大学共同利用機関法人　人間文化研究機構
国立歴史民俗博物館
National Museum of Japanese History

Documentation of Ethnographical Object Biography using CIDOC CRM

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Knowledgebase of
Historical Resources in Institutes

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国立歴史民俗博物館
総合資料学の創成
INTEGRATED STUDIES OF CULTURAL AND RESEARCH RESOURCES

Project in National Museum of Japanese History (NMJH)

Integrated studies of cultural and research resources (ISCRR)

- Conducting interdisciplinary studies on resources across institutes

- Enabling access to primary evidence of research results

- Promoting Japanese studies beyond Japan

- Data backup of resources in case of disaster

➤ Networking and visualizing resources in universities and museums all over Japan.

1. Introduction of our project

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Institutions

Area

Enter keyword

☐ Search only materials with images

日本語
About khirin
Sign in

Introduction of database

NMJH's materials with the links to associated information	Items labeled as "history" from Rekimin cards	Items labeled as "archeology" from Rekimin cards	Collection of NMJH's nishikie with more detailed metadata	A more detailed version of Reitokaku-shukocho collection	The high-resolution image of the national treasure / Song Dynast...	Collection of folk artifacts stored by Oshu City, Iwate Prefectu...	The collection lists the historical documents that had been pass...
NMJH's museum materials (khirin version)	"Rekimin" cards · history · for public u...	"Rekimin" cards · archaealogy · for publ...	Rekihaku "Nishikie"	Reitokaku-shukocho	"Records of the Grand Historian" NMJH	Folk artifacts	Collection of Machino clan's historical ...

1. Introduction of our project

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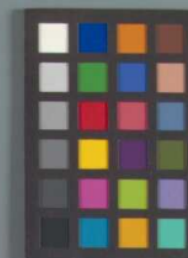
Documentation of Object Biography

In museum context, tracing object biographies unveils **social relations or networks of actors and objects** and helps us to see "**the wide range of sites and different forms of agency which were part of the creation and ongoing lives of museum collections**". (Byrne et al. 2011: 14).

It conveys important information on "**the accumulation of meaning in objects**" (Gosden and Marshall 1999: 177).

We use CIDOC CRM to document object biography because it is one of the most suitable frameworks to describe "events" in detail and visualize the layers and interrelationships among them and actors..

References
Byrne, S., Clarke, A., Harrison, R., Torrence, R. 2011. Networks, Agents and Objects: Frameworks for Unpacking Museum Collections. In Byrne, S., Clarke, A., Harrison, R., Torrence, R. (eds) Unpacking the Collection: Networks of Material and Social Agency in the Museum. Springer: New York.
Gosden, C., Marshall, Y. 1999. The Cultural Biography of Objects. World Archaeology. 31(2): 169–178.

2. Introduction of this research

Rekimin Cards

Created through historical and folklore surveys conducted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in Japan between October 1972 and February 1974.

Tageta a pair of wooden boards or frames, which were put worn on the feet in paddy fields so as not to sink and push weeds inside the paddies.

