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Pragmatic Linked Open Data and Preservation

Christopher Gutteridge
Linked Open Data Architect

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(or “Identifiers: the good, the bad and the ugly”)

Summary

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- With Linked Data you'll be dealing with other people's Identifiers
- You won't like them
- They will be too vague (or too specific)
- They will change

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Linked Open Data & RDF

Tabular Data (CSV, Excel, SQL)

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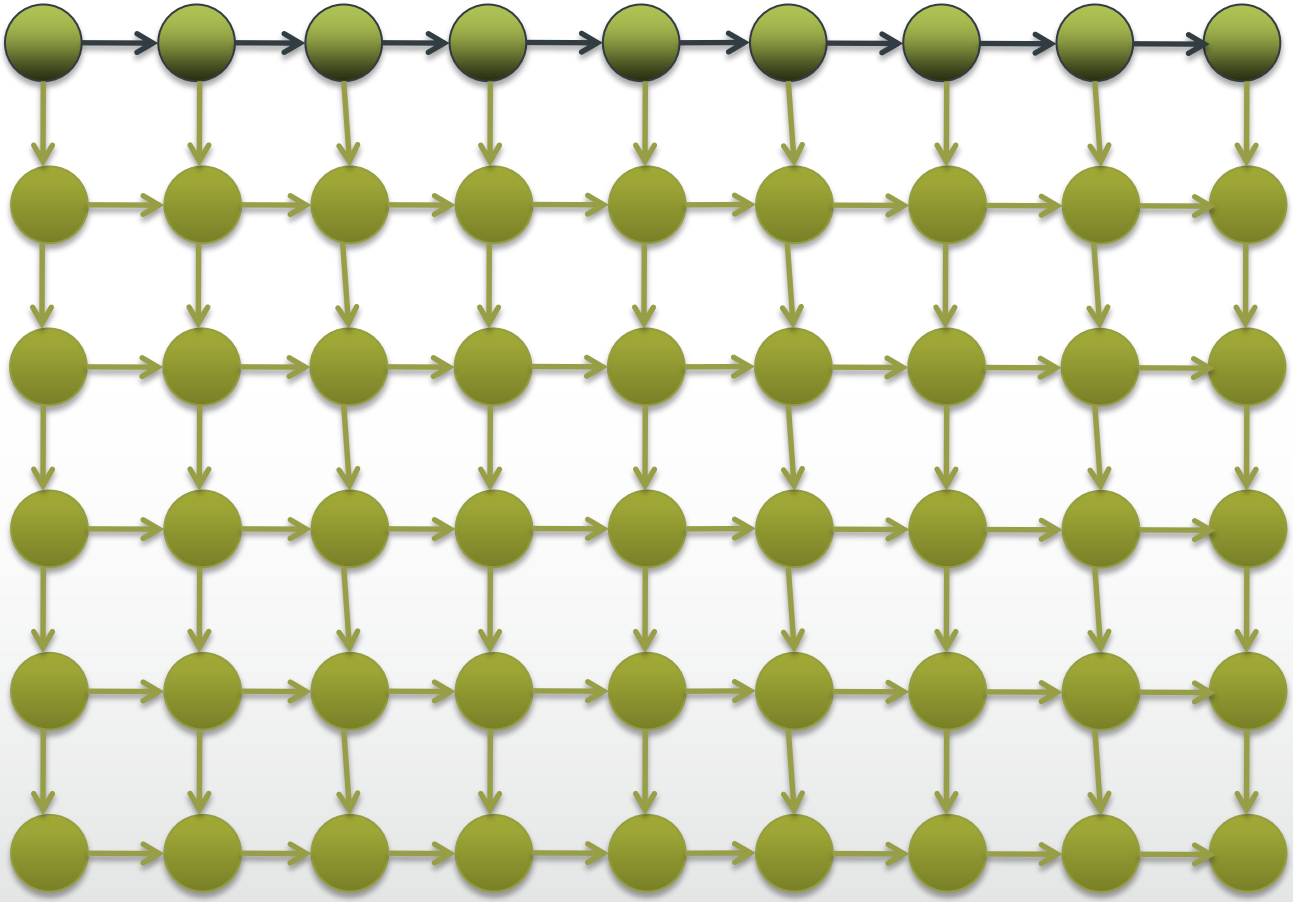

Tree Data (XML, JSON)

