

Relational Modelling of Historical Data: A Technical Perspective

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OpenAtlas Requirements

- Compatibility with other systems
- Web interface for data entry



Pen and Paper

- ✓ Very mature technology
- ✓ Well known and easy to set up
- ✗ Difficult to search
- ✗ Unstructured

Spreadsheet

- ✓ Well known, very widespread
- ✓ Structured and searchable
- ✗ Not well suited to models with more than 2-dimensional relationships
- ✗ Not compatible with other systems

Database

- ✓ Supports models with complex relationships
- ✓ Tools to ensure data integrity
- ✗ Requires expertise
- ✗ Compatibility is possible but difficult

Database+Sophisticated Model

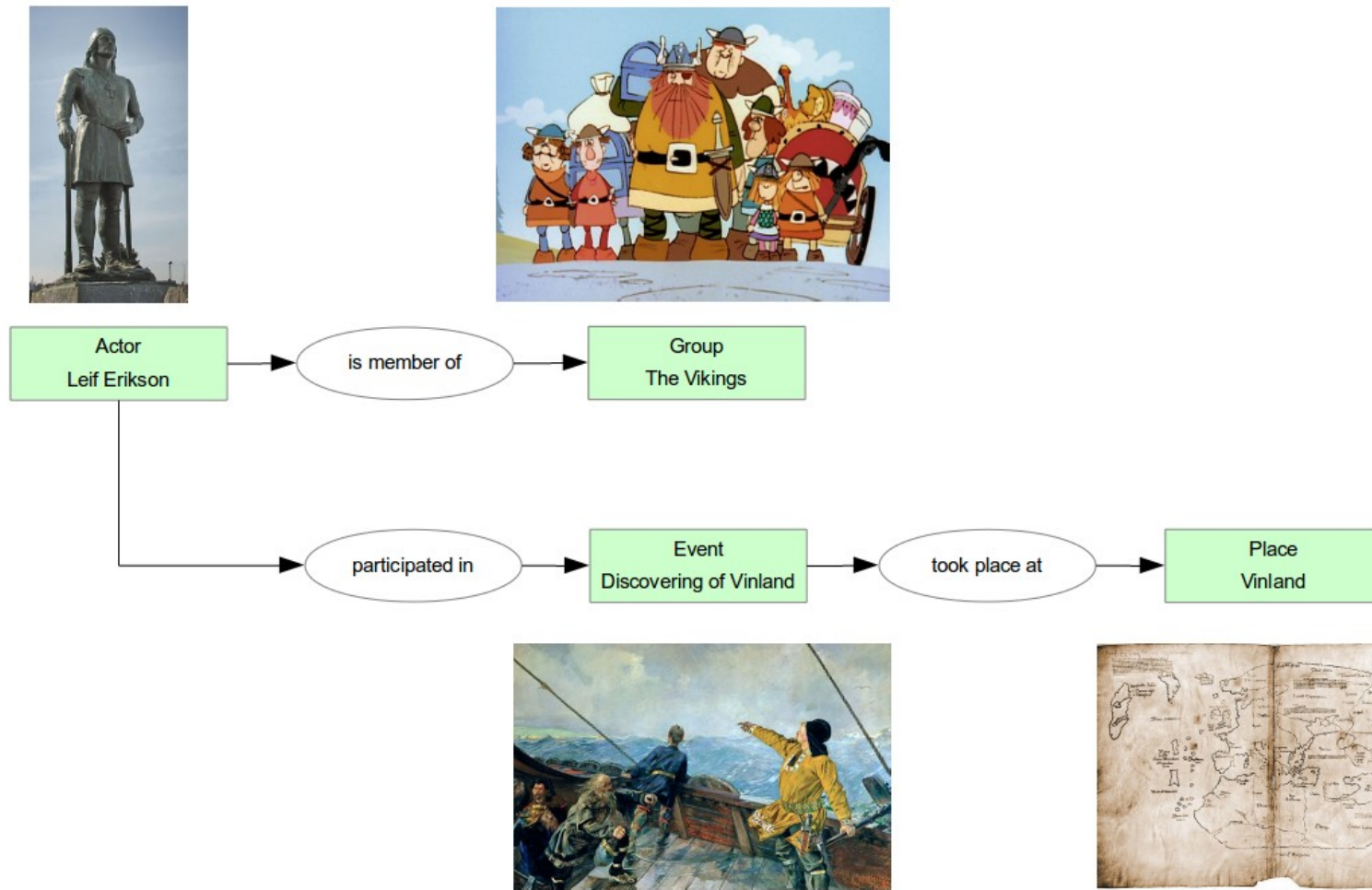
- ✓ Compatible with other systems that use the same model
- ✓ Easily expandable and adaptable
- ✗ Steep learning curve

