Using VIVO at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP)

Anne Wilson and the LASP Web Development Team VIVO 2016 Panel on Using VIVO for Scientific Applications Friday, 08.19.16

Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics



• University of Colorado, Boulder



- ~100 scientists performing atmospheric and space research
- Scientists work with engineers to design and build instrumentation

 EVE Provides an Eye on the Sun
- Operate spacecraft



LASP provides the NASA Solar Dynamics Observatory's Extreme Ultraviolet Variability Experiment (EVE) to study the Sun's influence on Earth and near-Earth space.







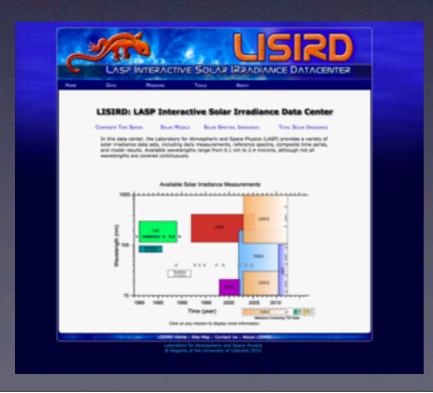
The Problem

- Many projects ongoing at any time
- Information (metadata) about projects and datasets 'managed' on per project basis
 - Information embedded in HTML
 - Not machine readable
 - Repeated, but not managed, across multiple web sites
 - Discrepancies

Driving Project: LISIRD

- LASP Interactive Solar Irradiance Data Center
 - < 100 datasets
- A web site to deliver solar irradiance and related data products to the public

Same HTML encoding of information



(LISIRD 2)



Infrastructure Decision

- Implement a database of metadata about LISIRD data products
 - SSOT, vetted, managed
- Use semantic technology
 - LOD improves discovery
 - Important to support inferencing, which enables further discovery and deeper understanding
 - The future of the web

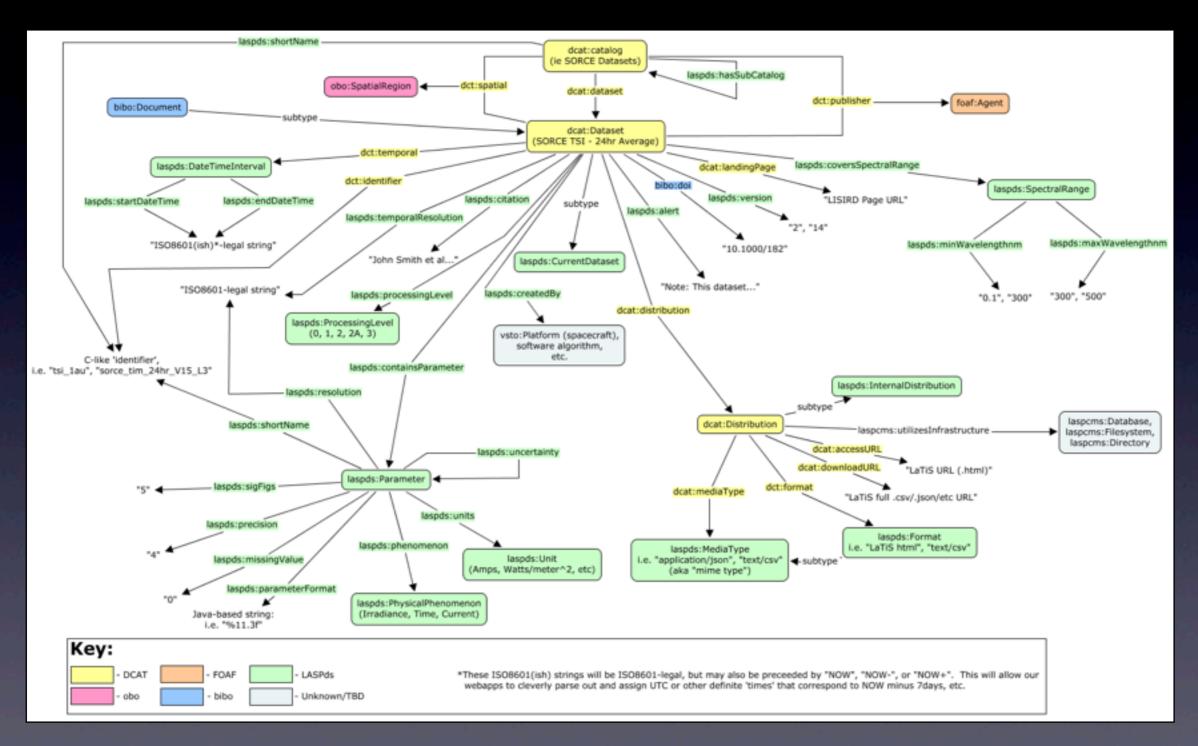
~2012, VIVO at LASP

 Don Elsborg was using VIVO to manage information and generate reports about hardware usage for LASP IT

