

Records in Contexts Conceptual Model (RiC-CM) Consultation Draft v0.1

Overview of the Feedback Received from the Archival Community
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26 October 2017

Presentation Overview

1. Community consultation
 2. Organizing and analyzing the results
 3. Themes, topics, and issues raised:
 - a) General feedback
 - b) Feedback on RiC-CM entities
 - c) Feedback on RiC-CM properties
 - d) Feedback on RiC-CM relations
- 28/11/17
- Conclusions and next steps



Image credit: <https://pixabay.com/en/feedback-opinion-megaphone-speakers-2073918/>

Community Consultation on RiC-CM

- September 2016 – January 2017
- 62 individuals, groups or institutions responded
- Representing 19 countries and 2 international organizations
- Totalling hundreds of pages of comments on many aspects of the model



"The good news is we're getting a lot of feedback.
The bad news is we're getting a lot of feedback."

Geographic Origin of Commenters

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Croatia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- International Organizations
- Italy
- Japan
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Poland
- Spain
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

Organizing and Analyzing the Feedback: Phase 1

- Comments first grouped by submitter (individual, organization)
- Comments were then broken down and organized by theme/subject

Result:

- six tables (260+ pages) of 1000+ distinctly numbered comments (verbatim)

• Table 1 Broad comments by subject	• Table 4 RiC-CM's Properties
• Table 2 RiC-CM's Introduction	• Table 5 RiC-CM's Relations
• Table 3 RiC-CM's Entities	• Table 6 RiC-CM's Appendices

For Example:

Comment #	Commenter	Issue	Comments Submitted
1-152	35- Fictitious Organization	Recommend re-using existing ontologies wherever appropriate	The basis of <u>RiC-O</u> and its relation to <u>RiC-CM</u> is unclear. Will <u>RiC-O</u> be based on existing standards and ontologies (e.g. ISO, CIDOC-CRM, PROV-O, PREMIS)? While in some cases it might be appropriate to create new ontologies for a domain, linked data best practices support reusing existing vocabularies wherever possible. What will EGAD's approach be?

From Table #1, Comment #152

Fictitious Organization's original (fictitious) comment

Organizing and Analyzing the Feedback: Phase 2

- To support further development work and the proposed 'Digest' strategy (to respond to the community's feedback publicly on the ICA-EGAD-RiC listserv)
- Consolidation of comments by summarizing them

Result:

- 55-page thematically-organized summary of the comments (paraphrased and reduced, according to my own assessment of the original comments)

For Example:

This previously-mentioned comment was one of many about this issue. One can track this number back to the source.

Section 1, General Issues; 1.2 Modelling

[Table row]	[Summary of issue]	Comment #
1.2.6	<p><u>RiC</u> does not explicitly mention other semantic models (e.g. PROV-O). Re-using portions of existing ontologies is encouraged, wherever possible, for reasons of economy (not re-inventing the wheel) as well as fostering interoperability with the rest of the semantic web community.</p> <p>It is unclear if <u>RiC</u> took existing ontologies or models into account.</p> <p>What <u>RiC-O</u> will comprise is unclear, as is its relation to <u>RiC-CM</u>. Lacking information on <u>RiC-O</u> restricts the ability to comment meaningfully on <u>RiC-CM</u>.</p>	1-150, 1-151, 1-152, 1-153, 1-154, 1-155, 1-156, 1-157, 1-158, 1-159, 1-160, 1-161, 1-162, 1-261

My summary of the community's comments on this issue

General Feedback on RiC-CM

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General Feedback on RiC-CM

- **Foundation:** e.g. a metadata schema, conceptual model, or both?
- **Scope & audience:** e.g. includes custodial management? Includes active records / records managers? Applicable to private papers?
- **Underlying principles:** Full range of relevant principles not identified? Principles that were identified were not fully explained?

More General Feedback...

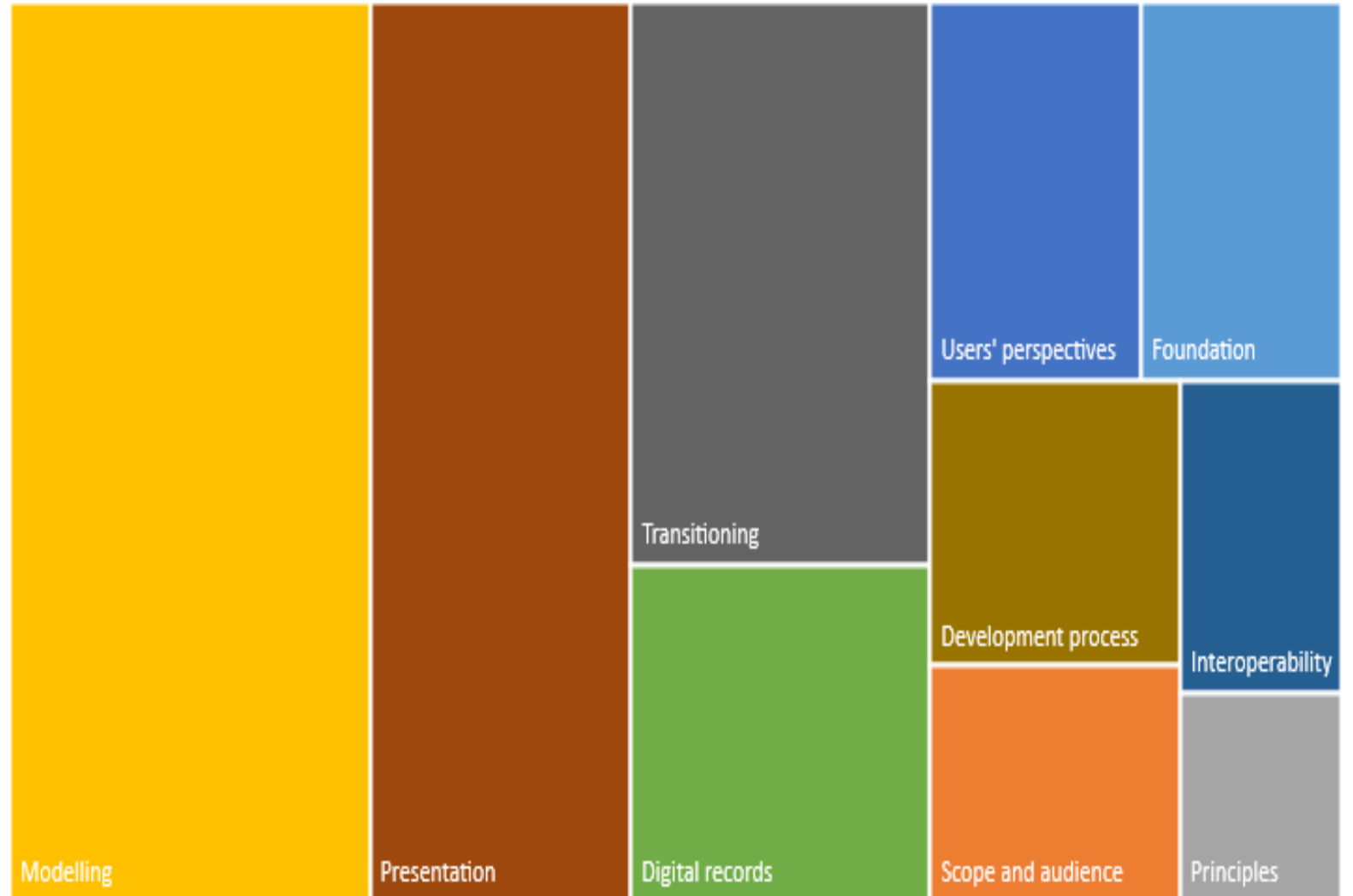
- **Modelling:** e.g. re-use of existing ontologies? Relation to other standards? Modelling archival description itself? Rationale for design decisions like entity vs. property?
- **Users & their needs:** e.g. participatory description? Does RiC improve service to users?
- **Digital records:** Too little or too much?
- **Interoperability:** Stronger connection to records management?