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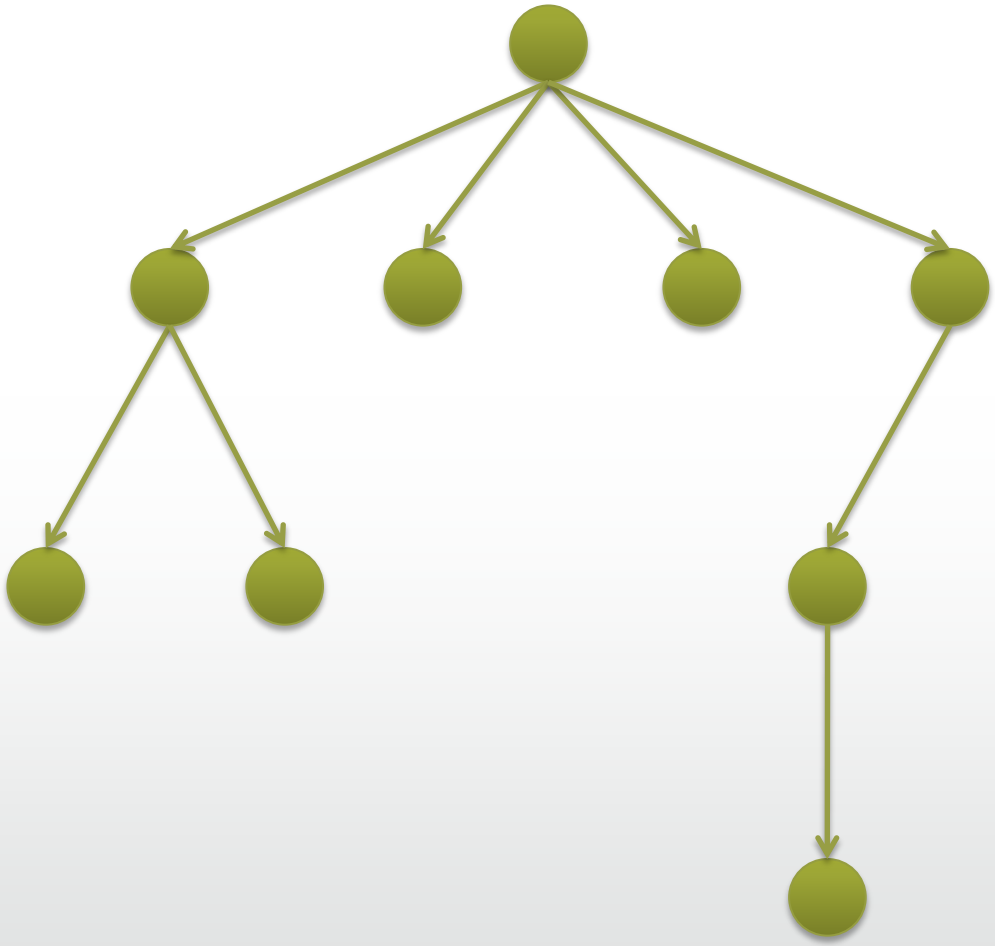

Graph Data (RDF)

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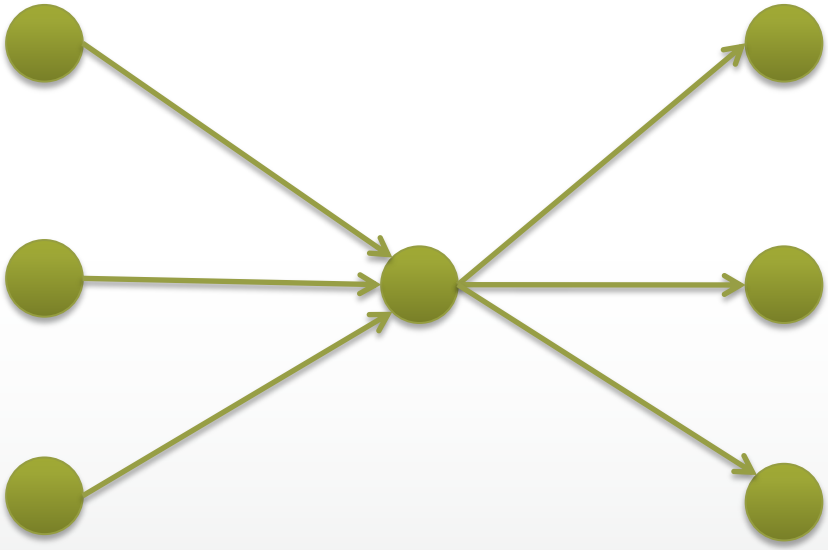

Graph Data (RDF)