Using VIVO to create and link ontologies

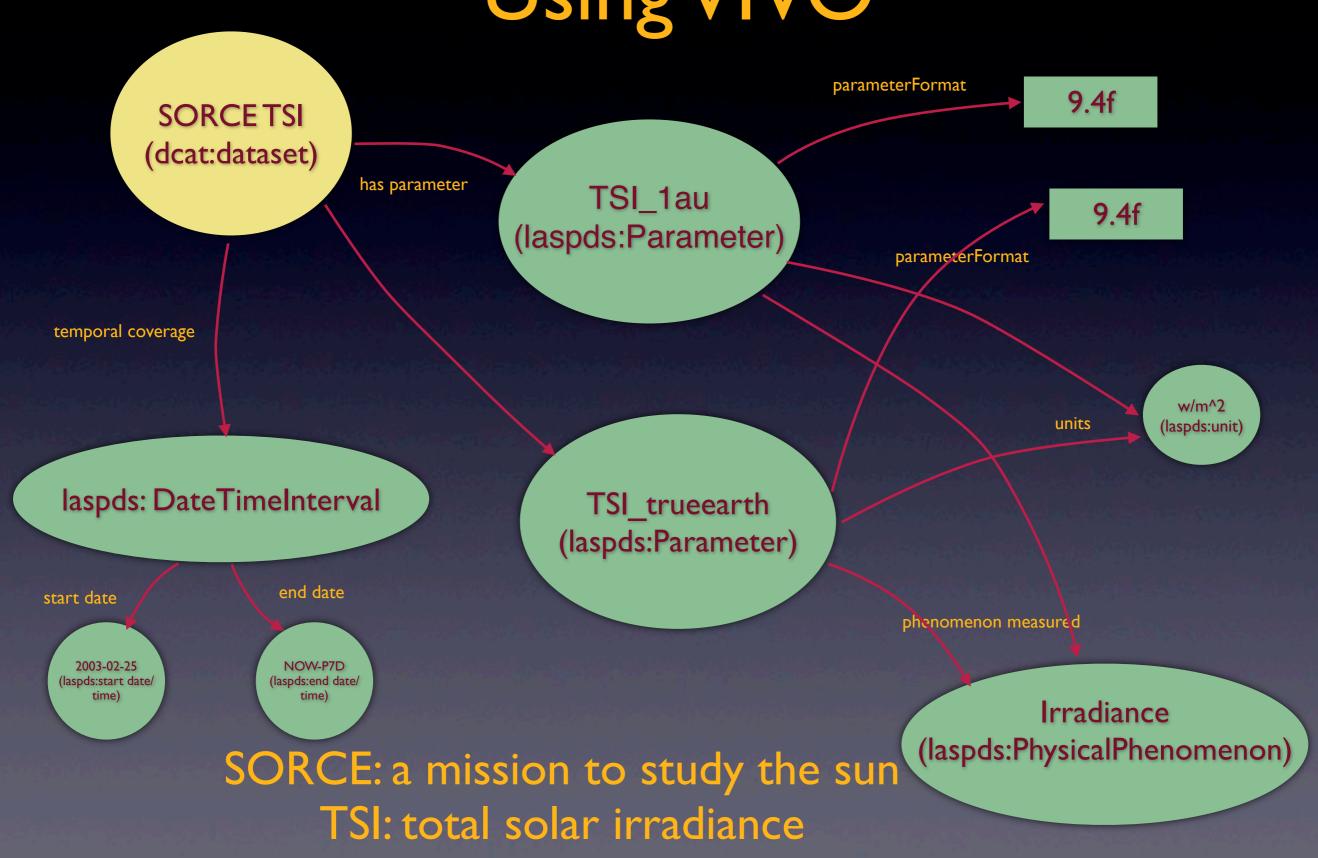
- Ontology needed to describe the domain of data products
- Integrated Virtual Solar Terrestrial Ontology (VSTO)
- Considered SWEET Ontology
- Created 'laspds', extending DCAT