name of prefecture

general name

local name

place of collecting

name of original owner

how it was collected

place of manufacture

name of manufacturer

period of manufacture

technique and/or material used for manufacture

name of user

duration of use

distribution and/or origin

name of keeper

ID number

type

date of collecting

place of use

usage

address of keeper

phone number of keeper

Photograph
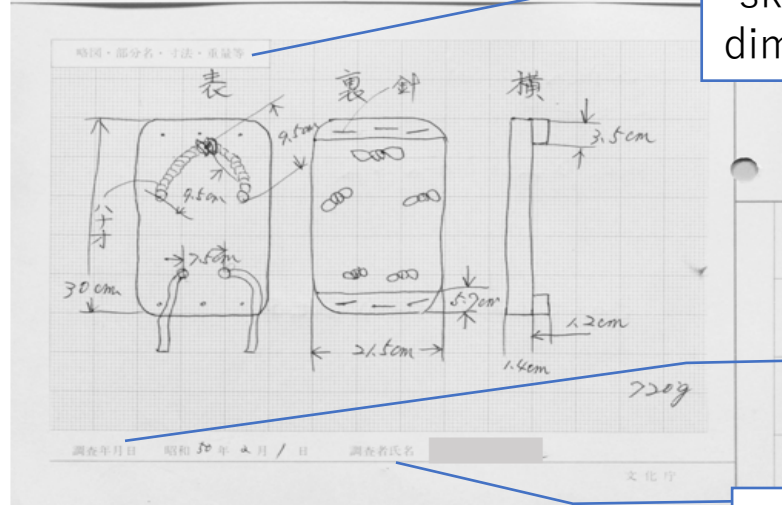
sketch, partial names, dimensions, weight etc.

date of survey

name of investigator

2. Introduction of this research

Modeling started with *E22 Human-Made Object* and entities that have direct relations with the human-made object.

Experimental model for data recorded in a Rekimin Card using CIDOC CRM (Version 6.2.9),
W3C PROV-O, and Object Biography Ontology with basic ontology like Dublin Core and RDFS.

3. Questions and tentative solutions

Q1

How to describe 'use'?

