SMW Metaproperties: An alternative to Page Schema and XML to facilitate form management

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Pierre Racine
Research Professional
Center for Forest Research
Québec, Canada
Metaproperties

Subject \rightarrow Predicate \rightarrow Object

NYU \rightarrow Has type \rightarrow academic

Has type string

Allows value governmental

Allows value academic

Allows value private

Is mandatory true

Is multiple false

Has form label Type of this organization

Has template name OrganizationType

Type of this organization

Help text, bla, bla, bla...

Has help text, Has default value, Has number of rows, Has number of columns,
Metaproperties VS Page Schema

- **Metaproperties**
  - Form generates Metaprop
  - Metaprop uses Template
  - Template generates Form

- **Page Schema**
  - Form generates XML
  - XML generates Property
  - Property generates Template
  - Template generates Form

Form and template still completely customizable
Form and templates, once generated, not customizable anymore
Recipe

1. Create Metaproperties (they are just properties).
2. Create a Property template and a Property form.
3. Create a FormField template using {{#show: Property:{{1}} | ?Metaproperty#}}
   "", "|" & "" have to be escaped in the {{field}} tag with "&#123;" "&#124;" & "&#125;"
4. Add a “Create new property” link.

For each new form
1. Create all the properties required by the form using the Property form.
2. Create the template.
3. Create the forms using the FormField template (quite easy).

{{FormField|Property1}}
{{FormField|Property2}}
...

• Want to change an element of a form which is related to a property? Just edit the metaproperties of the property with the Property form.
• Want to customize the form? Change the form. (Not possible with PageSchema)
• Want to change the template? Change the template. (Not possible with PageSchema)
Advantages of metaproperties over Page Schema

• No XML: SMW is already a system to define data structures. XML is unnecessary and incongruous. Metaproperties are more natural to SMW.

• Forms inputs properties are all defined close to and at the same time as each property in a centralized form and forms and templates stays completely customizable.

• Users can define their own metaproperties without having to mess with PHP.

• Metaproperties are just normal properties. They can be used for many other purposes.
Automatic Partial Forms

Name: ____________________________  OK  Cancel
Type:  Academic

Edit Organization name

OK  Cancel

All constructed with only one template!
Thanks

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