Catalogues, Dictionaries, Libraries, Data and Metadata

Gerald Radack 2009-03-19

Kinds of IT Standards

- Exchange standards
 - define a document form for conveying info
 - languages define data elements and structures
- Interface standards
 - define an interaction for providing a service
 - simple interactions defined by messages or invocations (request/response messages)
 - complex interactions defined by choreography of message exchanges
- Language standards
- Vocabulary standards
 - define concepts within a field using terms, definitions and abbreviations

Extending Data Models

 Assumption: standardizing data models is expensive and slow, standardizing reference data is less expensive and faster

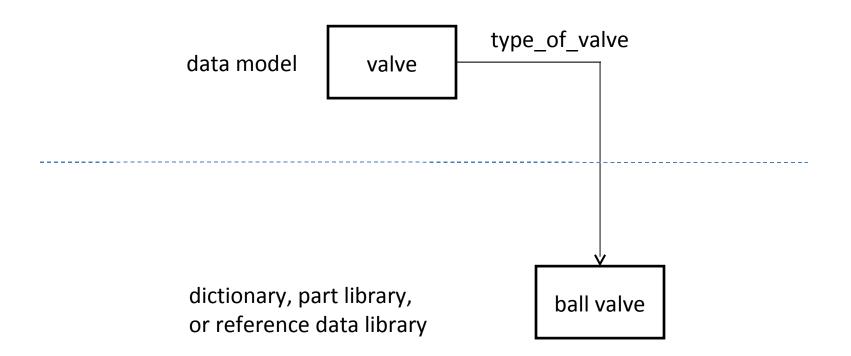
Extending Data Models

• Method 1

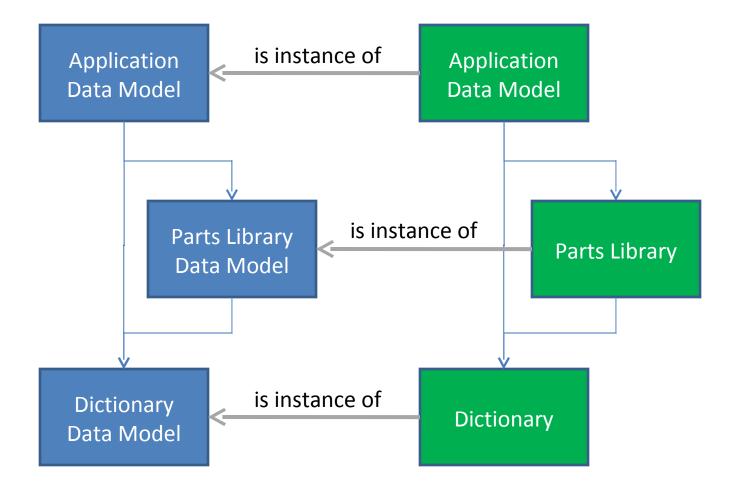
data model valve subtype (is a kind of) ball valve

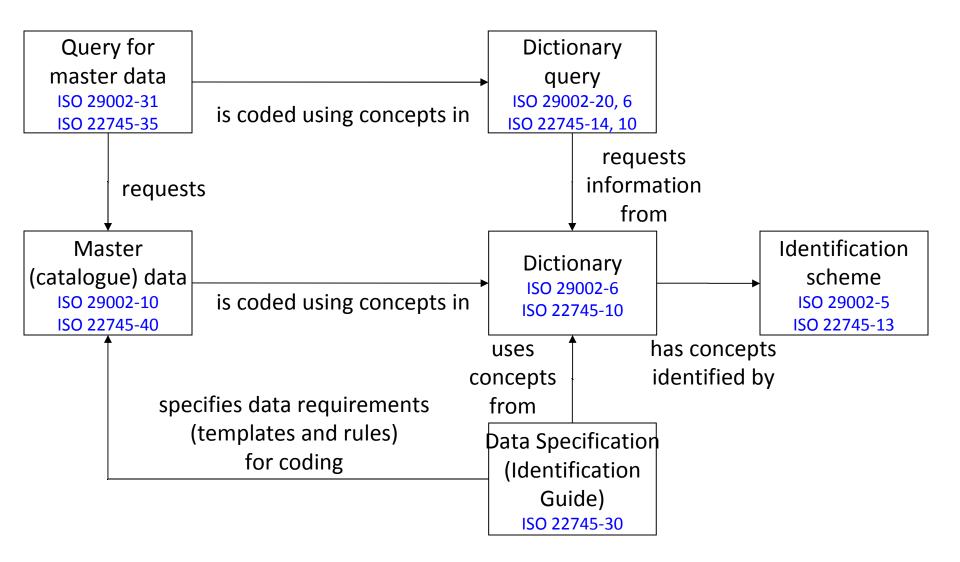
Extending Data Models

• Method 2



Typical Architecture





SC 4 Products

- Data models
 - Multiple modeling languages in use: IDEF1X, EXPRESS, UML, etc.
 - Different modeling styles and patterns
- Dictionaries / part libraries / reference data libraries
 - Represented according to several data models
- Vocabulary
- EXPRESS and other foundational standards