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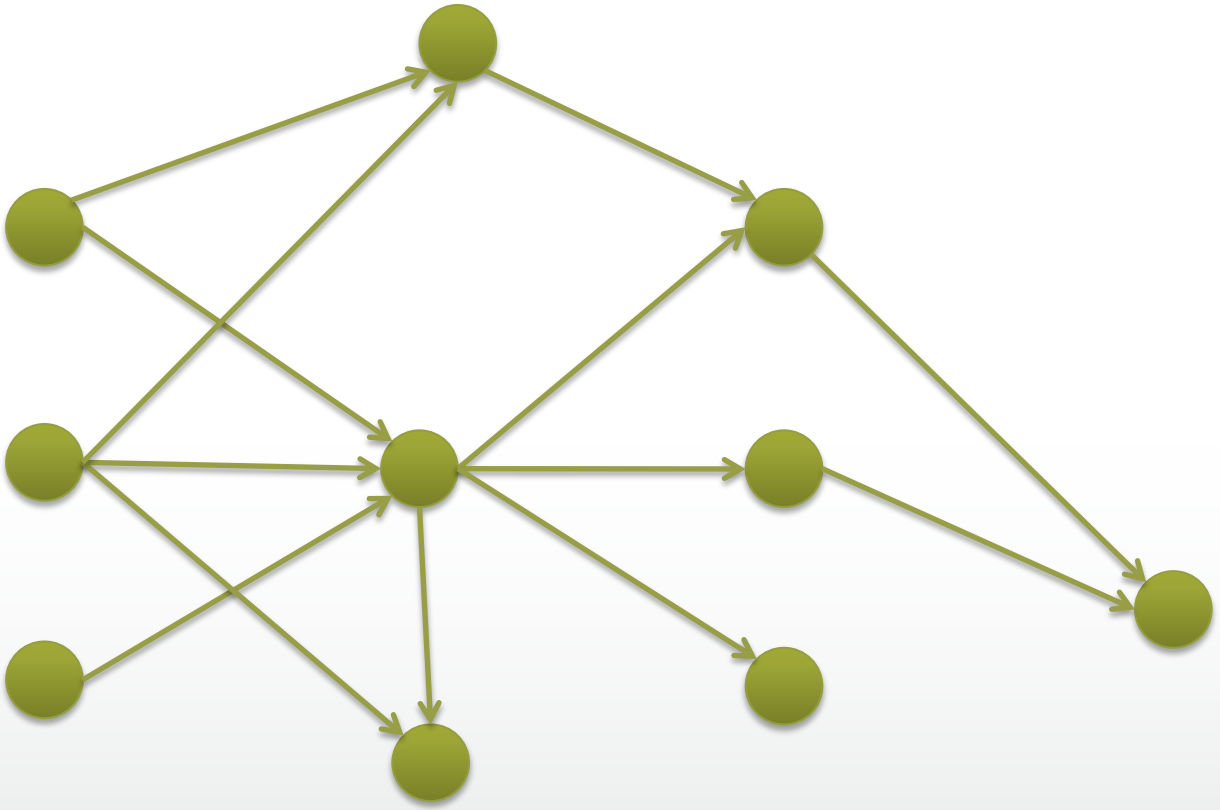

Graph Data (RDF)