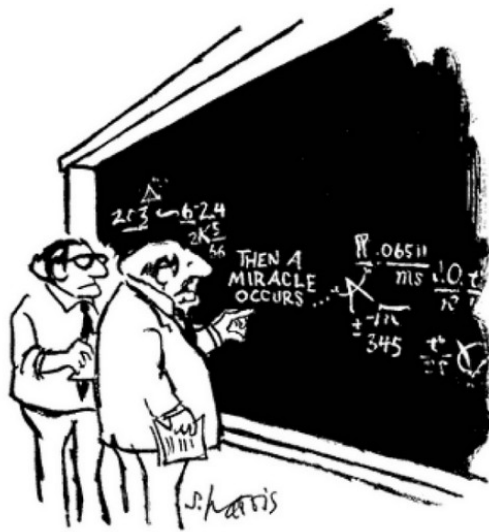
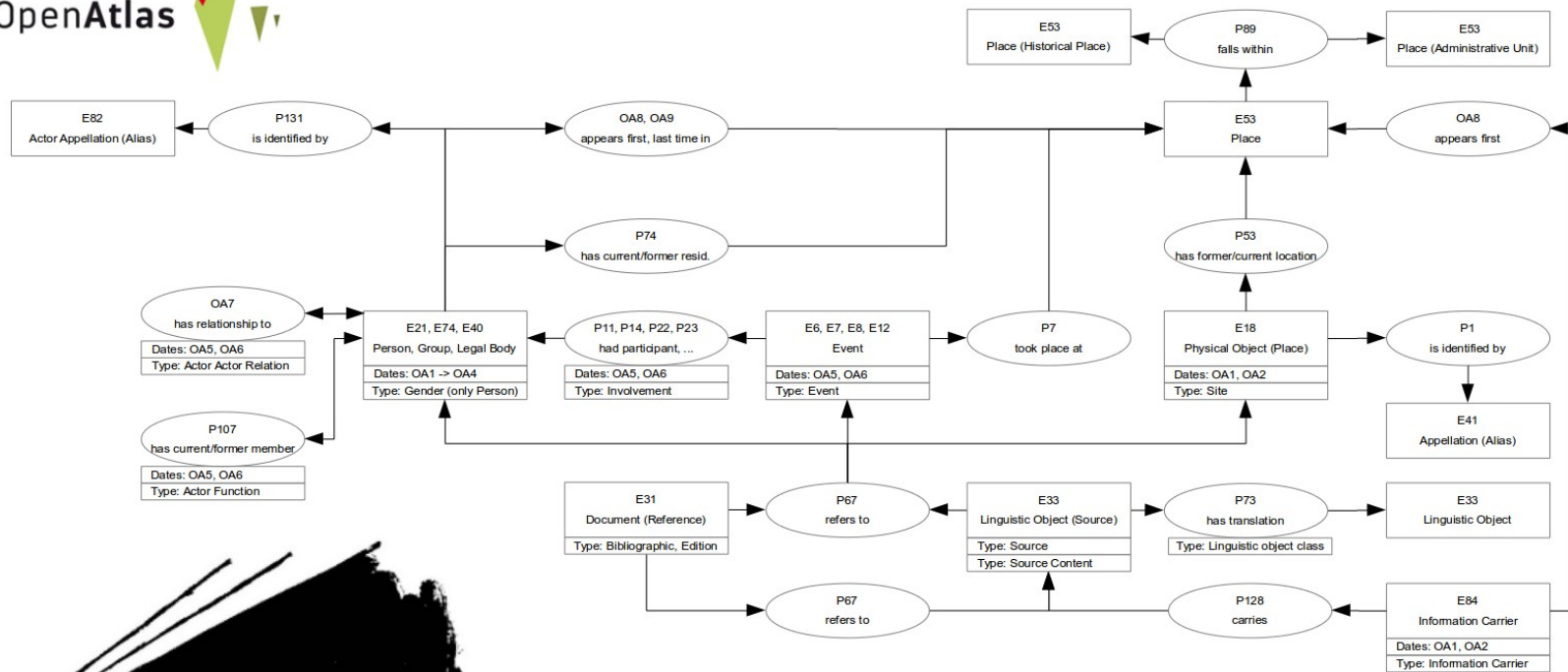
CIDOC CRM

