

## Guide to the First Set of RDF Slides

The notes so far include the following sections

1. Introduction to RDF
2. The N-Triples Serialization
3. The Notation 3 (N3) Serialization
4. Dublin Core
5. FOAF (Friend of a Friend)

The fundamental notion is that of an RDF graph, introduced in section 1. The graph can't be written directly to a file; it must be serialized (essentially converted to a text representation). Sections 2 and 3 present two of the three standard serializations. (Actually, there is a simplified version of the N3 serialization, which is also presented in section 3.) The third serialization, RDF/XML, is perhaps the most common, but it is also the one that is most different from the RDF graph concept. RDF/XML will be covered later. In fact, Semantic Web gurus seem to prefer N3. Note that only the basics of N3 are presented here; some more advanced features will be introduced later. N-Triples is the original notation used in the W3C's documentation on RDF. It is relatively unsophisticated and a bit long-winded. While presenting it in section 2, we introduce some concepts that did not fit comfortably with the sparse notation of section 1.

The first two sections say nothing about software that can be used to check whether you are constructing RDF graphs properly. Section 3 gives a link to the RDF Validator and Converter, which can validate RDF in the N3 serialization and convert it into a triples representation (directly describing the RDF graph represented). You just copy your N3 into the text area and click the button. This provides a medium for assignments.

The last two sections present the two of the most widely used RDF vocabularies. Roughly, these are collections of classes and properties for describing (and linking) resources (including people) on the Web. The Dublin Core (section 4) is for describing documents published on the Web, and FOAF (section 5) is describing people and their relationships to other people and to other resources on the Web. (Start thinking of people as resources.)

The next topics to present are the RDF/XML serialization, some more structured aspects of RDF, and RDF-Schema (RDF-S), which allows us to define our own vocabularies. (A small amount of RDF-S is presented towards the end of this set of slides.)