Even More General Feedback...

- **Presentation:** e.g. incompleteness, terminology problems, lacking element obligations
- **Transitioning to RiC:** e.g. feasibility, tools, training, crosswalks
- **Development process:** e.g. transparency, membership, inadequate communication, timelines, translation

General Issues of Highest Concern

- **Modelling** (e.g. re-use of existing ontologies and relation to other standards? Rationale for design decisions? Modelling descriptions themselves?) (77)
- **Presentation** (Ineffective; incomplete; unclear) (56)



1414

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Feedback on RiC-CM Entities

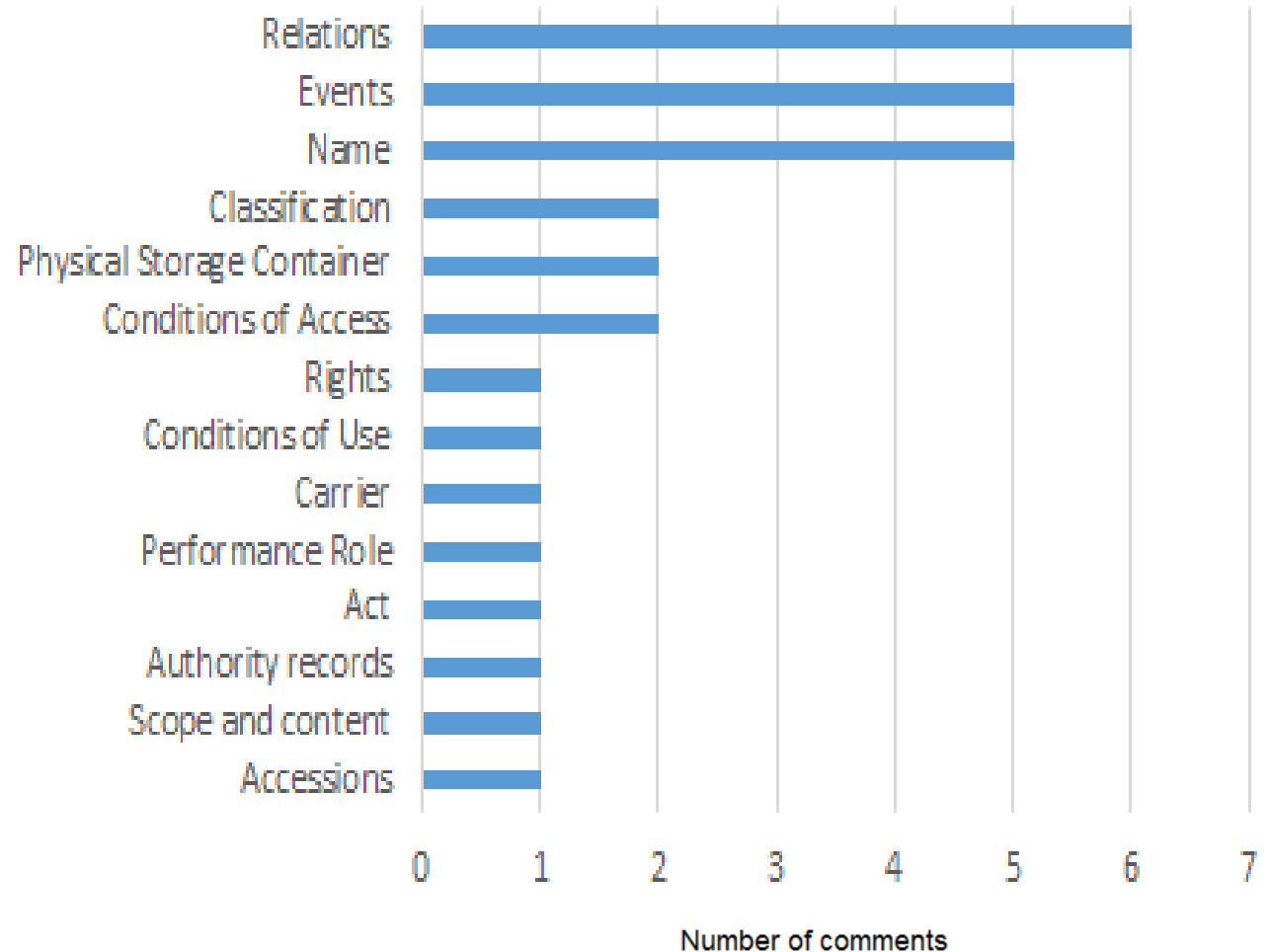
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General Feedback on RiC Entities

- **Choice of Entities:** suggestions for changing some entities to properties, or vice versa
 - To entities: e.g. Event/Relation, Name, Classification, Access Conditions
 - To properties: e.g. Occupation, Position, Documentary Form

