manifestation
  - Every Agent is not a Person

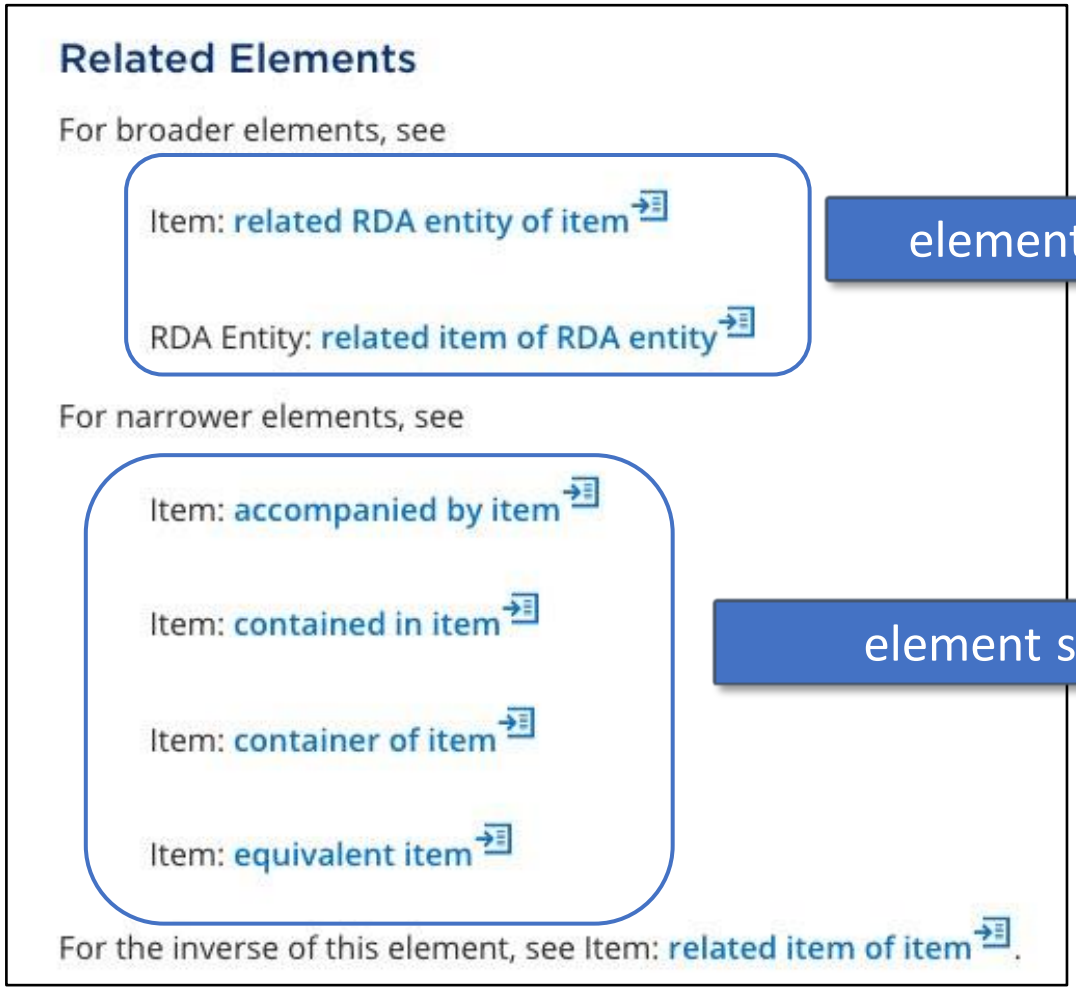
Example of Entity Subtypes: Cutter



Element Hierarchies

- **element subtype:** A narrower category of an element.
- **element supertype:** A broader category of an element.
- Element subtype may be a more specific type of relationship/attribute
  - **Example**: *Manifestation: title proper* is an element subtype of *Manifestation: title of manifestation*
- Element subtype may describe an entity subtype
  - **Example:** *Person: related work of person* is an element subtype of *Agent: related work of agent*

Item: related item of item in Toolkit



Why Have Hierarchies?

