OGC GeoSparql and CIDOC CRM

Gerald Hiebel 1, Øyvind Eide 2, Mark Fichtner 3, Klaus Hanke 1, Georg Hohmann 4, Dominik Lukas 5, Siegfried Krause 4

1 Surveying and Geoinformation Unit, University of Innsbruck
2 Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London / Unit for Digital Documentation, University of Oslo
3 Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn
4 Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Department of Cultural Informatics, Nürnberg
5 Excellence Cluster TOPOI
Overview

1. Introduction
2. OGC candidate standard of “GeoSPARQL”
3. Concept for GeoSPARQL in CIDOC CRM
Introduction

Integrating spatial information in the CRM
1. conceptual modeling
2. encoding of coordinate information

OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) ISO TC 211
- Abstract standards
- Implementation standards -> ISO standards (ISO 19100 series)
Overview

• framework how to implement the OGC Standards (Abstract and Implementation Specifications) with semantic technologies through RDF/OWL encoding
• definitions of SPARQL queries

OGC:

The goal for the OGC GeoSPARQL standard is to support representing and querying geospatial data on the Semantic Web. GeoSPARQL defines a vocabulary for representing geospatial data in RDF, and it defines an extension to the SPARQL query language for processing geospatial data.

2011: submitted as OGC Candidate Standard
2012: editing and revision of the Standards Working Group (SWG)
OGC Candidate Standard “GeoSPARQL”

Core Component

top-level RDFS/OWL classes for spatial objects

**SpatialObject**
- superclass of everything feature or geometry that can have a spatial representation
- root class within the hierarchy of the GeoSPARQL ontology

**Feature**
- Superclass of everything feature in GeoSPARQL
  “A feature is an abstraction of a real world phenomenon" [ISO 19101]
OGC Candidate Standard “GeoSPARQL”

Geometry Component

- **RDFS/OWL classes** for geometry object types
  - **Geometry**: root geometry class
    subclass of SpatialObject
- **RDFS data types** for serializing geometry data
  - **Serialization**: coordinates are stored in a format which defines the sequence of the characters
    - Well Known Text (WKT) as defined by Simple Features or ISO 19125
    - Geography Markup Language (GML) as defined in ISO 19136

These specifications (ISO 19125, ISO 19136) are also the base for subclasses of the geometry class. An RDF/OWL class hierarchy can be generated from the WKT or GML schema.
OGC Candidate Standard “GeoSPARQL”

Geometry Component

- geometry-related RDF properties

- query functions for operating on geometry data
Feature

A feature is an abstraction of a real world phenomenon.

A feature is a geographic feature if it is associated with a location relative to the Earth. Vector data consists of geometric and topological primitives used, separately or in combination, to construct objects that express the spatial characteristics of geographic features.
Feature as E53 Place

E53 Place in combination with other E1 objects:
ISO 19109 features may have “feature types” specifying and classifying the meaning of features
In CRM “feature types” correspond to CRM classes

E53 Place without any other additional semantic meaning:
Example: Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN) with placenames and coordinates

Suggestion: Subclass feature to E53 with the rule, that for any other semantic meaning of a feature a corresponding CRM object has to be created
Geometry as E47 Coordinate Information
Spatial Reference Systems as E75 Conceptual Object Appellation
RDF/OWL class hierarchy from the GML schema for Geometry subclasses