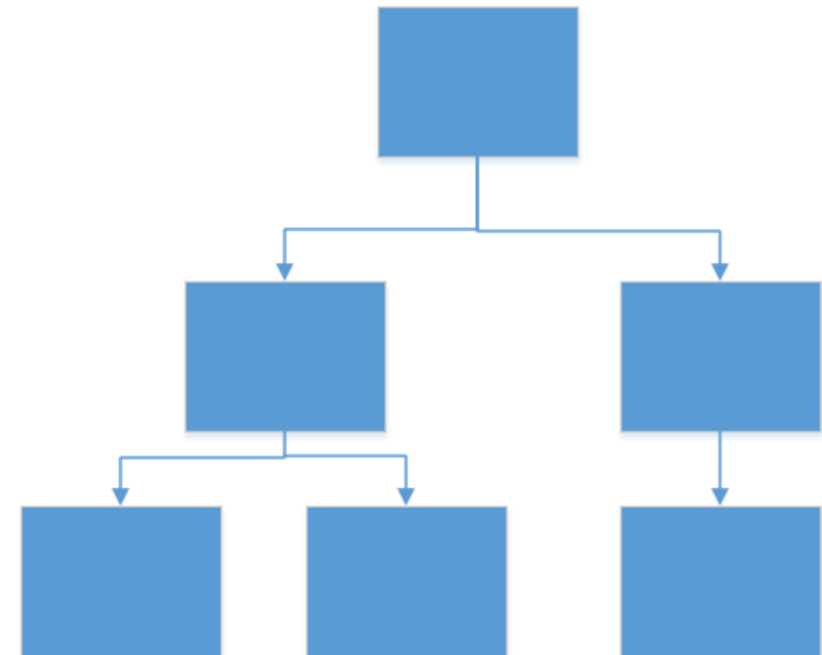
Suggestions for New RiC Entities

- Relations and Events
- Name
- Rights, Conditions of Access, Conditions of Use
- Differentiating Content from Carrier and Physical Storage/Containers (Record-entities)
- Others: Performance Role, Act, Authority Records, Scope and Content, Accessions



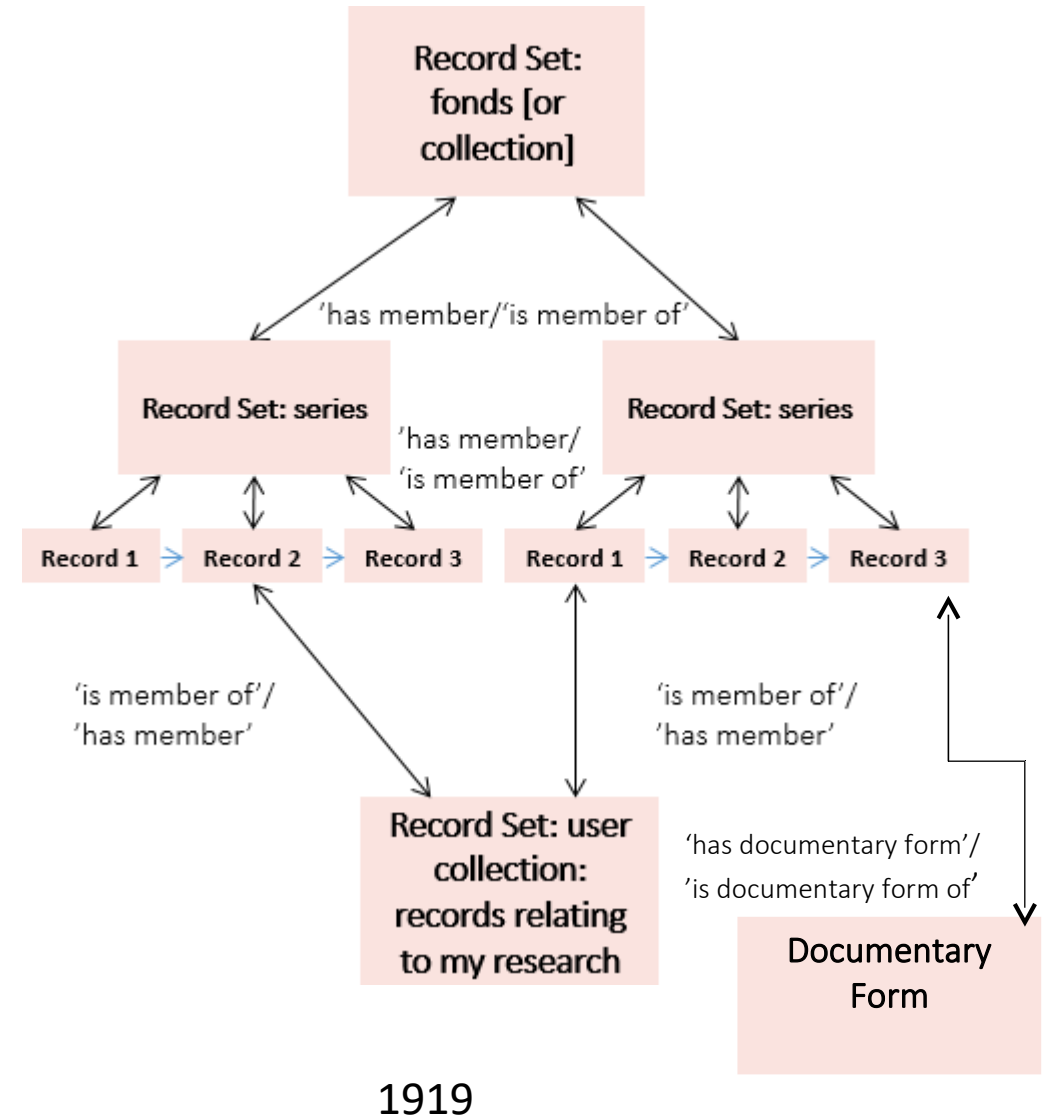
Classifying or Organizing RiC Entities

- Top entity “Thing”
- Primary and secondary entities:
 - Primary:
 - Record entities (Record, Record Set, Record Component)
 - Business/Functional entities (Function, Activity, Mandate)
 - Agent
 - Place
 - Concept/Thing



Record-related Entities

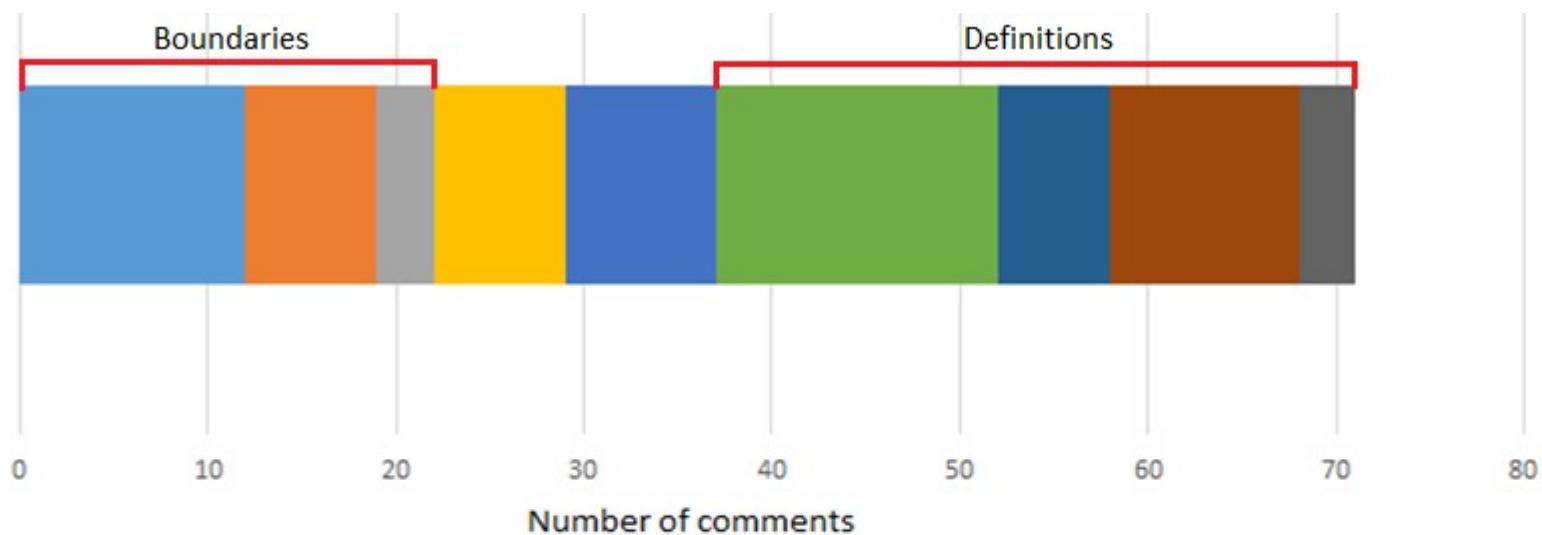
- **Record**: a single item
- **Record Component**: the parts that make up a Record
- **Record Set**: the groups or aggregations of which a Record may be a member
- **Documentary Form**: a particular format of a Record