- Provides choices for agencies about the level of specificity in which to record metadata
- Data is inherited up a hierarchy from subtype to supertype, allowing for automatic description at higher level
  - May provide easier conversion of data to another standard like Dublin Core
  - Maybe useful for reusing data in other applications outside ILS
- Helps organize elements for catalogers navigating the Toolkit

Key Concepts

Overview

- Domain and Range
- Recording Methods
- Vocabulary Encoding Scheme
- Application Profile

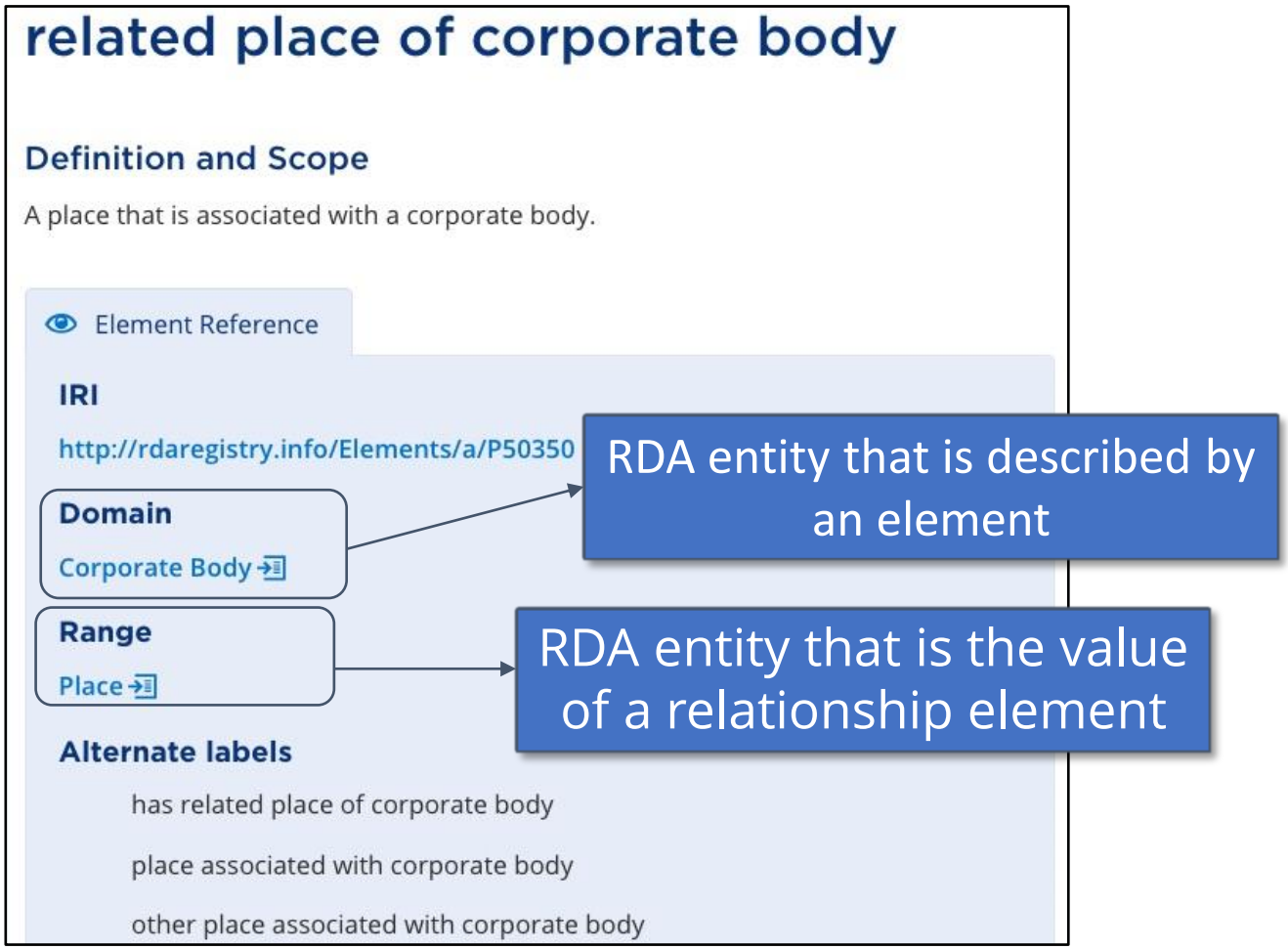
- *Note: There are many more important concepts, so these are just a starting place.*