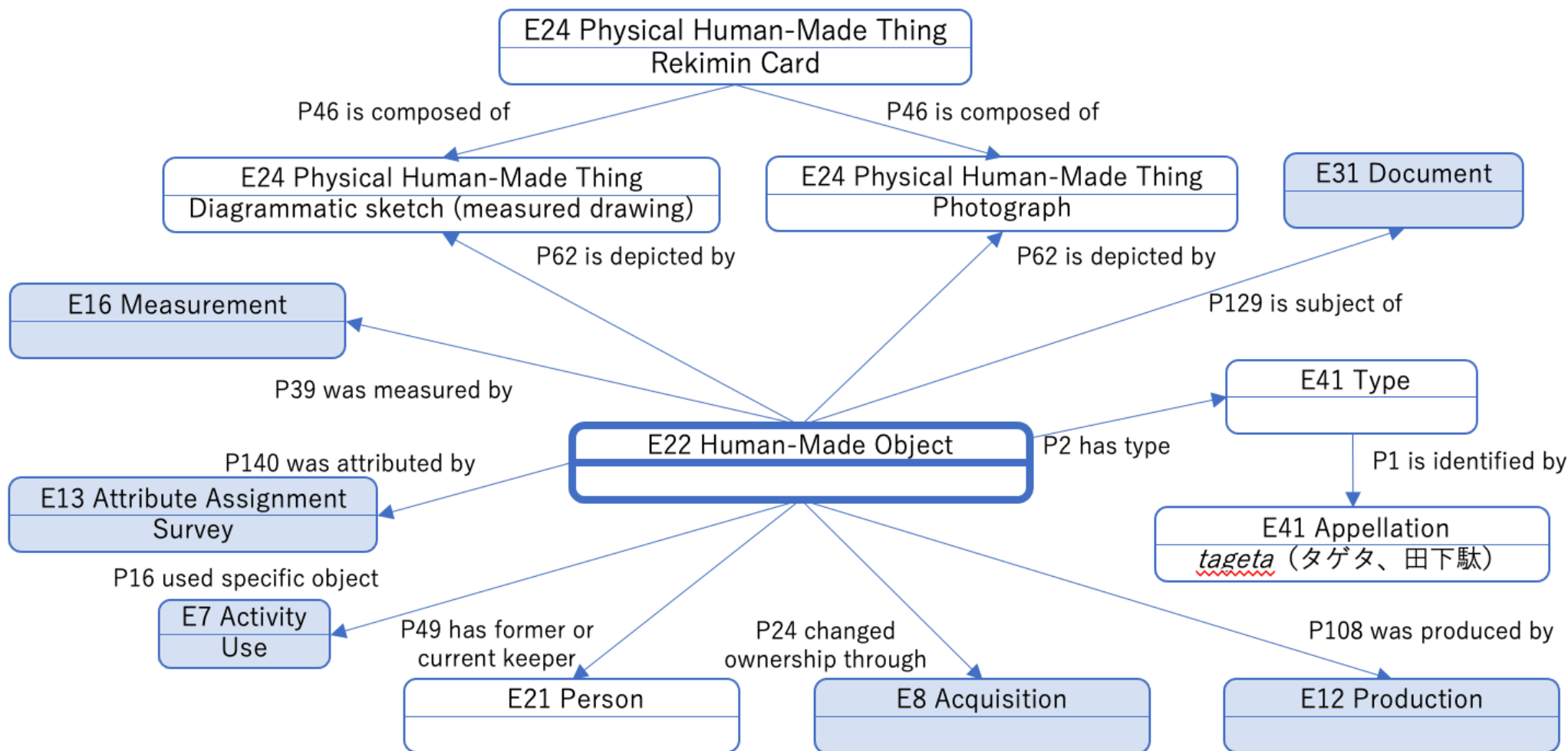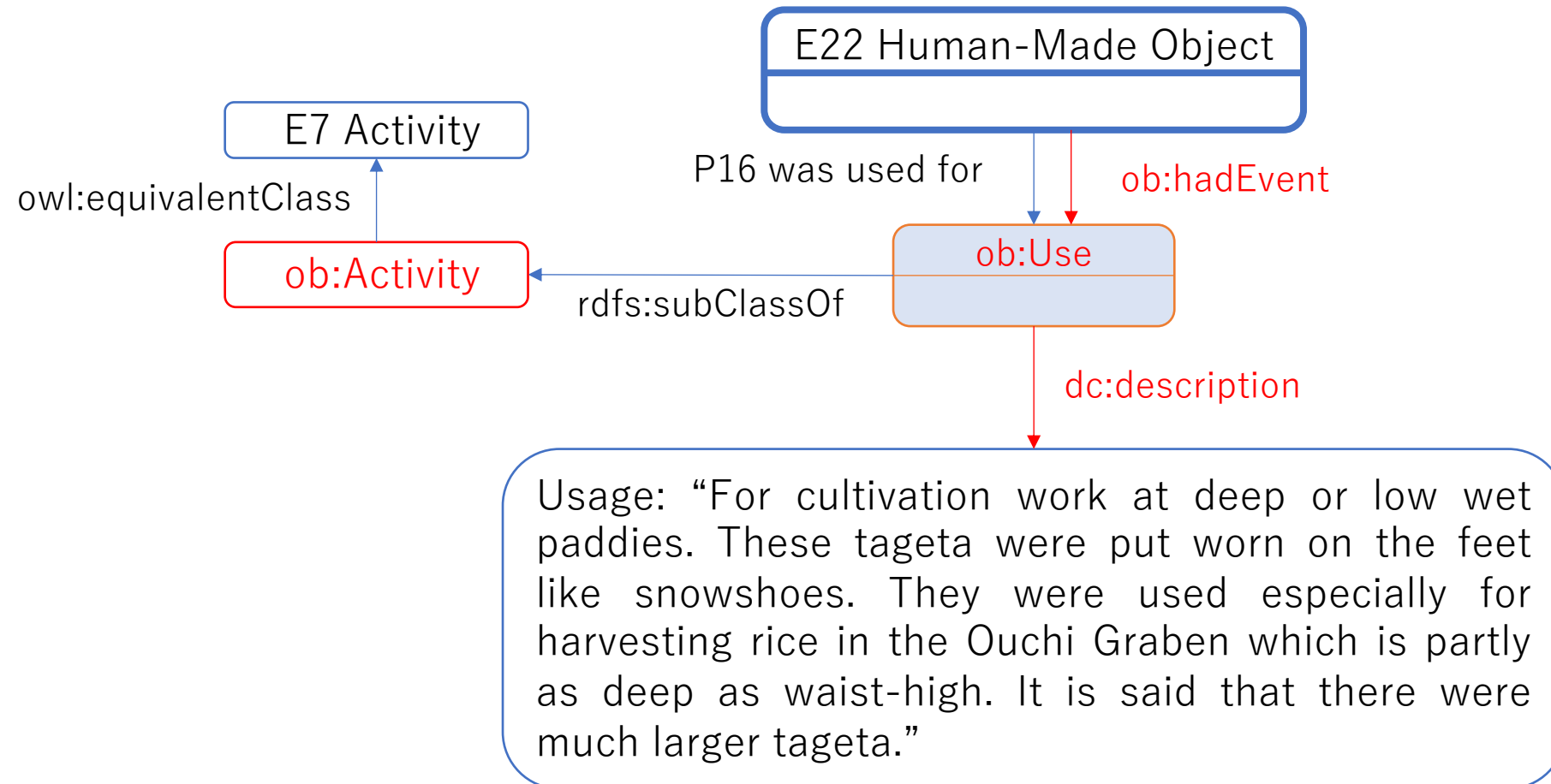E22 Human-Made Object