Feedback on Record-related Entities

- **Distinctions between Record, Record Component, Record Set not always clear:**
 - Compound Record vs. Record Set
 - Complex layers in the digital context: e.g. is a geo-dataset a Record, a Record Component (part of a map view), or a Record Set?
 - Alternative modelling proposed by some: have a single 'Record' entity, whether an aggregation or not
- **Documentary Form:** suggestion to model as a property instead

Record Entities: Main Issues Raised

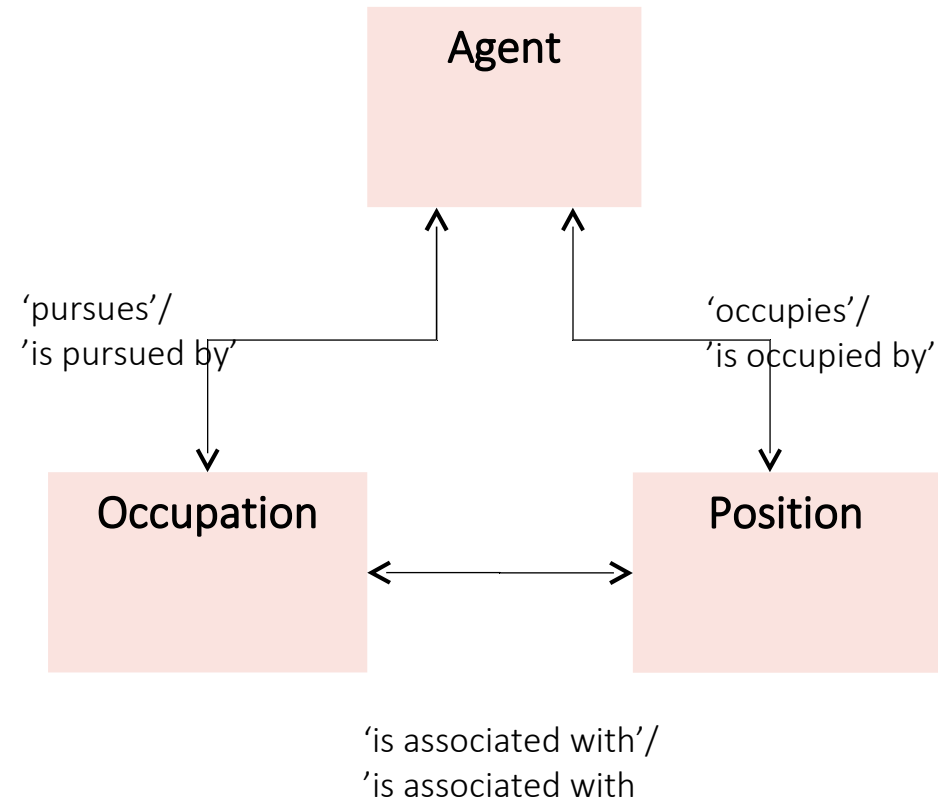


- Boundaries between Record, Record Component and Record Set are unclear
- Boundaries between Record and Record Component are unclear
- Boundaries between Record Set and compound Record are unclear
- Have a single Record entity, whether aggregate or item
- Model Documentary Form as a property instead
- Issues with definition of Record
- Issues with definition of Record Component
- Issues with definition of Record Set
- Issues with definition of Documentary Form

Agent-related Entities

Agent:

- includes these types:
 - Persons
 - Groups: corporate bodies, families
 - Delegate-Agents: software, robots, probes
- allows definition of identity types:
 - Given
 - Assumed
- has two related entities:
 - **Occupation**: profession or trade
 - **Position**: role within a corporate body



Feedback on Agent-related Entities

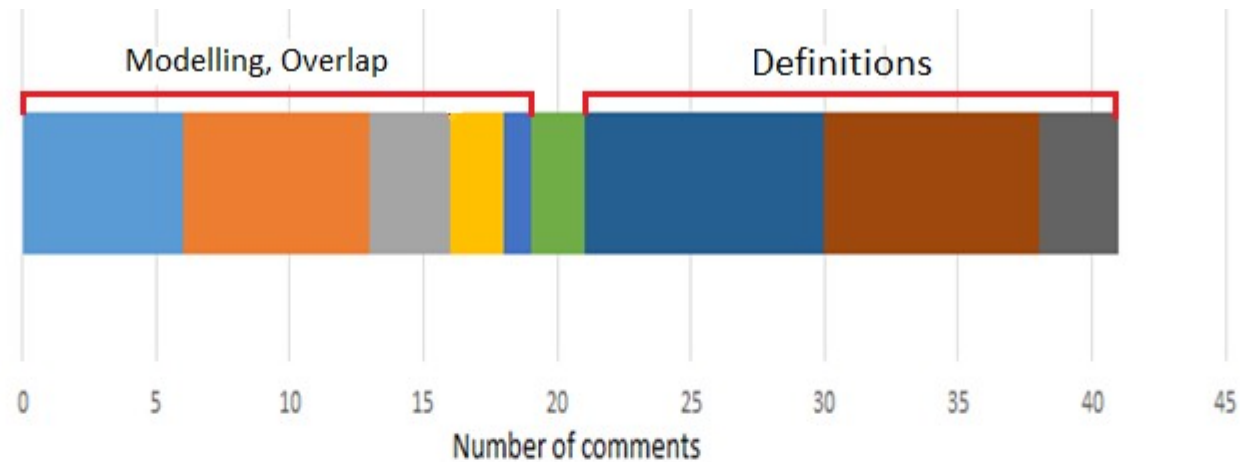
- **Agent:**

- Model sub-entities for types of agents (person, group, corporate body) for appropriate application of properties