- Developed by ICOM since 1999
- ISO Standard 21127 since 2014
- Formalises exchange of cultural heritage data
- Defines entities that are linked via properties according to defined rules

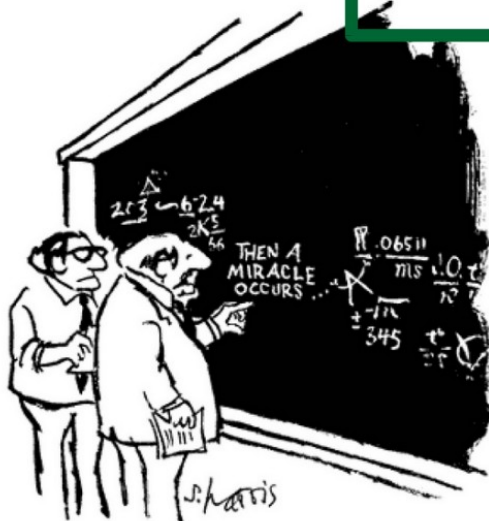
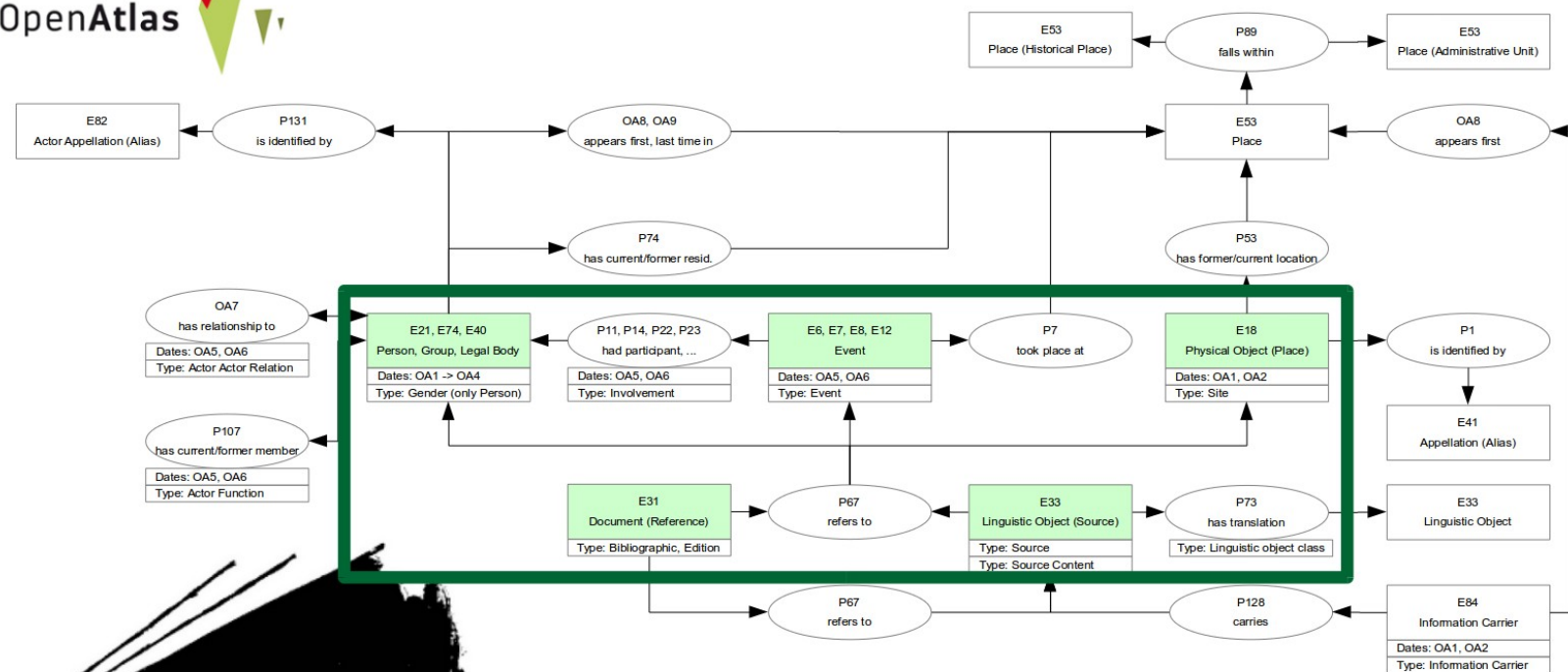
OpenAtlas Web Interface