The laspds Ontology

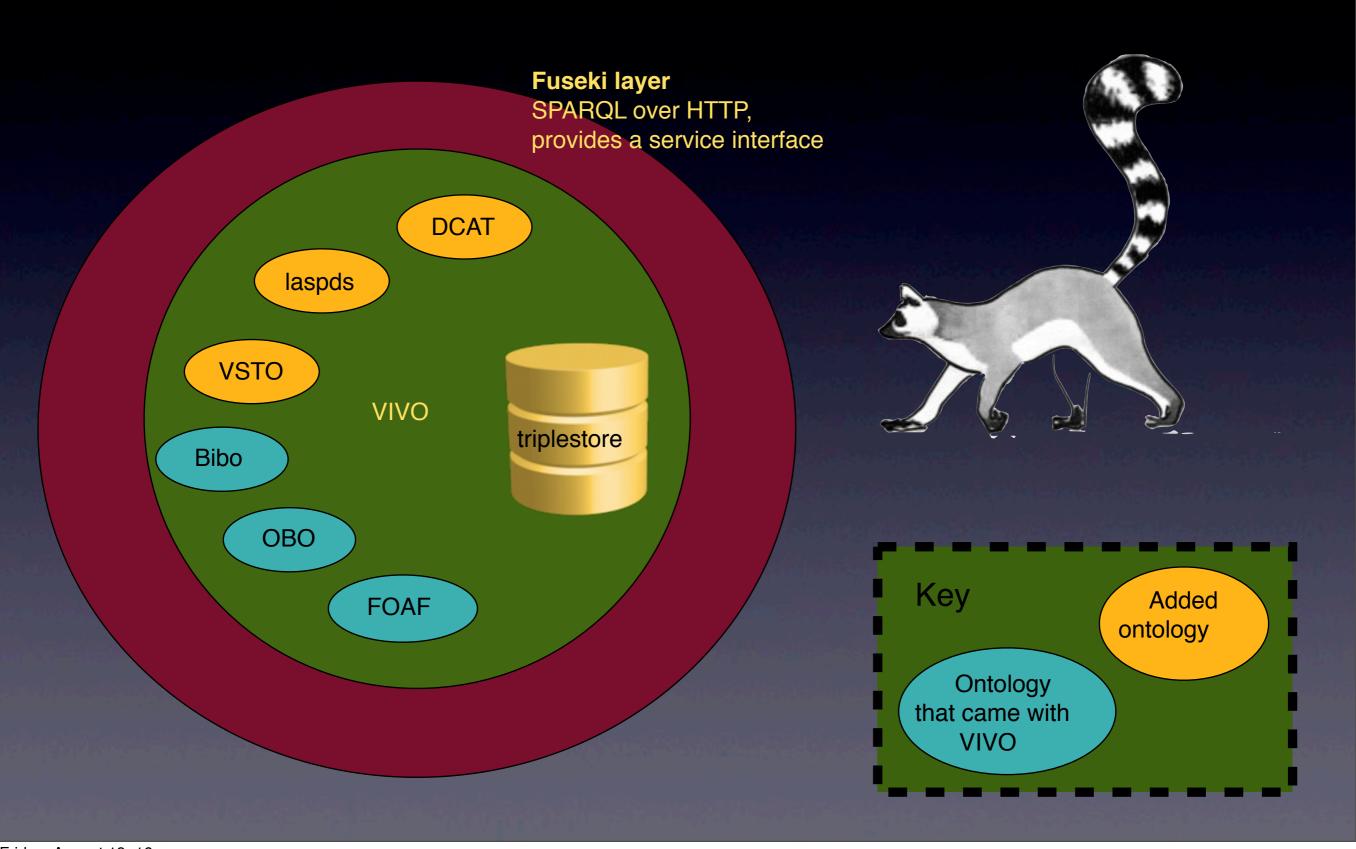


Out-of-date image, but demonstrates ontology linking

Database Populated Manually Using VIVO



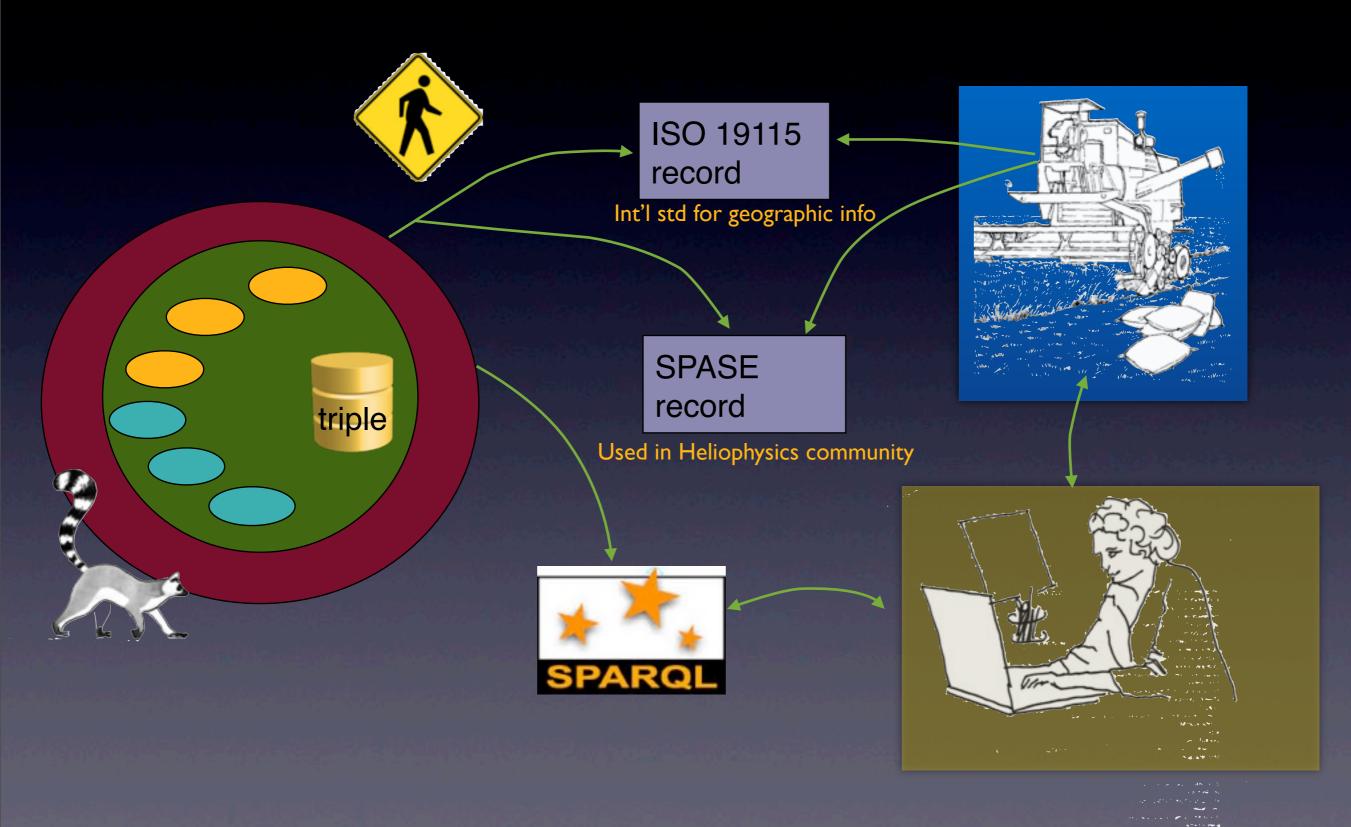
LEMR (LASP Extended Metadata Repository)



LISIRD Gets Content from LEMR



Enabling Discovery



VIVO Benefits

- Provided a big lift in getting going with semantic technology
- Ontology editing, knitting capabilities
- Some CRUD (create, read, update, delete)
 capabilities for database instances

Challenges

Caveat: Pleading ignorance

- Learning curves! Trial and error.
 - Ontology design
 - Administration via VIVO interface
 - Must be able [willing to pay the price] to evolve!
 - Designing ontology to reflect admin and access needs rather than modeling [perceived] reality
- We are using VIVO very differently than seems to occur in people/publications/grants domain
 - Dataset information entered mainly manually
 - A small number of instances in dataset