- **Occupation/Position:**

- Some overlap with other business entities: distinctions not entirely clear
- Too much focus on a business context
- Be properties of Agent instead of entities

Agent-related Entities: Main Issues Raised



- Agent modelling issues, including need for sub-classes
- Distinction between Agent, Occupation, Position and various business entities unclear
- Distinction between Occupation and Position unclear
- Occupation and Position should be properties of Agent
- Position could be a property of Occupation
- Position and Occupation: disproportionate focus on business context
- Issues with definition of Agent
- Issues with definition of Occupation
- Issues with definition of Position

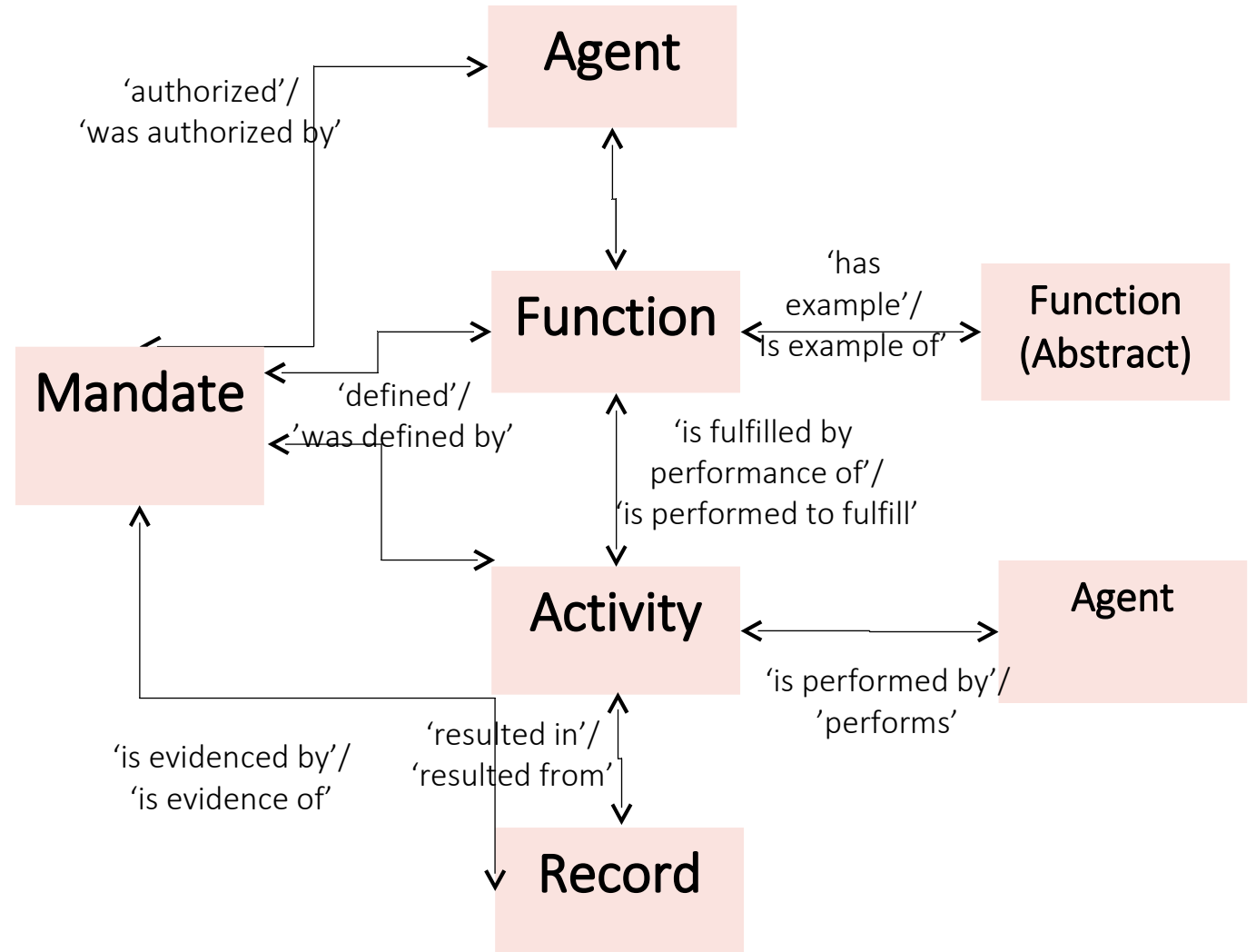
Business Entities

Function: an Agent's broad goals or purposes

Activity: actions performed by an Agent in fulfilment of functions

Function (Abstract): generic functions

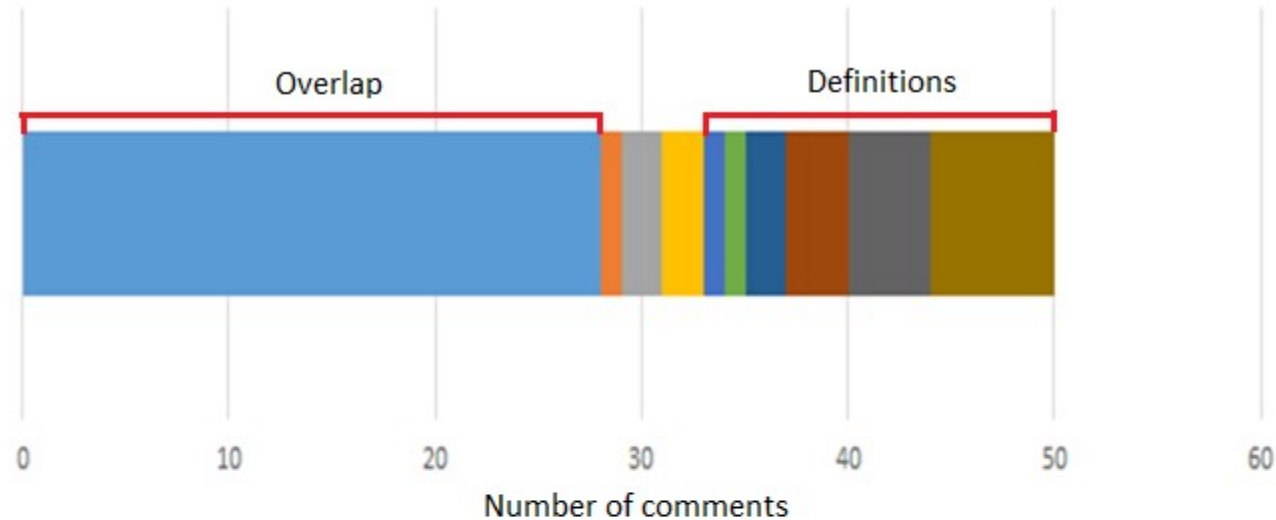
Mandate: authority or rules that define the Functions and Activities of Agents



Feedback on Business Entities

- **Modelling:** overlap/redundancy
- **Application concerns:** practical and consistent way to distinguish between these entities?
- **Functional provenance:** in or out of scope?
- **Mandate:** practical to use?

