

Relational modelling of historical data: Concepts and challenges

Alexander Watzinger
July 3rd, 2017

OpenAtlas

Open source application for archeological, historical and geospatial data.

Stefan Eichert

Main Projects using and supporting OpenAtlas:

DPP - Digitising Patterns of Power

Mihailo Popović

MEDCON - Mapping Medieval Conflicts

Johannes Preiser-Kapeller

The Model

- Based on CIDOC CRM (entities and properties)
- Entities can be thought of as nouns e.g. a person
- Properties can be thought of verbs linking the Entities e.g. participate

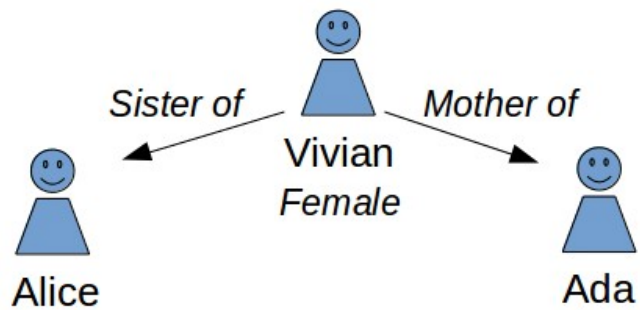
The Model

- Based on CIDOC CRM (entities and properties)
- Entities can be thought of as nouns e.g. a person
- Properties can be thought of verbs linking the Entities e.g. participate

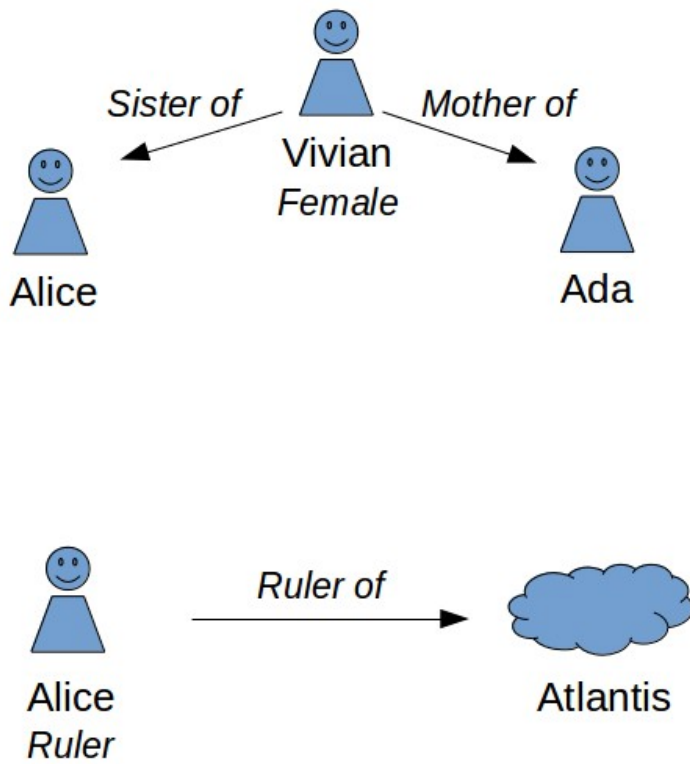
Person (Laura) -> participates -> Event (Snowman building)