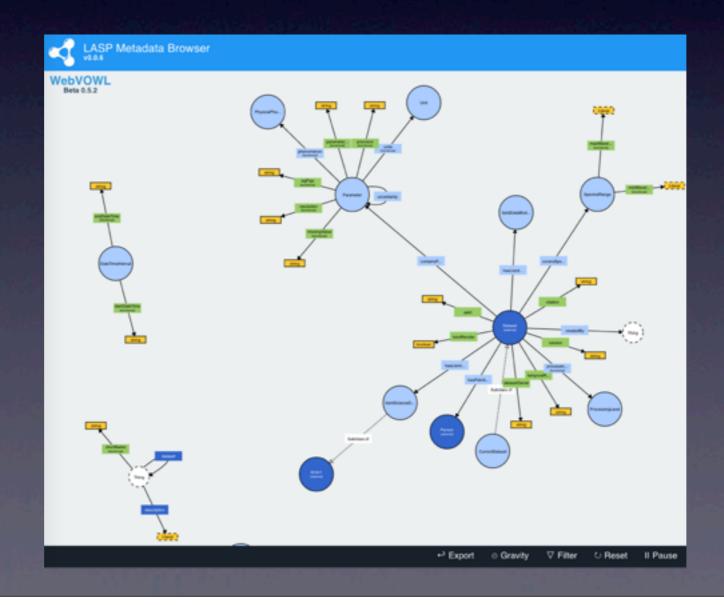
Admin Difficulties

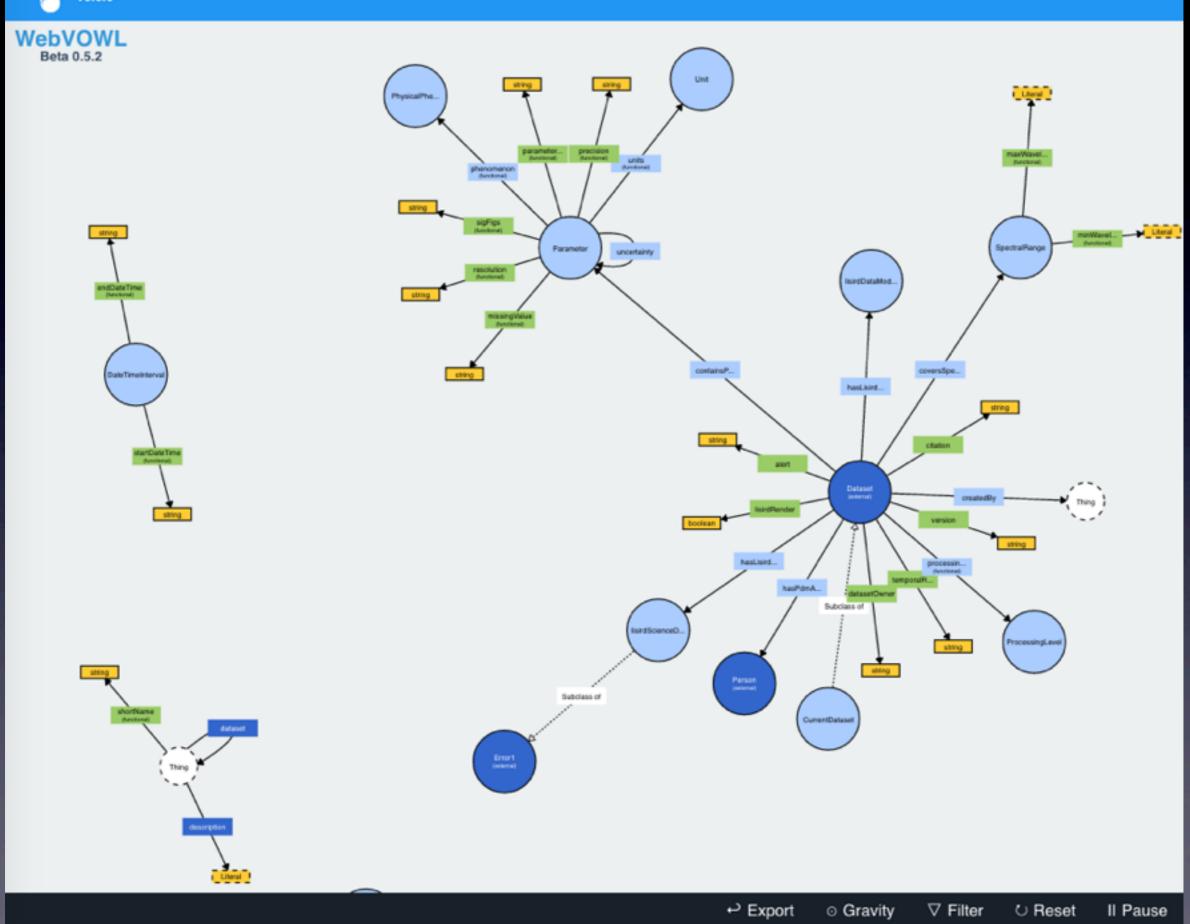
It was hard to:

- See information about many instances at once
- Compare two instances
- Visualize the added ontologies
- See the mapping between ontologies and objects
- Distinguish and understand consequences around duplicating objects versus sharing objects
- Know when two objects share another object
- Some admin capabilities, e.g., copy and edit
- Deal with orphans

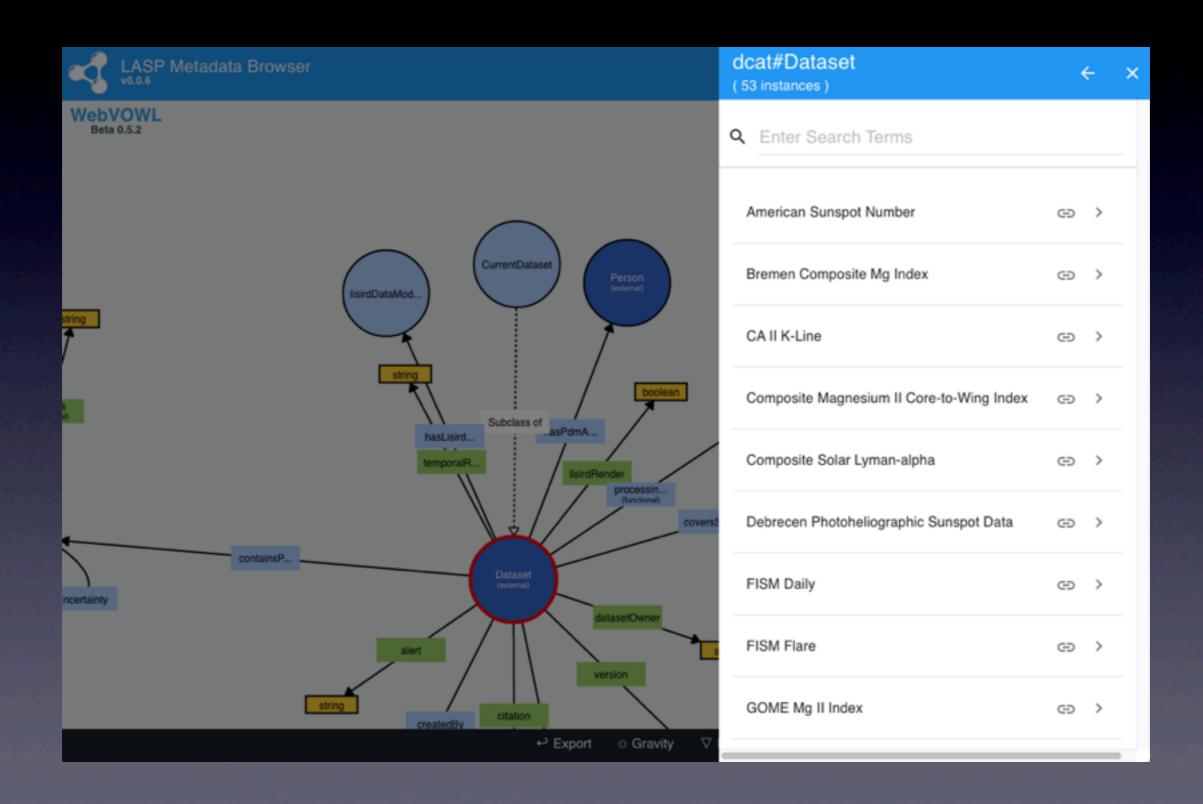
Tools Layer: Browser

- Irfan leveraged WebVOWL
- See the ontology exported from VIVO

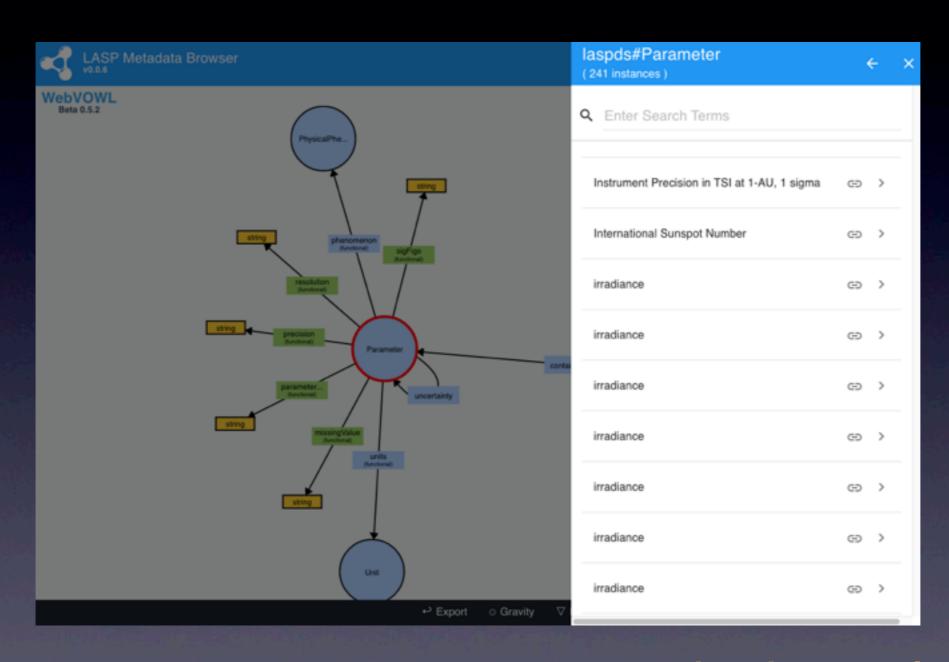




See all instances of a class

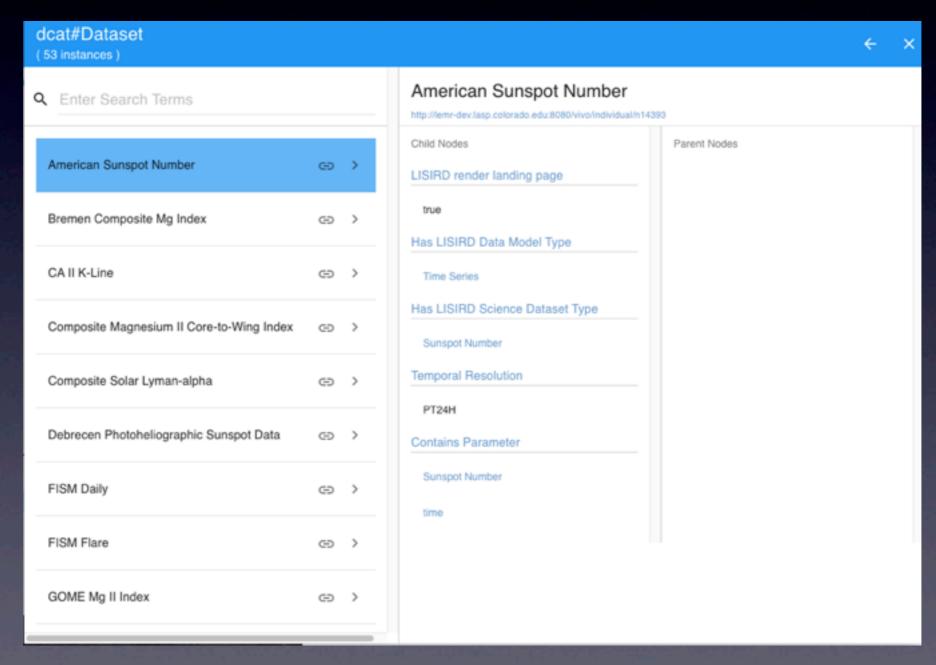


Lots of Parameters

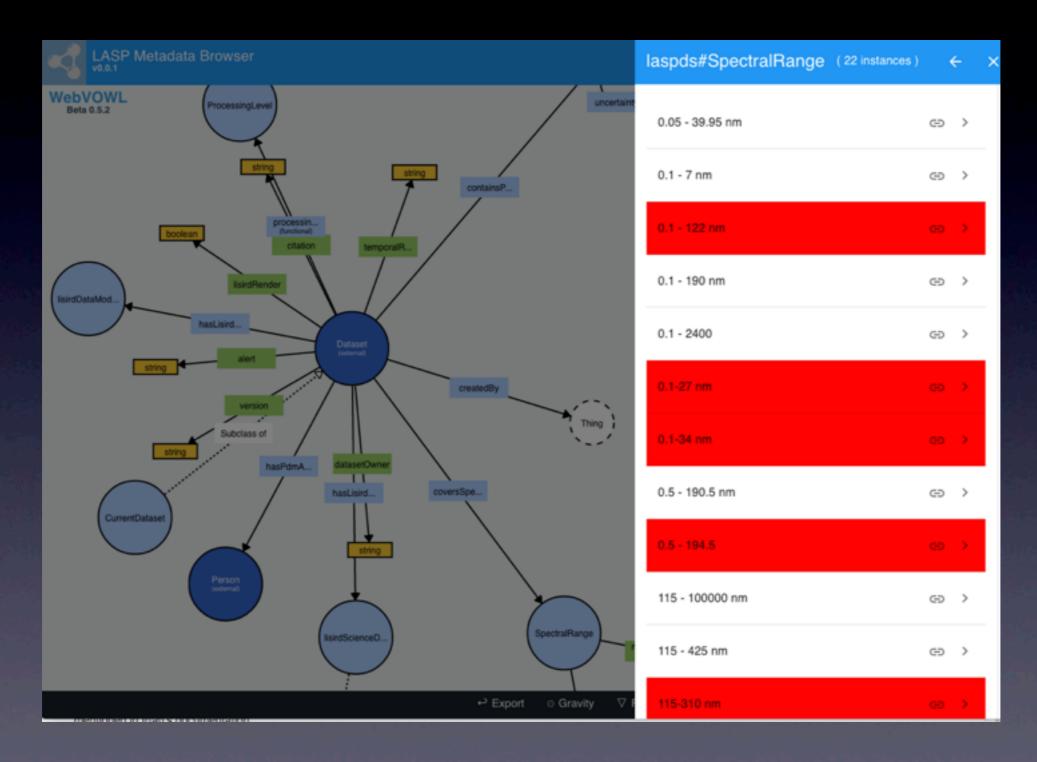


many with identical names