Business Entities: Main Issues Raised



- Modelling issues: overlap across business entities, distinctions between them unclear
- What about functional provenance like in ISDF?
- Utility of including Function (Abstract)?
- Is Activity modelled as abstract or concrete?
- Should Mandate be modelled as subordinate to Agent?

- Is Mandate practical to use?
- Issues with definition of Function
- Issues with definition of Function (Abstract)
- Issues with definition of Activity
- Issues with definition of Mandate

Entities Shared with Others: Date, Place, Concept/Thing

Date:

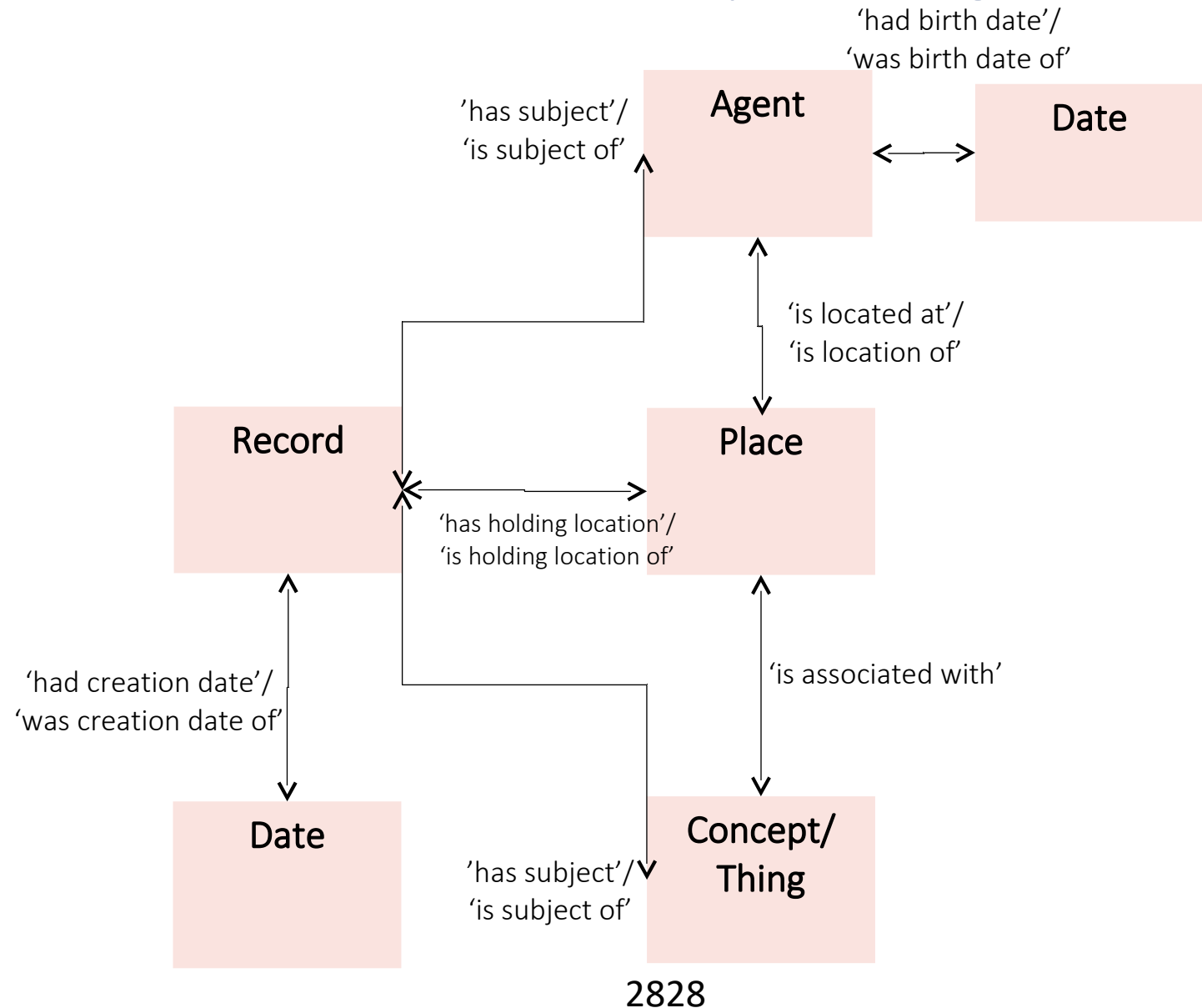
- chronological information
- describing temporal contexts of other entities

Place:

- geographic or administrative points or areas
- describing spatial contexts of other entities

Concept/Thing:

- topics that may be the subject of other entities
- e.g., abstract ideas, material things, events



Feedback on Date, Place, Concept/Thing

- **Date**

- Modelling: property versus entity, or both?
- Why is date currently only a property of relations?

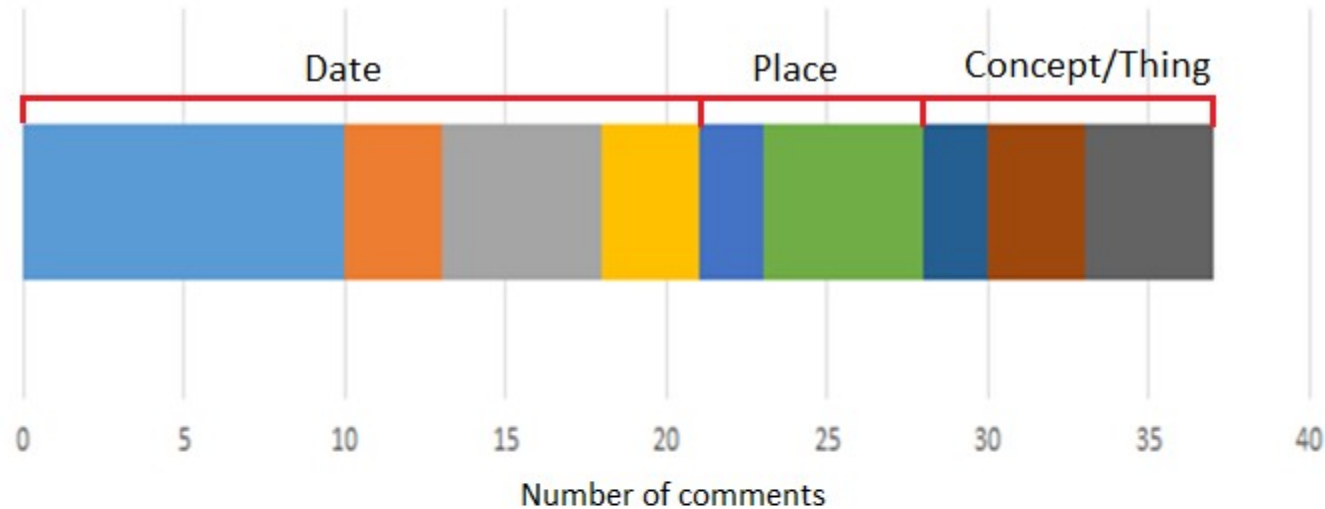
- **Place**

- Jurisdiction and geographic place are dissimilar
- What about when a Place could also be an Agent (e.g. an archival repository)?