Domain and Range

Overview

- **domain:** The RDA entity that is described by an element.
- **range:** The RDA entity that is the value of a relationship element.
- Every element in RDA has a Domain but only *relationship elements* have a Range
- Domain-element-Range works like an RDF triple (subject-predicate-object)

Element Reference Box



Relationship Element Example

Domain: Corporate Body

"Trinity College"

has related place of corporate body

Range: Place

"Connecticut"

Attribute Element Example

Domain: Corporate Body

"Trinity College"

has language of corporate body

Range: none
Not an RDA entity

"English"

Recording Methods

Overview

- 4 methods for recording element values:
  - Unstructured description
  - Structured description
  - Identifier
  - IRI
- Element instructions tell you which methods are allowed for that element
- *Guidance: Recording methods* provides an overview

Unstructured Description

- Good for keyword searching, but not other types
- Data transcribed from a manifestation
- A note written by a cataloger
- Uncontrolled terms
- Examples:
  - The tragedy of Hamlet
  - Title devised by cataloger
  - knitting

Structured Description

- Data recorded according to a particular encoding scheme with string order and punctuation rules (e.g., access point)
- Controlled terms taken from a thesaurus
- Examples:
  - Gilman, Charlotte Perkins, 1860-1935. Herland
  - Pool (Game)
  - Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1996

Identifier

- Machine-readable string
- Identifiers assigned by agencies to represent concepts, persons, etc.
- Unique within a local domain
- Examples:
  - 1-57061-381-8
    - ISBN for 2003 Sasquatch Books publication of “Book lust”
  - Q5294
    - Wikidata identifier for “DVD”
  - K. 38
    - Thematic index number for Mozart’s opera “Apollo et Hyacinthus”

IRI

- IRI=Internationalized Resource Identifier
- All URIs are IRIs
  - IRIs may include non-ASCII characters so they are broader
- Globally unique
- Only an IRI can be recorded for a real-world object (rwo)
- Examples:
  - http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500303557
    - IRI for the Yale Center for British Art
  - http://rdaregistry.info/termList/RDAContentType/1020
    - IRI for content type “text”

Vocabulary Encoding Schemes

Overview

- **vocabulary encoding scheme:** A named structured list of representations of controlled values for elements.
  - also called “VES”
- Provides values that may be recorded with structured description, identifier, and/or IRI
- Examples include Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT), ISO 639-3, LC/NACO Authority File, Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), and MARC Code List for Countries