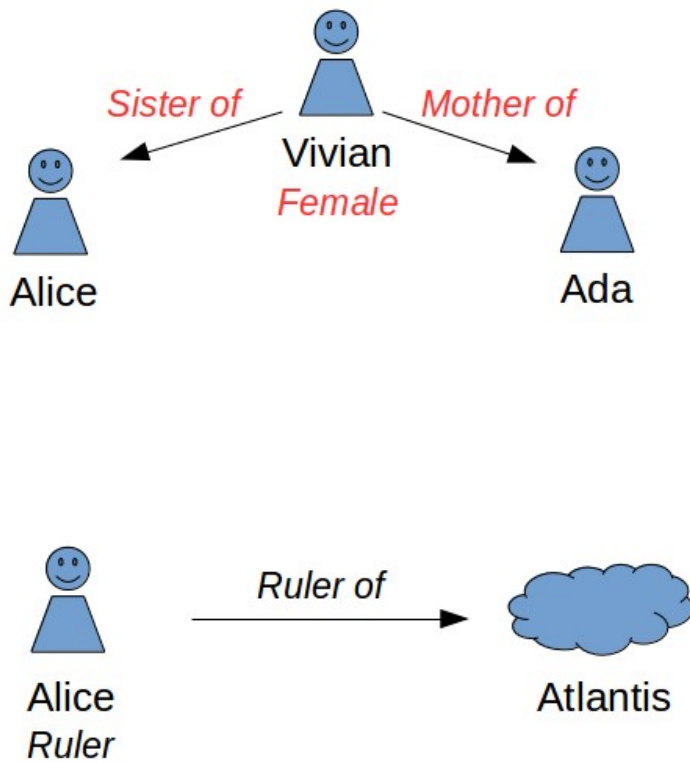
Data consistency



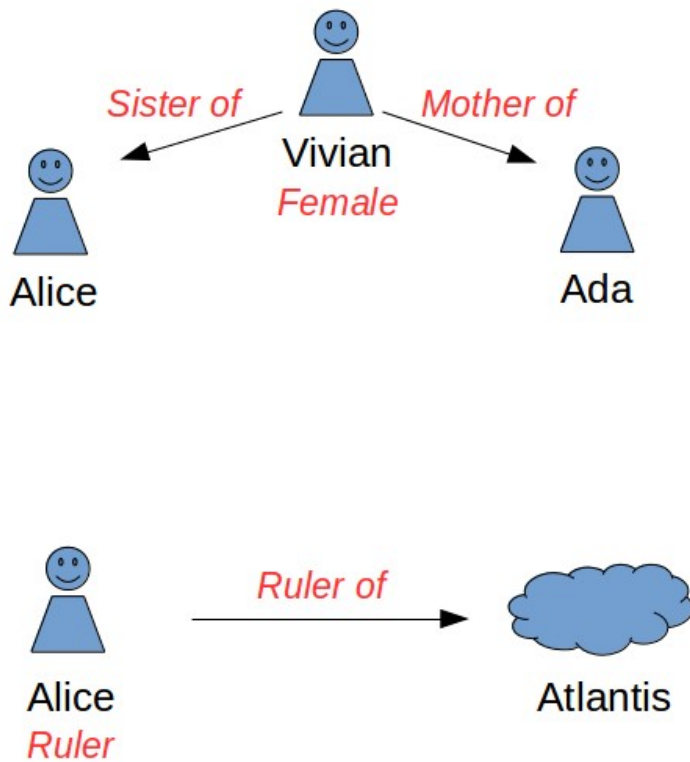
Data consistency



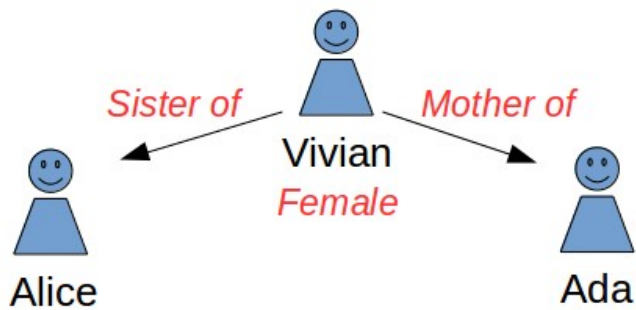
Data consistency



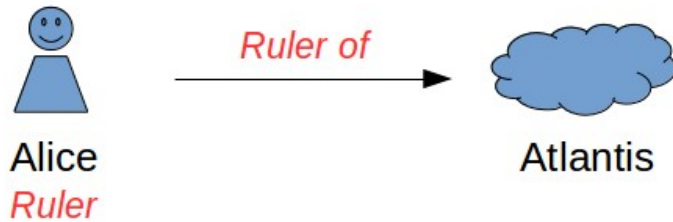
Data consistency



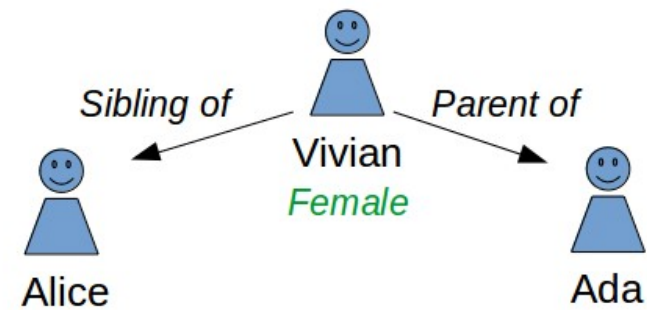
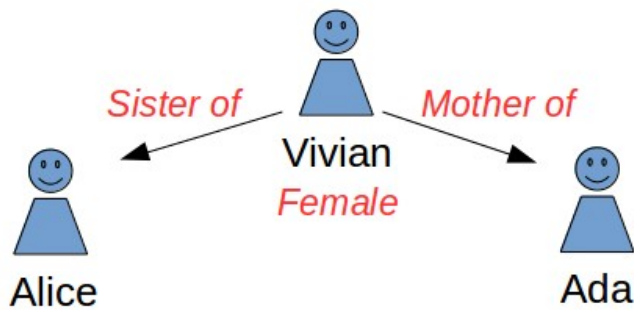
Data consistency



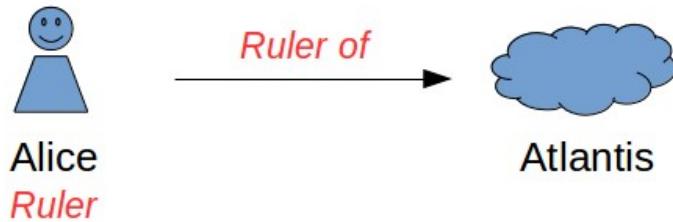
DRY



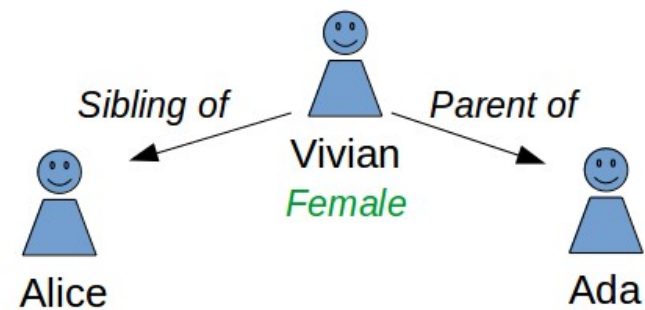
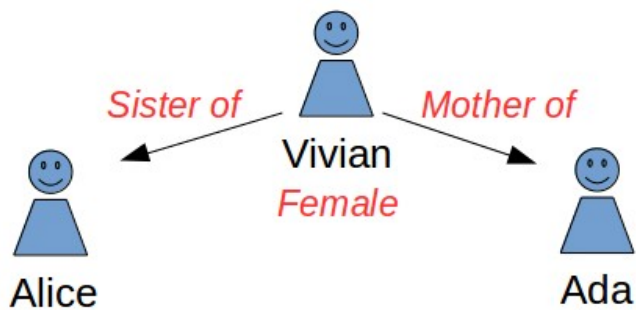
Data consistency



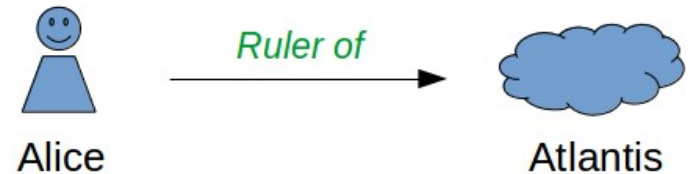
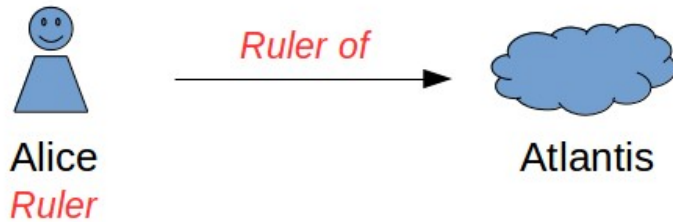
DRY



Data consistency



DRY



Data Quality

- Don't force data entry
Keep required fields to a minimum
- Don't force to categorize
Offer expandable categories
- Leave room for fuzzyness
E.g. for uncertainty with dates or places

You Aren't Gonna Need It

- Avoid speculative data modelling
- Avoid or remove unneeded software functions
 - Test with code coverage
- Don't overthink categories
 - Manage them as you go

Thank you for listening!

This presentation is available at:
<http://oeaw.academia.edu/AlexanderWatzinger>

OpenAtlas <http://openatlas.eu>
Demo <http://openatlas.craws.net>
DPP <http://dpp.arz.oeaw.ac.at>