Issues and Needs

- Seamless integration
 - Vertical (application \rightarrow parts library \rightarrow dictionary \rightarrow EXPRESS meta-model)
 - Horizontal as needed
 - Can ontology languages avoid the need for heterogeneous representation of concepts (data model, reference data dichotomy, etc.)
- Definition of "ontology"
- Migration path providing existing models in multiple formats, including EXPRESS, Part 21 based, and OWL
- Management of identifiers/URIs
- Filling in gaps in application-level standards



The Integration of Taxonomies Using Ontology Structures

Presented by Gerry Radack, CTC

The Integration of Taxonomies Using Ontology Structures



- Relate Government/Commercial Item
 Descriptions/Taxonomies to Supplier
 Capabilities
 - DLIS must be able to integrate DOD item classifications with commercial systems
 - Commercial cataloging systems have domain-specific classifications that are not interconnected
 - Information is stored in different, often proprietary, and incompatible formats



Approach: Guiding Principle

- Use the ECCMA Open Technical Dictionary (eOTD) as the basis for the integration of classifications
- The eOTD is the industry version of the FCS and seeks recognition as the international standard for e-catalogs via the ISO 22745 designation



Mapping Between Taxonomies

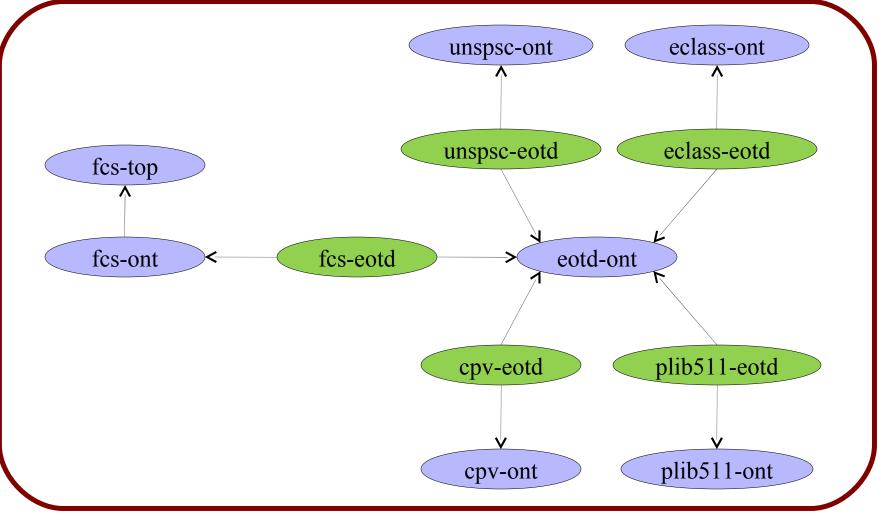
- Mapping keywords is insufficient
 - one-to-one correspondences aren't always possible
 - overlapping classes
 - » functional vs. compositional classifications
 - » e.g. grinding machine:cutlery (0161-1#01-007071#1) vs. grinding machine:carbide tool bit (0161-1#01-007098#1)
- Need deeper analysis
- Focus on systemic classification of attributes that connects communities of information
- This connection can be established with the Semantic Web



Ontology Mapping

- OWL axioms are used to map each ontology to the eOTD
 - fsc:BearingsPlainUnmounted ≡
 eotd:BearingPlain ∩ eotd:BearingUnmounted
 - fsc:BushingsRingsShimsAndSpacers ≡
 eotd:Bushing ∪ eotd:Ring ∪ eotd:Shim ∪
 eotd:Spacer

Ontologies Overview



Challenges



- Taxonomies differ in scope and purpose
- Naming conventions differ across classifications
 - e.g. "bearing, roller" versus "roller bearing"
- Target taxonomies have one or more deficiencies:
 - lack of definitions or inaccurate definitions
 - lack of freely available electronic version
 - lack of sample data
 - poor superclass/subclass structures
 - inconsistent modeling
 - failure to state/observe modeling conventions



Lack of Strict is-a Hierarchy

- OWL defines strict **is-a** hierarchies
 - A rdfs:subClassOf B is interpreted as "Every A is a B"
- Many product taxonomies are not is-a hierarchies
 - They were created to support purchasing
 - eCl@ss example:

27 Electric engineering, automation, process control engineering

27-05 Accumulator, battery

27-05-01 Station. batt., accum.

27-05-02 Traction battery, starter battery

27-05-04 Portable battery

27-05-06 Battery charger <

27-05-90 Accumulator, battery (other)

27-05-91 Accumulator, battery (parts) <-

27-05-92 Accumulator, battery (accessories) <-

27-05-98 Accumulator, battery (maintenance, service)

27-05-99 Accumulator, battery (repair)

These are not batteries!



Integration Demonstration

- DL reasoner was used to integrate the FCS ontology with the target ontologies
 - Computed which target classes are implicit subclasses of FCS classes (subsumption)
 - Automatically "merged" two taxonomies



Project Team and Responsibilities

Lehigh University

- Project Management
- Ontology Development
- Taxonomy Integration
- Translation Compiler Development
- NSN Screening Tool Development
- ECCMA
 - Development of terms and definitions
 - Inclusion of taxonomy terminology in eOTD
 - Facilitation of OWL output from eOTD
- CTC
 - Technical guidance on data modeling, eOTD core model, and ISO 22745
 - ISO/IEC JTC1/SC32 metadata standards
 - ISO TC37 terminology standards