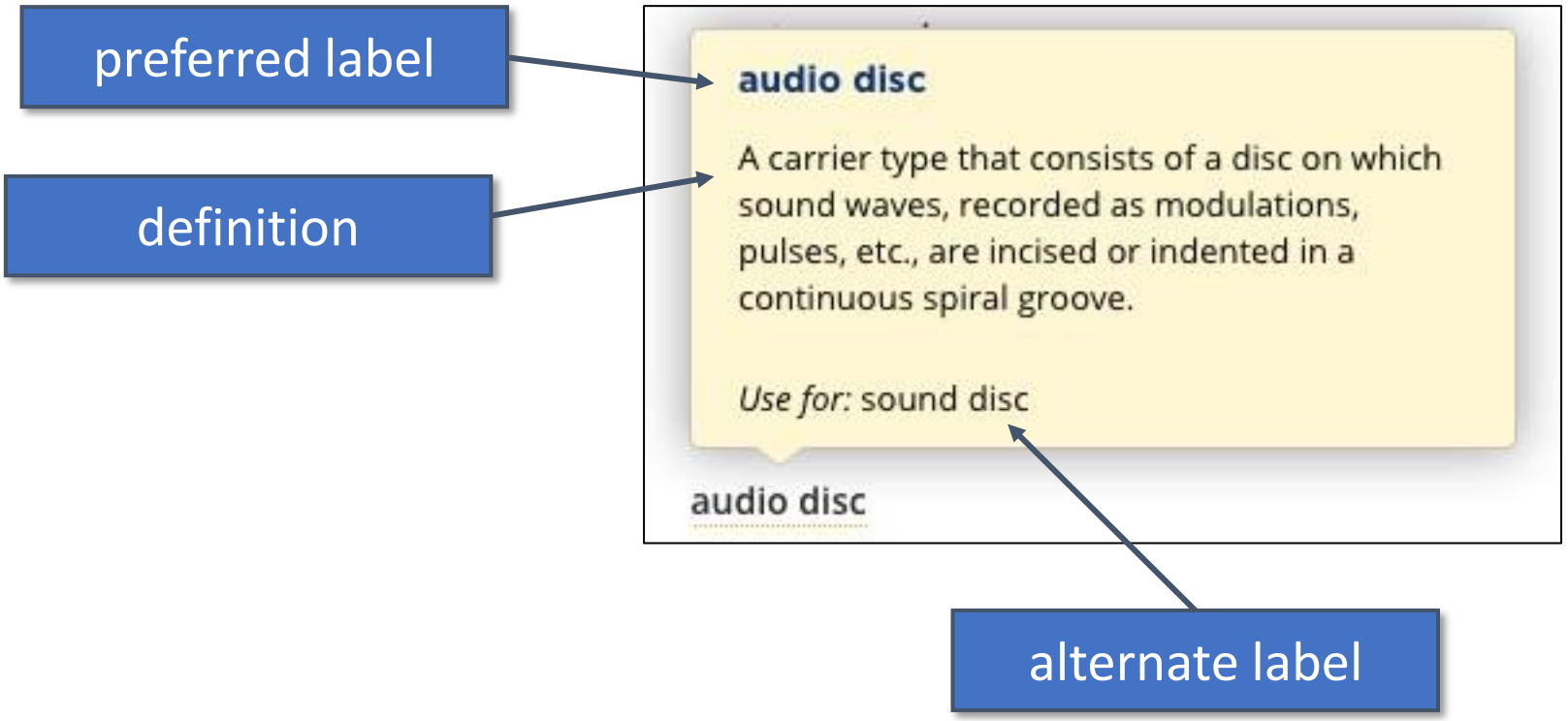
VES Examples

- *layout:* 300404422
  - Identifier from Getty for term “long-line format”
  - Attribute element
- *content type:* text
  - RDA Content Type VES term
  - Attribute element
- *place of publication:* gr
  - MARC Country Code for Greece
  - Relationship element (Range: Place)
- *printer person:* http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500093929
  - IRI for William Caxton from Getty ULAN
  - Relationship element (Range: Person)