- **Concept/Thing**

- Not clearly defined, potential overlap with other entities
- Danger of being an over-used catch-all when implemented?

Date, Place, Concept/Thing: Main Issues Raised



- Question modelling Date as an entity vs. as a property
- Date should be modelled with more detail and precision
- Issues with definition of Date
- Requests for implementation guidance for Date
- Question modelling Place as an entity vs. as a property
- Issues with definition of Place
- Rationale for including Concept/Thing as an entity?
- Why not model Concept/Thing as a top-level entity?
- Implementation concern with Concept/Thing as "catch-all"

Place and Date as Properties of Relations: Feedback

- Other shared properties of relations might be needed, for example:
 - who made the statement
 - with what degree of certainty
 - referring to which source(s)
 - when
 - at which place
 - reflecting which order/sequence
 - etc.



Feedback on RiC-CM Properties

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RiC-CM Properties: Overview

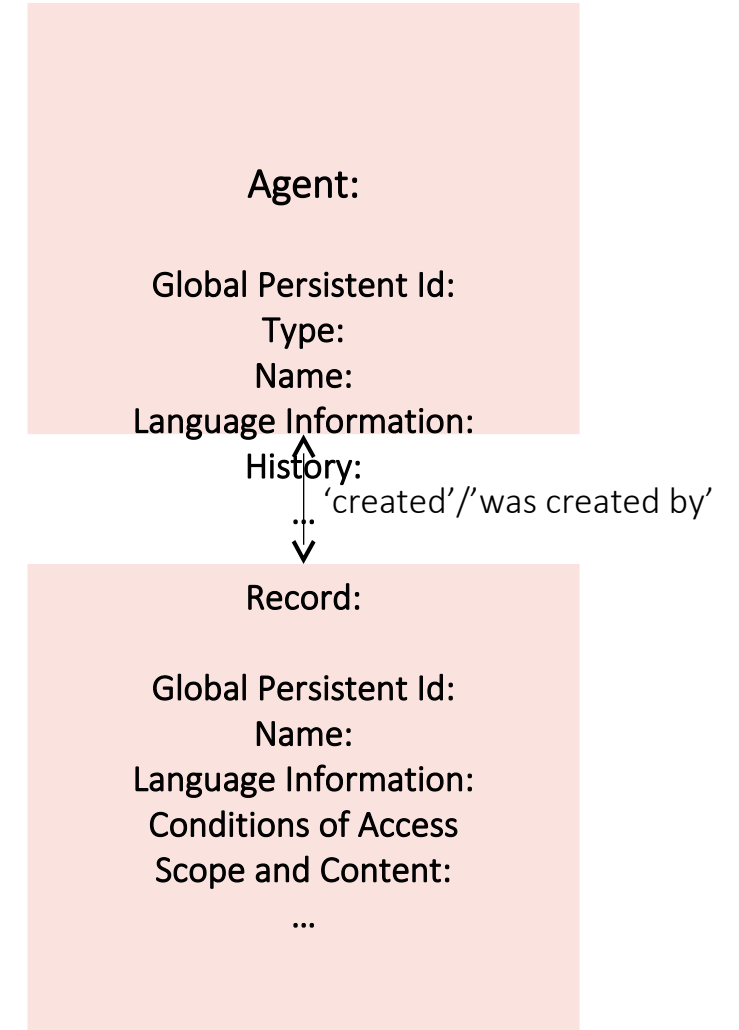
- Shared Properties for all Entities (4)
- Properties
 - of Record (17)
 - of Record Component (*same as for Record*) (17)
 - of Record Set (7)
 - Summarizing the Members of a Record Set (3)
 - Shared by all Member Records of a Record Set (9)
 - of Agent (10)

RiC-CM Properties: Overview Continued...

- Properties of
 - Occupation, Position, Function, Function (Abstract), Activity, Mandate, Documentary Form (3 each)
 - of Date (2)
 - of Place (3)
 - of Concept/Thing (2)
- Shared Properties of a Relation (2)

General Feedback on Properties

- **Indicating obligation** (mandatory, optional)
- **Indicating repeatability**
- **Grouping like properties that can apply to multiple entities** (e.g. type, description, history)
- **Data types** ('text', 'controlled term')



Sample of Suggestions for New Properties

- Record:
 - Life cycle / archival management (e.g. appraisal; disposal; registration)
- Agent:
 - other demographic characteristics (e.g. ethnicity; religious affiliation; race; cultural context; sexual orientation)
- Relation
 - Type (e.g. contextual; associative; structural; relation between Records; relation between Agents)

Sample Issue: Properties for Digital Records

- Incompleteness:
 - RiC is not sufficiently nuanced/detailed for digital records and recordkeeping
- Need:
 - To clarify some existing RiC properties for digital Records
 - More properties for describing digital Records and their components
 - Properties for describing systems contexts and dependencies

Sample Issue: Agent Identity and Gender

- Agent (Type=Person)
 - Identity Type
 - Archivist able to determine true vs. fictitious?
 - Gender
 - Complexity missing in RiC
 - Archivist has authority to ascertain gender?
 - Why only gender and not also other characteristics?
- Repeatable, if it changes over time?