E7 Activity

owl:equivalentClass

ob:Activity

P16 was used for

ob:hadEvent

ob:Use

rdfs:subClassOf

dc:description

Usage: "For cultivation work at deep or low wet paddies. These tageta were put worn on the feet like snowshoes. They were used especially for harvesting rice in the Ouchi Graben which is partly as deep as waist-high. It is said that there were much larger tageta."
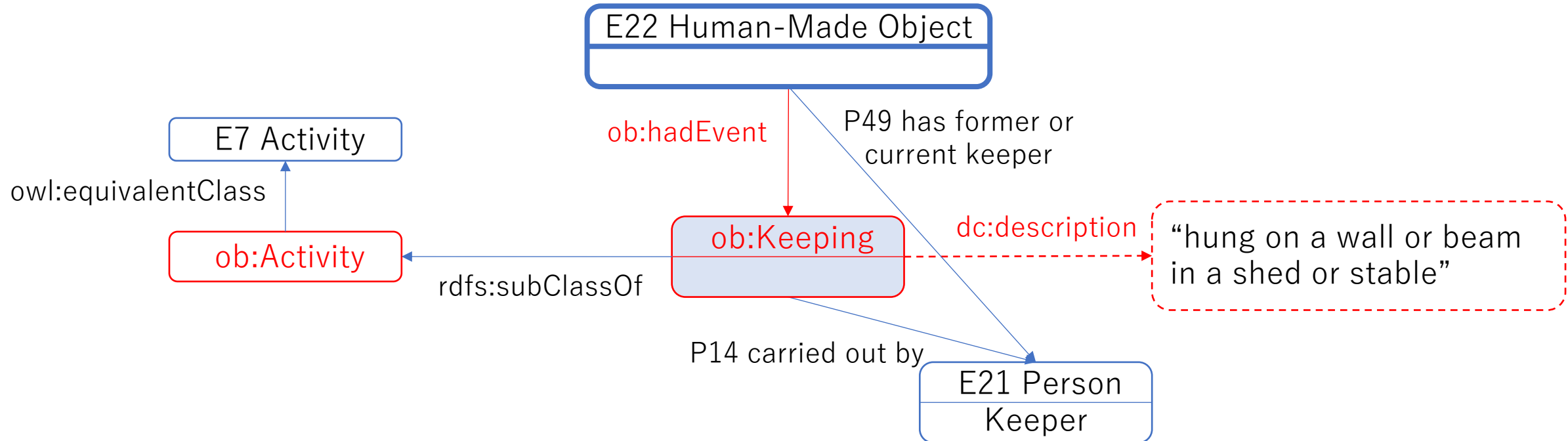
3. Questions and tentative solutions

Q2

How to describe 'keeping'?

3. Questions and tentative solutions

Q3

How to describe 'collecting'?