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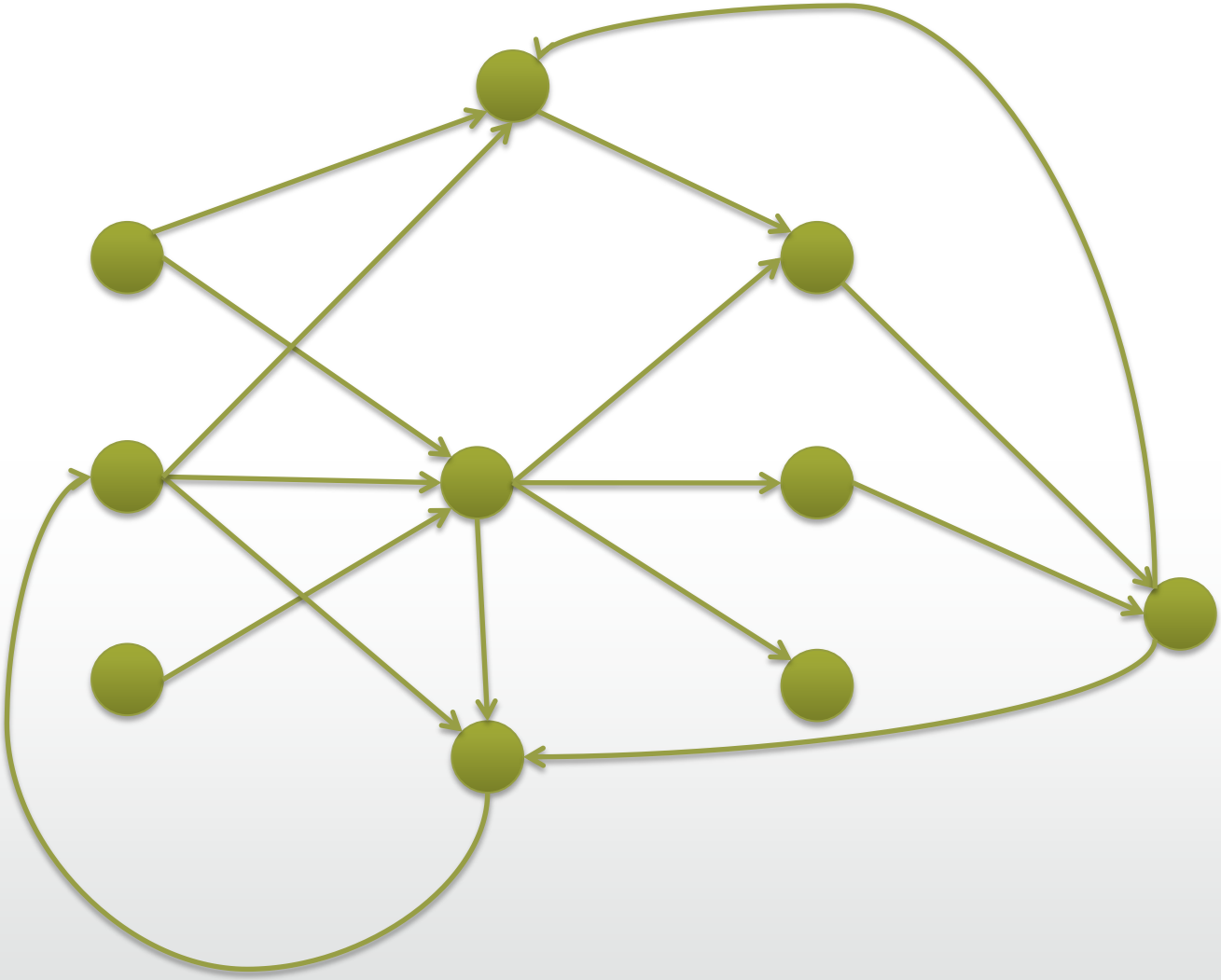

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data.southampton.ac.uk

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- Organisational Infrastructure data
- From all parts of the organisation
- Open Data (OGL)
- Linked Open Data (where we can)
- Emphasis on current information, not historical
- Contextual data for more valuable candidates for preservation (research output)

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The Good

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GETTING EVERYONE USING THE SAME IDENTIFIERS

Good; Surfacing Organisation IDs

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- Rooms
- Buildings
- Organisation Parts
- Research Facilities
- Equipment
- Research Output

Bad; Missing Identifiers

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- IDs for People are tricky

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(the EPrints bit)

AN IDENTIFIER FOR EVERYTHING

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Each author and Editor of a work has

- Given Name (Marvin)
- Family Name (Fenderson)
- Optional Identifer

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With ID:

http://eprints.myuni.ac.uk/id/person/<ID>

Without:

http://eprints.myuni.ac.uk/id/person/ext-<hash-of-eprintID-and-name>

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The Bad

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THE CAUTIONARY TALE OF BUILDING 53

Building numbers are assigned by University of Southampton Buildings and Estates.

We have no say in this (yet).

Building 53

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Building 53

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

http://id.southampton.ac.uk/building/

53/2009

<building-number>/<year-of-construction>

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

http://id.southampton.ac.uk/building/

53/2009

<building-number>/<year-of-construction>

…But that means every system referring to a building needs to know when it was built.

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http://id.southampton.ac.uk/building/

53

"the building identified as '53' by the University of Southampton when this data was compiled"

Pragmatic vs Perfect(?)

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Perfect Identifiers

- Will work for all time
- Are unambiguous
- Require no context
- Put effort on data owners
- Are (in some cases) a pipe dream
- Tend to be more hassle for “casual” comsumers

Pragmatic Identifiers

- Requires supporting data
- Put effort on data linkers
- Make preservation harder
- Are sometimes all you can hope for
- Easier for “casual” consumers

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The Curry

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Or…

IDENTIFIER AMBIGUITY AND THE SQUIFFY TUMMY

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http://id.southampton.ac.uk/products-and-services/

CurlyFries

Daily Menu Item URI

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http://id.southampton.ac.uk/products-and-services/

ChickenCurry/2012-07-19

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Christopher Gutteridge
cjg@ecs.soton.ac.uk
@cgutteridge

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http://data.ac.uk/