

My FOAF network #2: XSLT for a HTML GUI

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Abstract

Because the ACS meeting where Henry will present something about FOAF in chemistry, is nearing very fast now (here's the first blog in this series), it becomes urgent to beef up the Blue Obelisk FOAF network, now consisting of 7 members.

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Because the ACS meeting where [Henry](#) will present something about FOAF in chemistry, is nearing very fast now (here's the [first blog in this series](#)), it becomes urgent to beef up the [Blue Obelisk](#) FOAF network, now consisting of [7 members](#). All do now show up in [the FOAFExplorer](#):

The screenshot shows a web-based FOAF explorer interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons: 'Help', 'Back', and 'Forward'. Below these is a list of 7 FOAF members, each represented by a grey box with a yellow footer bar containing the member's name: Egon Willighagen, Henry Rzepa, Carsten Niehaus, Rajarshi Guha, Jean-Claude Bradbury, Geoff Hutchison, and Christoph Steinbach. Below this list is a search bar with a 'Search' button and a table with a single row labeled 'Name' containing the entry 'Egon Willighagen'. The interface includes tabs for 'Individuals', 'Individual', 'Groups', 'Group', 'Papers', 'Paper', and 'GIS'.

Now, to make sure that my FOAF is in order, I set up the regular XML/RDF toolchain, using [xmllint](#) to validate the XML and RDF syntax, and [XSLT](#) to convert the FOAF to human readable HTML. Using the `?xml-stylesheet?` syntax this also provide the basic HTML GUI when accessing [the FOAF file](#) using Firefox. BTW, I had to rename the file to make the SourceForge web server aware that the file is an XML file, so that it nicely sets the MIME type.

BTW, I suggest all to validate your FOAF with [this RDF validator](#), because some of us got some work to do to make them valid:

- Mine is having some encoding issue
- Henry's has some 8 errors

The others are actually fine.

While the XSLT is getting along quite nicely, I got serious other work to do. The [Strigi](#)-based FOAF indexer is sort of working, gets FOAF documents recursively, but I want it to index our publications and presentation slides too. Now, FOAF has a `foaf:publications` tag, which I thought might be suited. But after chatting with (new) friends on the #foaf IRC channel ([the log](#)), it became clear that the scope of that element is to point to some other file (`foaf:Document`) which lists the publications, such a HTML output created from BibTeX.

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That is, the following syntax is not quite what appears to be intended:

```
<foaf:publications>
  <foaf:Document rdf:about="http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1471-2105-8-59">
    <dc:title>Bioclipse: an open source workbench for chemo-
      and bioinformatics</dc:title>
    <dc:author rdf:resource="#me"/>
  </foaf:Document>
```

The [Bibliontology](#) was suggested and seem a rather good candidate to draft a separate but RDF/OWL-based publication list. The server was down at the time of writing, but the Google cache showed the scope nicely. The [Google group is active](#) and the server should [go back online shortly](#).

OK, enough for now. More will follow in this series shortly. Such as a HTML GUI for [my publication list in Bibliontology format](#).