ZBW Labs: Publish Projects as Linked Data

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About ZBW Labs

ZBW Labs gives insight into some of the latest software developments at the German National Library of Economics. Through this platform, ZBW’s department for Innovative Information Systems and Publishing Technologies is constantly presenting applications and (web)services in an experimental or ‘beta’ state. Visitors are invited to discover and to test the latest developments and services. A news section invites comments, while the project repository provides stable URIs and semantically enhanced data about the projects. → http://zbw.eu/labs

Semantic Publishing with Drupal 7

- RDF support is integrated into Drupal core since version 7. The data is inserted as RDFa into the generated HTML code.
- Default RDF mappings for built-in datatypes such as content nodes, taxonomies and users are provided.
- Drupal facilitates the definition of new content types and the addition of a wide variety of custom fields to these types by site builders (generally without programming).
- A user interface supports changing and defining new RDF mappings for default and custom content types. RDFa production in the template and theming system adapts automatically.

Mapping Custom Fields to RDF Properties

As main vocabularies, doap (Description of a Project), schema.org and dcterms are used. Project status is expressed via adms (Asset Description Metadata Schema).

The Drupal User Interface can be used to assign easily the mappings to custom created fields:

Pre-defined Mappings for Drupal Build-ins

- ‘Cool’ Linked Data URLs require additional work (enabling clean URLs and defining aliases for the pages). For multilingual resource pages, or generally for a distinction between page and resource, custom templating is necessary.
- Nested RDF structures (in doap for example repository/location for source code repositories) are currently not supported and require custom, field specific templating.
- RDF for multiple resources within one page (as they may occur for example in ORE aggregations, or in Drupal overview pages created by the Views module) is currently not supported and requires (probably extended) custom programming.