- Guarantee CIDOC CRM conformant data integrity
- Ease of use even without knowledge of the underlying model
- Flexibility for different research topics
- Dealing with data fuzziness

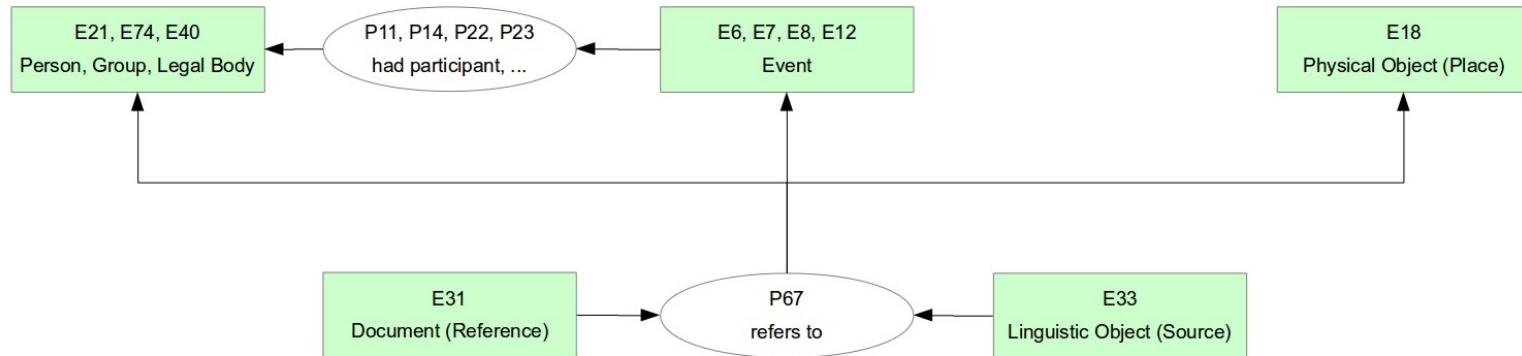




"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."



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Demo

Overview Source Event Actor Place Reference Hierarchy FAQ

Actor > Leif Erikson

Flexibility for Different Research Topics

- Extensible Types
- Dynamic Types



Dealing with Data Fuzziness

- Names
- Dates
- Locations



Begin	100	1	1	comment
	109	12	31	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birth
End	143	2	3	been seen at a bonfire
	yyyy	mm	dd	<input type="checkbox"/> Death

Thank you for listening!

OpenAtlas	http://openatlas.eu
Demo	http://openatlas.craws.net
DPP	http://dpp.arz.oeaw.ac.at
CIDOC CRM	http://www.cidoc-crm.org