

First Reply

Sorry for the late reply.

As for the prioritization made in DCAT, we have integrated into the explainer as requested.

Please see [updated explainer](<https://github.com/w3c/dxwg/blob/gh-pages/docs/explainer.md>).

We didn't reuse the `rdfs:first` and the `rdfs:List` because DCAT dataset series might be hierarchical, i.e. they are not necessary lists. Hierarchical dataset series are common in specific domains, for example, the geographical domain for remote sensing data.

Considering that DCAT is widely profiled, as a rule of thumb, we try not to restrict properties and classes unless we have precise reasons and use cases imposing a specific restrictive interpretation. In our view, that strategy should pay off in the long term, making DCAT minimal, but impacting common for interoperability.

further Dan'squestion:

Wouldn't lists of lists handle the hierarchy **aspect**?

Second Reply

Thanks and . we discussed possible alignment with `rdf:List` in a very restricted number of people during the last DCAT sub-group call. I can anticipate the feeling shared by the restricted group, and then other editors and DXWG members can chime in if they see anything we might have overseen.

Yes, you can model hierarchies as lists of lists. However, some considerations have brought a different design pattern for DCAT dataset series:

- `rdf:List` recalls LISP-like list, while we chose to provide a different navigation structure closer to how dataset series are perceived in other domains.
- There wasn't any use case hinting at aligning dataset series with `rdf:List`.

Out of curiosity, we tried to explore possible mapping between dataset series and `rdf:List`. The exploration was not very encouraging. Roughly speaking, RDF lists might be induced starting from a DCAT dataset series, but at the cost of building a parallel RDF list structure (e.g., via a SPARQL construct) or collapsing the `rdf:list` and their list items/resources. Anyway, we are open to considering other ideas for mappings if anyone finds a better mapping to suggest.

As far as we could explore so far, considering the requirement and considerations which drove the design, forcing an alignment between DCAT dataset series and RDF list seems artificial.