RDA Vocabulary Encoding Schemes

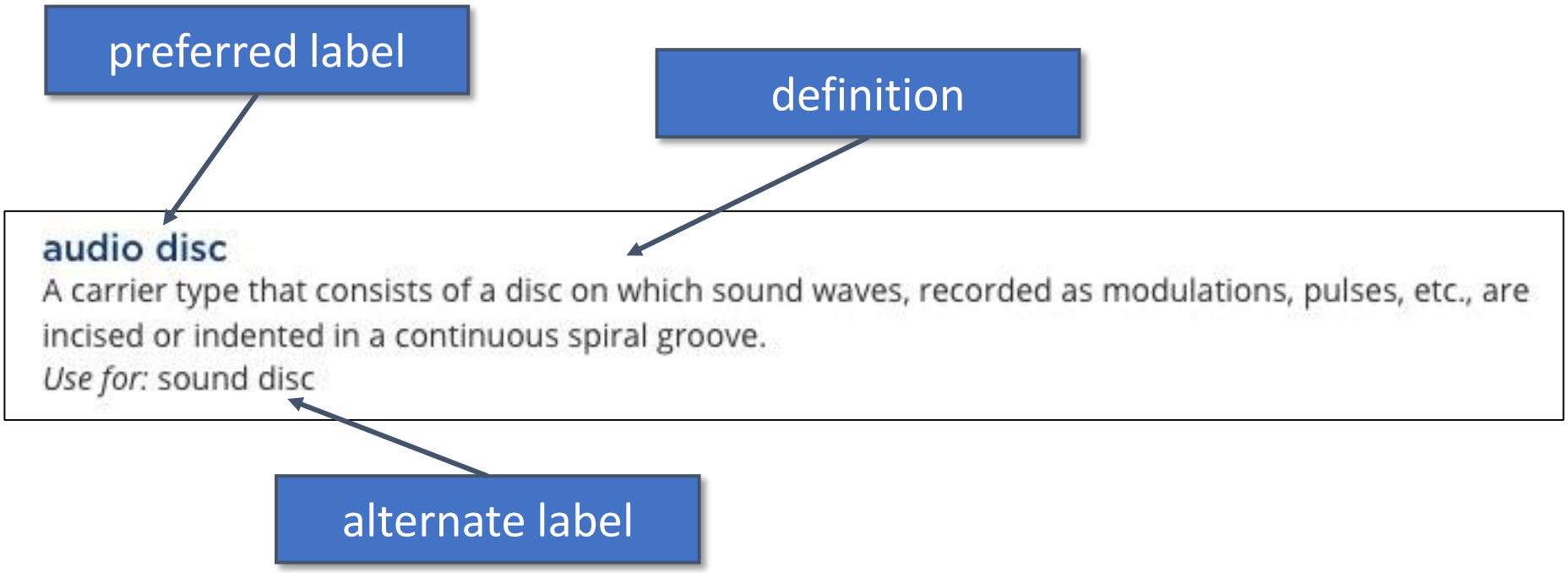
- Currently 43 RDA VESs
- Every RDA VES contains terms, identifiers, and IRIs
- Terms in the RDA Toolkit in 3 places:
  - Element page
  - Glossary