See an instance's parents and children



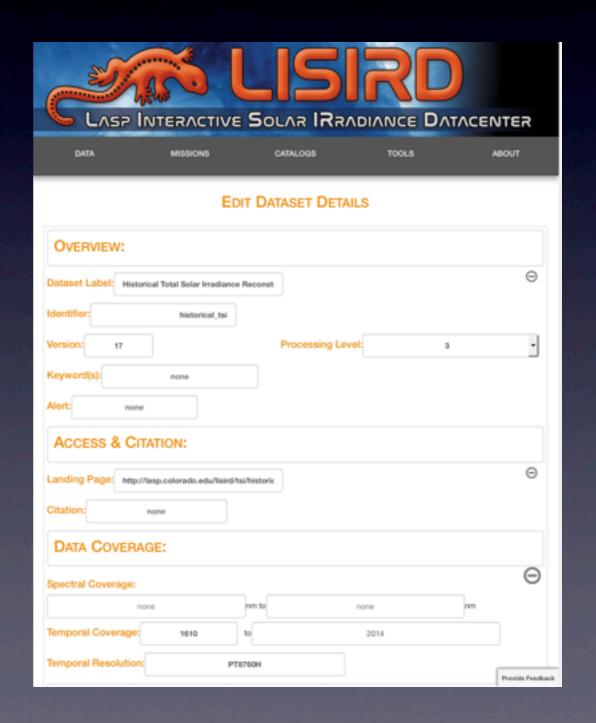
Identify orphans



Manual deletion via VIVO interface

Tools Layer: Editor

- It would not be suitable to expose the VIVO interface to metadata owners, who are often non technical
- Created an editing capability on top of the database

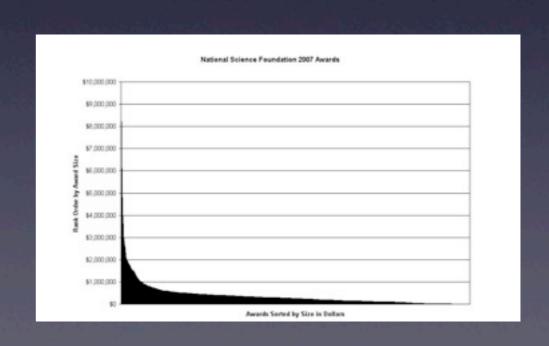


Cultural Impact: Metadata Roles and Responsibilities

- 'Owners' of scientific/dataset specific metadata
 - Generally non technical
 - Requires authentication and authorization, security model
 - Certain properties editable by this role
- 'Admin', e.g., management of properties needed for housekeeping purposes
- Envisioned: 'curator' role
- Cultural change is always interesting

The Vision

- Grow and evolve the ontology to serve all LASP datasets, which cover many domains in space: atmospheric, solar, planetary, space weather
- Serve more datasets across those domains
- "Publish scientific data in a box" ideas for 'long tail' scientists...



Conclusions

- VIVO gave us a big lift on creating and managing a semantic database
- The VIVO interface meets some of our needs
- We have needed and built additional tools on top of the database created by VIVO

Thank you to the Web LASP Development Team!

anne.wilson@lasp.colorado.edu



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