E22 Human-Made Object

"Background of collecting: Given by the old owner at establishing Kanamarude Town Museum"

ob:hadEvent

dc:description

ob:Activity
Collecting (採集)

ob:includesEvent

ob:includesEvent

ob:includesEvent

P25 moved by

E9 Move

P30 custody
transferred through

P24 changed
ownership through
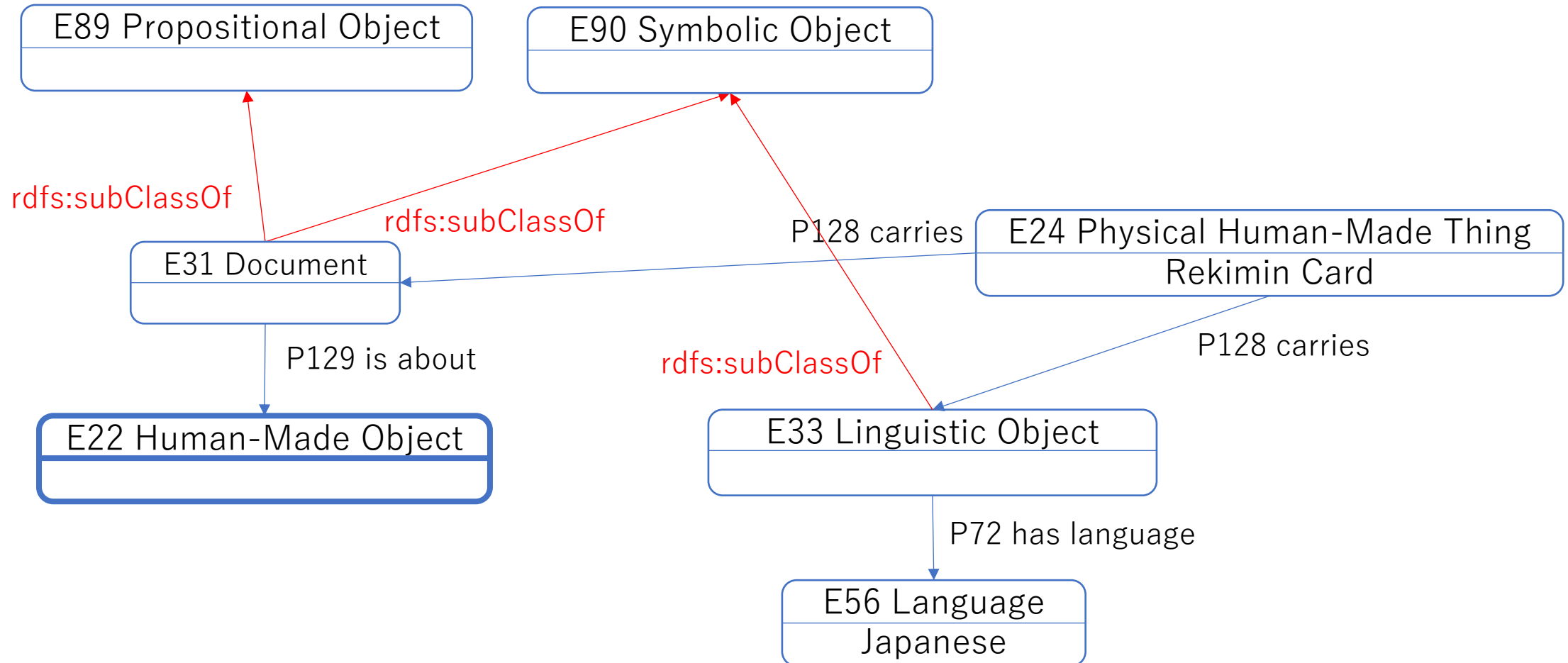
E10 Transfer of Custody