  - VES page
- VES pages contains additional information not found in other 2 places

Example: Term on Carrier Type Page



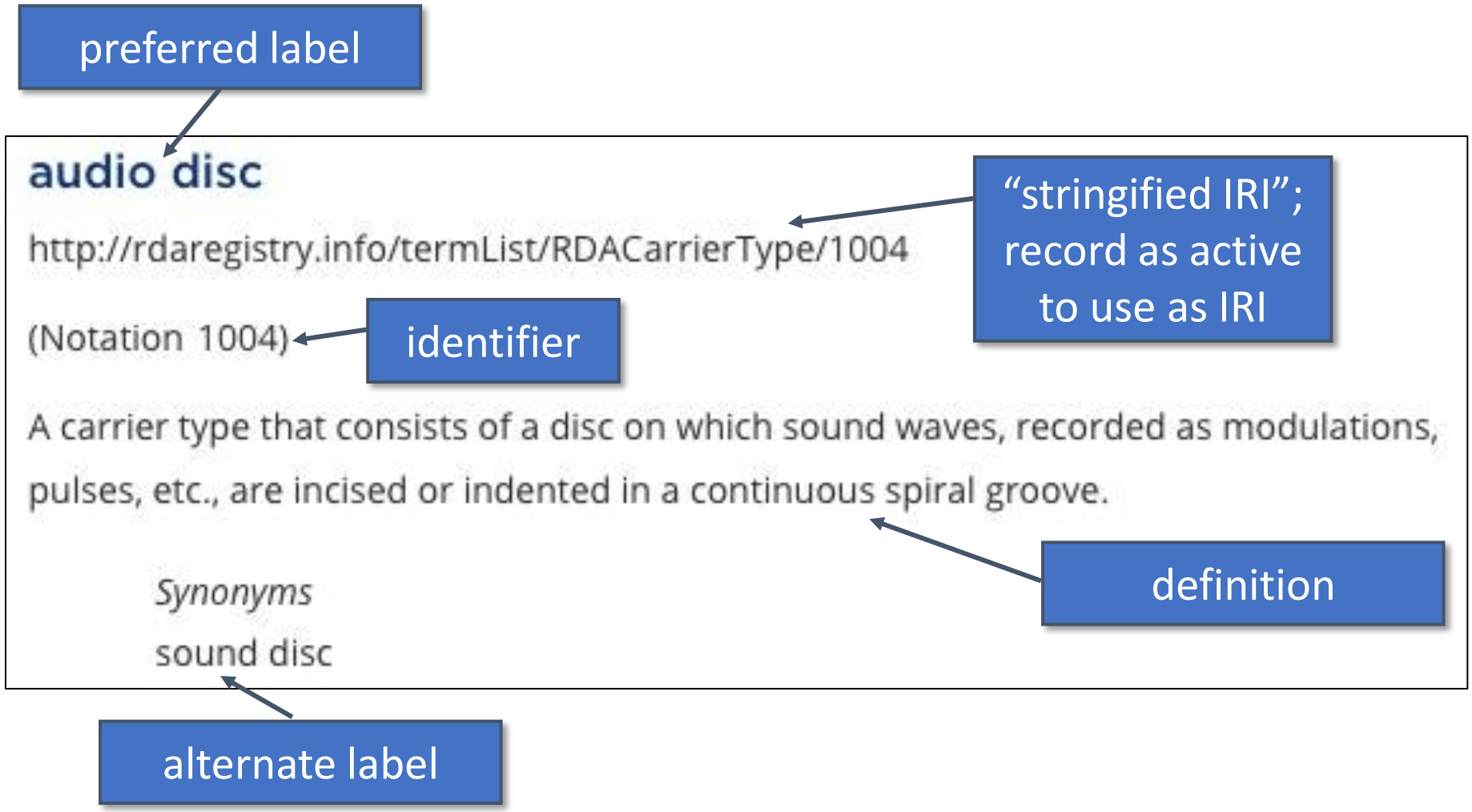
Identifier and IRI are not currently available on element page

