

# **Vocabularies in the Registry**

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- I'm going to propose an addition to the Resource schema, to accommodate structured vocabularies
- ...and make some observations on how I see this being used.

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but first...

- There is a distinction in practice between ‘ontologies’ and ‘vocabularies’:
- Ontologies are for machine reasoning, and are typically composed of ‘is-a’ relations
- Vocabularies are for searching and browsing, and the broader/narrower relations are **not** ‘is-a’ relations
- We’re talking about vocabularies, here
- <http://www.ivoa.net/Documents/latest/vocabularies.html>

## the resource schema

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```
<xs:element name='subjecturi'  
  type='xs:anyURI'  
  minOccurs='0'  
  maxOccurs='unbounded' />
```

I suggest adding a subject URI to the resource record, containing a URI (or CURIE?) which names a SKOS Concept

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## how would this be used?

- 70–80% of registry entries have non-empty `<subject>`
- They include keywords like 'AGN', 'Survey Source', both 'Galaxy Cluster' & 'cluster of galaxies', and 'Binaries:cataclysmic'
- `<subjecturi>jour:CataclysmicVariables</subjecturi>`  
`<subjecturi>iau93:CataclysmicVariableStars</subjecturi>`
- A search for `jour:CataclysmicVariables` finds records with this term attached, with an option to retrieve also broader terms, and the terms to which these are mapped

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# do I have to type URIs?

- <http://explicator.dcs.gla.ac.uk/WebVocabularyExplorer/> goes from strings to URIs in multiple vocabularies
- Currently ranks rather poorly, but will improve
- Possibly apply this technique mechanically to add keywords to existing registry entries
- Possibly apply this in a UI to help users add formal vocabulary terms when creating registry entries

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# conclusion

```
<xs:element name='subjecturi'  
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  minOccurs='0'  
  maxOccurs='unbounded' />
```