E8 Acquisition
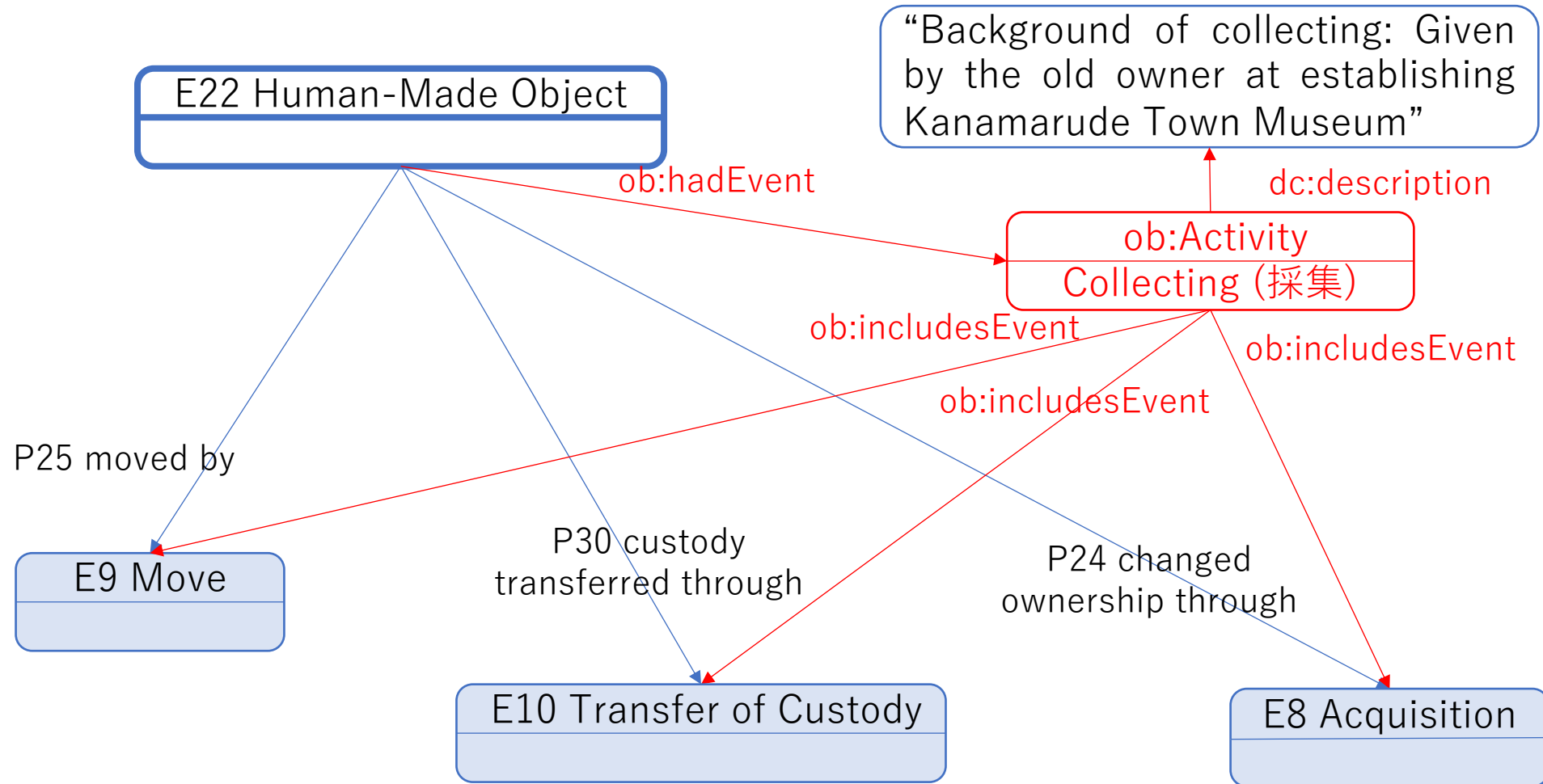
Q4

How to describe general information