

# **Publishing and Maintaining Vocabularies**

Norman Gray

2008 Spring Interop

Trieste, 2008 May 19

---

## issue: versioning vocabularies

Issue [versioning-3]: do vocabulary users refer to a concept URI with an explicit version, or to a constant URI which always refers to the latest version?

- <http://myvocab.org/voc#myterm> : no version in namespace
- <http://myvocab.org/voc> redirects to <http://myvocab.org/voc-1.1>
- <http://myvocab.org/voc-1.1#term> : fully versioned namespace

---

## proposal: unversioned namespace

Principles of good practice for managing RDF vocabularies and OWL ontologies (W3C WG draft)  
<http://www.w3.org/2006/07/SWD/Vocab/principles>

- Distinguishes between ‘versions of a vocabulary’ and ‘versions of *a description of a vocabulary*’
- <http://example.org/vocab#planet> is the *concept* of ‘a planet’, and this doesn’t change from day to day
- But our *knowledge* about it does: `<http://example.org/vocab#planet> rdfs:description “...cleared out its orbit...”`.

- Dublin Core has the namespace <http://purl.org/dc/terms/>
- SKOS has <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#> (note that the date here is *not* a SKOS version)
- FOAF has <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>, but its author has recanted
- Each of these uses maintenance properties on the concepts, and a hierarchy of unstable, testing, stable or deprecated

---

# publishing versioned descriptions

- Dereferencing the vocabulary namespace results in a redirection to an RDF file (this is versioned, one way or another, so you can always get a given version of the knowledge about a concept)

- Or: `http://myvocab.org/voc` 302-redirect to `http://myvocab.org/voc-yyyymmdd.rdf`

- ...which provides the knowledge about `http://myvocab.org/voc#term` at the given date.