Example: Term in Glossary



Identifier and IRI are not currently available in Glossary

Example: Term on VES Page



Application Profiles

Consider this a cataloging community's "user manual" for new RDA

Overview

- **application profile:** A specification of the metadata that is used in an application.
- Tells you …
  - What entities to describe
  - Which elements to use and how many occurrences to include in description
  - Recording methods for elements
  - VESs to use for element values
- Because new RDA has so many element and options for recording those elements, it should be used with an application profile
- Examples:
  - CONSER Standard Record (CSR) RDA Metadata Application Profile
  - NLM RDA Metadata Application Profile
  - RDA Lab Series Application profiles (designed for use with webinars)

Example: Partial Application Profile

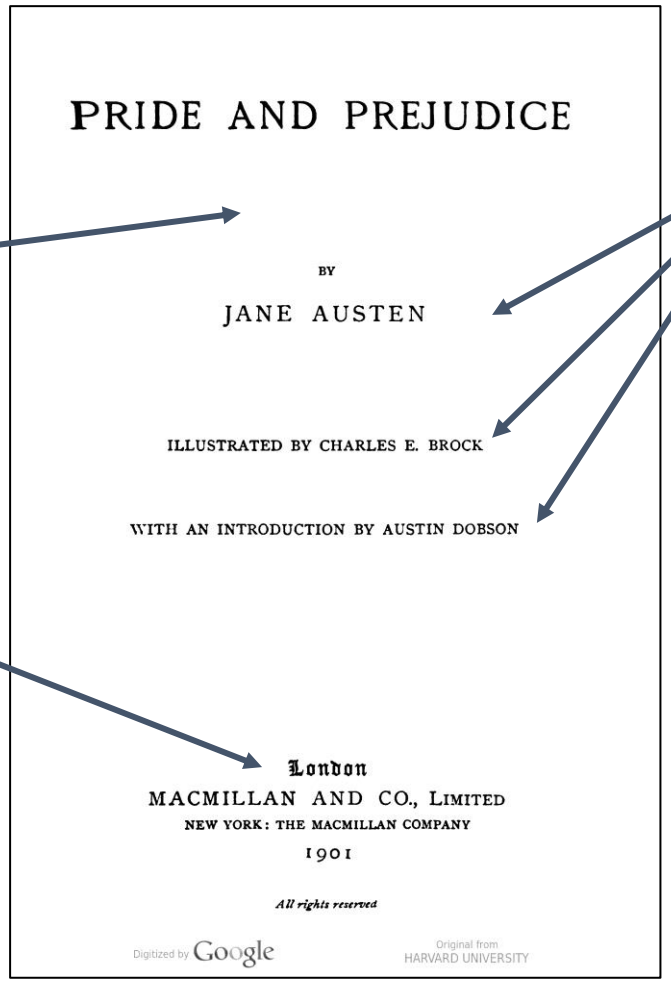
Entity	Element	Range	Min.	Max.	Recording meth	Transcription gui	VES	Comments
Manifestation	title proper	Nomen	1	1	Unstructured	Normalized	n/a	
Manifestation	other title information	n/a	1	>1	Unstructured	Normalized	n/a	
Manifestation	statement of responsibility relating to title proper	n/a	1	>1	Unstructured	Normalized	n/a	
Manifestation	place of publication	Place	1	1	Structured	n/a	LC NAF	Record first listed on source
Manifestation	publisher agent	Agent	1	1	Structured	n/a	LC NAF	Record first listed on source
Manifestation	date of publication	Timespan	1	>1	Structured	n/a	Wikidata	
Manifestation	copyright date	Timespan	1	1	Unstructured	Normalized	n/a	
Manifestation	extent of manifestation	n/a	1	1	Unstructured	Normalized	n/a	
Manifestation	carrier type	n/a	1	1	Identifier	n/a	RDA Carrier	Record predominant carrier type
Manifestation	work manifested	Work	1	1	Structured	n/a	LC NAF	Record predominant work
Manifestation	manifestation statement	n/a	0	>1	Unstructured	Basic	n/a	Cataloger judgment to record this or subtype

Example: Pride and Prejudice

No other title information to record

Only record first place of publication

Three statements of responsibility relating to title proper; one required



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

BY

JANE AUSTEN

ILLUSTRATED BY CHARLES E. BROCK

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY AUSTIN DOBSON

London

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED

NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1901

Applying AP to Pride and Prejudice

- *title proper:* Pride and prejudice
- *statement of responsibility relating to title proper:* by Jane Austin
- *statement of responsibility relating to title proper:* illustrated by Charles E. Brock
- *statement of responsibility relating to title proper:* with an introduction by Austin Dobson
- *place of publication:* London (England)
- *publisher agent:* Macmillan & Co.
- *date of publication:* 1901
- *extent of manifestation*: 351 pages
- *carrier type:* 1049
- *work manifested:* Austen, Jane, 1775-1817. Pride and prejudice
- *manifestation publication statement:* London MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY 1901

Acknowledgements

- Slide 3. RDA Toolkit status information from RSC page (http://rda-rsc.org/content/rda_faq)
- Slides 8, 10, 15, 21, 34-36. Modified screenshots of new RDA Toolkit.
- Slides 22 and 23. Downes Memorial Clock Tower on Trinity's College campus in Hartford, Connecticut by Paul Keleher is licensed under CC Attribution 2.0 Generic
- Slide 22. 1894 Map of Connecticut by Dodd, Mead, and Company is public domain
- Slide 40.Pride and Prejudice, Google-digitized, courtesy of HathiTrust, is public domain

For More Information…

- RDA Toolkit YouTube channel videos
  - RDA Concepts playlist (10 videos)
  - BetaSite – Toolkit Training playlist (15 videos)
  - NARDAC Forum, March 29, 2021
  - RDA Toolkit Demo, January 26, 2021
- RDA Toolkit Workshop, Midwinter 2020, PDFs of presentations and exercises with answers
- RSC Presentations 2021

RDA Toolkit Subscriptions

- If you are a current Toolkit subscriber, you have access to the original and new Toolkits
- If you are interested in a free trial, go to http://original.rdatoolkit.org/freetrial
- For more information, see https://www.rdatoolkit.org

Questions?

- Contact me:
  - kjam@rdatoolkit.org
  - Please mention that you attended this presentation