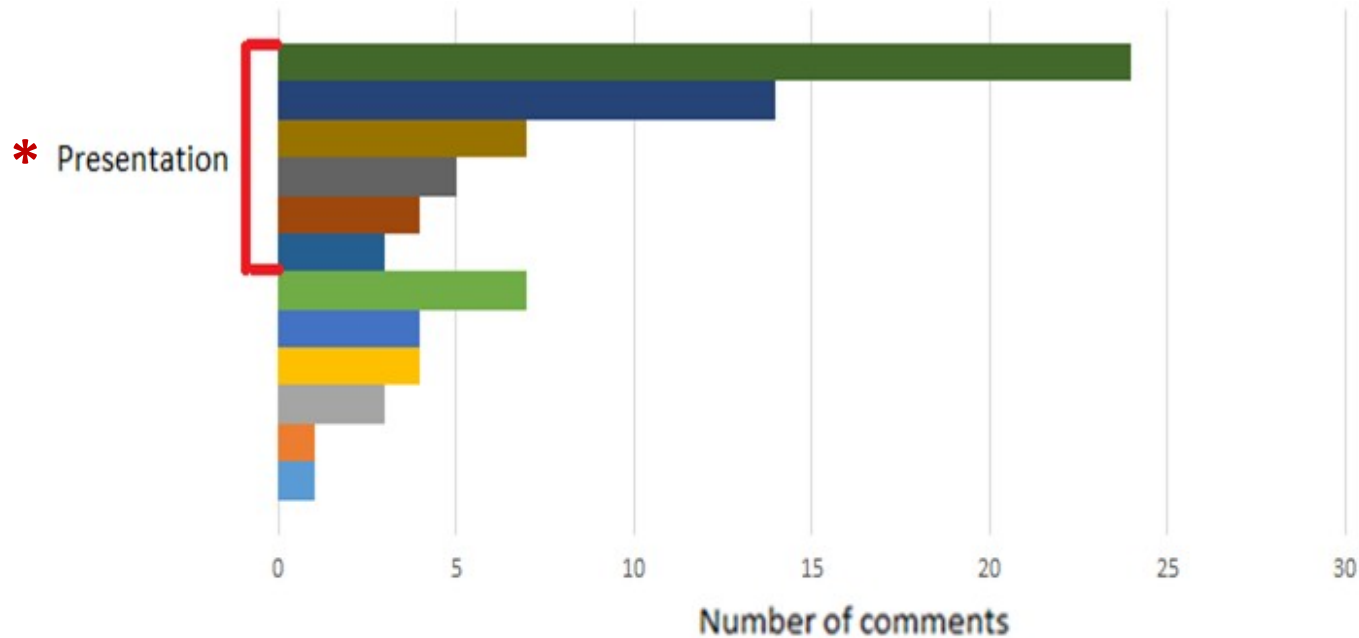
Feedback on RiC-CM Relations

Example:

Record was created by Agent / Agent created Record

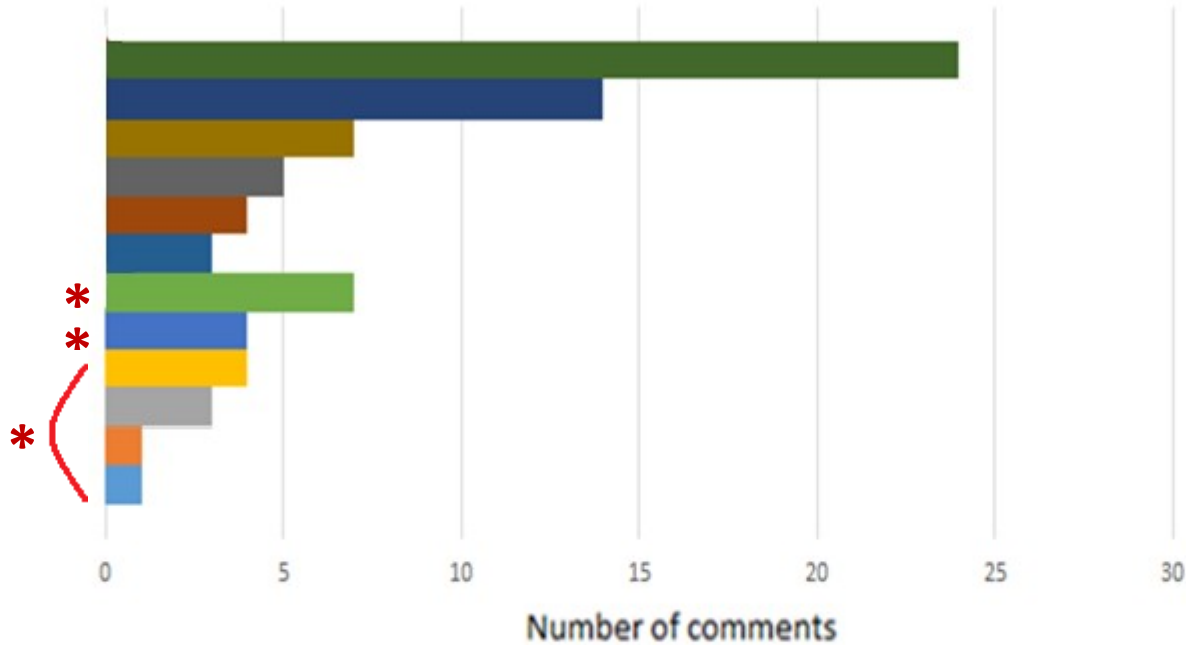


Main Issues Raised (1)



- Past/present tense expression is problematic
- Grouping or classifying relations by types could help clarify and streamline them
- Current presentation obscures semantically distinct relations
- Inverse properties: unclear and/or unnecessary?
- Presentation as a table is not dynamic enough
- Missing definitions and examples impedes understanding
- List is too comprehensive, yet still incomplete
- Must all relations be binary? E.g. tri-, quad-, n-ary
- Add relations for recordkeeping actions (events) to support interoperability
- Re-use of relations from existing ontologies?
- How will relations between entities be implemented?
- Ensuring persistence of relations over time?

Main Issues Raised (2)



- Past/present tense expression is problematic
- Grouping or classifying relations by types could help clarify and streamline them
- Current presentation obscures semantically distinct relations
- Inverse properties: unclear and/or unnecessary?
- Presentation as a table is not dynamic enough
- Missing definitions and examples impedes understanding

- * ■ List is too comprehensive, yet still incomplete
- * ■ Must all relations be binary? E.g. tri-, quad-, n-ary
- Add relations for recordkeeping actions (events) to support interoperability
- Re-use of relations from existing ontologies?
- * ■ How will relations between entities be implemented?
- Ensuring persistence of relations over time?

Main Messages from Main Issues

- RIC should contain key relations presented in an efficient way
- Ways to group or cluster relations
- Strategy for managing the time-bound nature of relations

Sample of Specific Issues about RiC Relations

- Digital records:
 - Relating originals with copies (scans) and renditions (made for preservation or access purposes)
- Relation types – e.g. ‘isAssociatedWith’:
 - Too basic to be meaningful?
 - Model as ‘top’ relation, with all others being specializations (sub-relations)?

Conclusions and Next Steps

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Image credit: <https://wallpapersafari.com/beach-wallpaper-caribbean/>

What Does all of this Feedback Indicate?

- The international archival community:
 - Is interested in RiC-CM's development and generally supports it
 - Invested time and energy to provide detailed, insightful and useful feedback, which will help guide improvements for the next draft
 - Wants a high-quality, useful, implementable product
 - Wants to better understand the development process and have ongoing opportunities to contribute or provide comments

Next Steps

- Addressing the community's feedback
 - Potential strategy: thematic digest of issues with updates to the ICA-EGAD-RiC list-serv
 - Opportunity for ongoing community feedback and dialog
- Strategy update in late 2017 / early 2018
- New version of RiC-CM perhaps by early 2018

Thank you!

Draft RiC-CM available at:

<http://www.ica.org/egad-ric-conceptual-model>

Comments welcome at:

egad@ica.org

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