of objects?
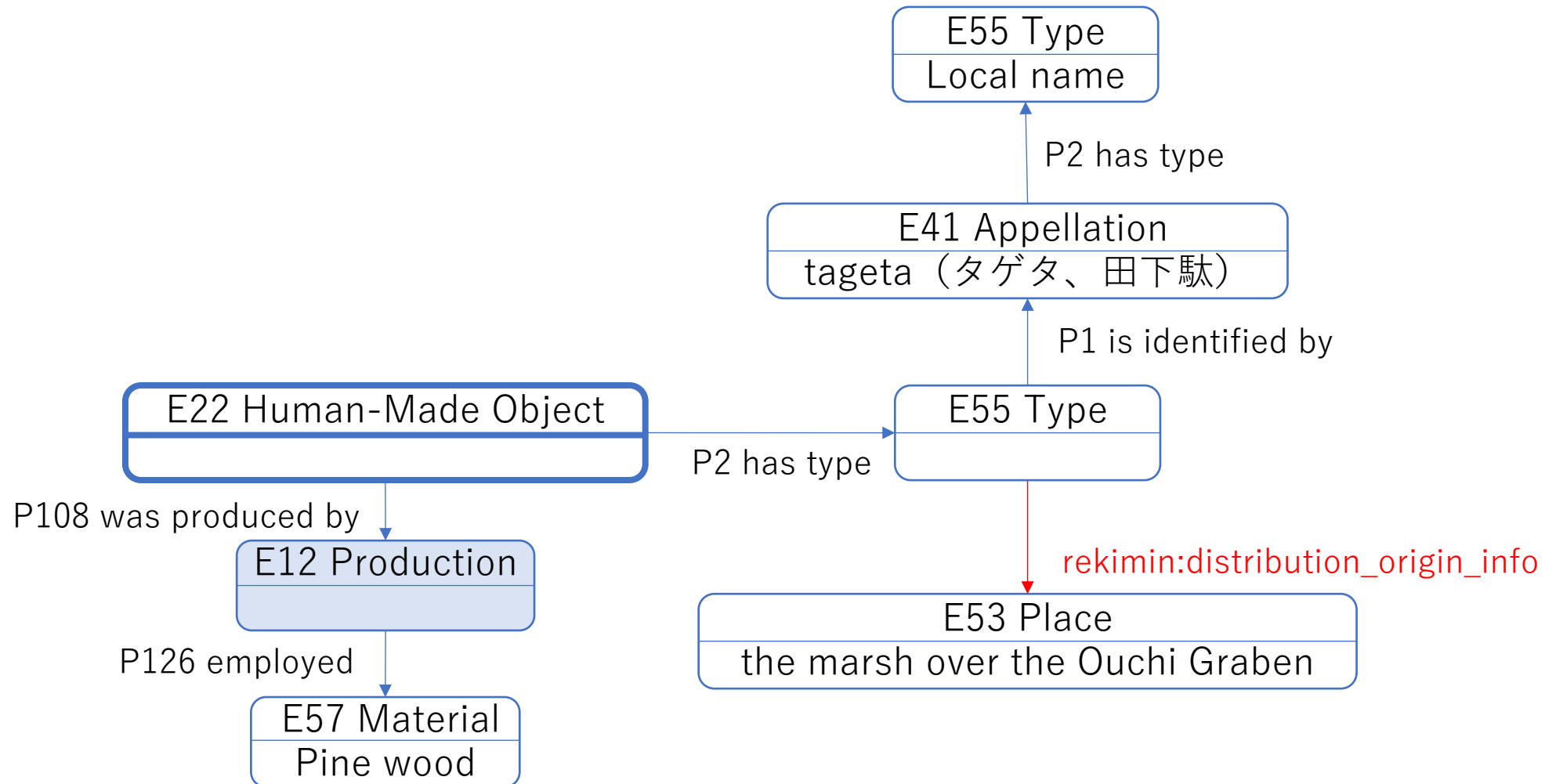
3. Questions and tentative solutions
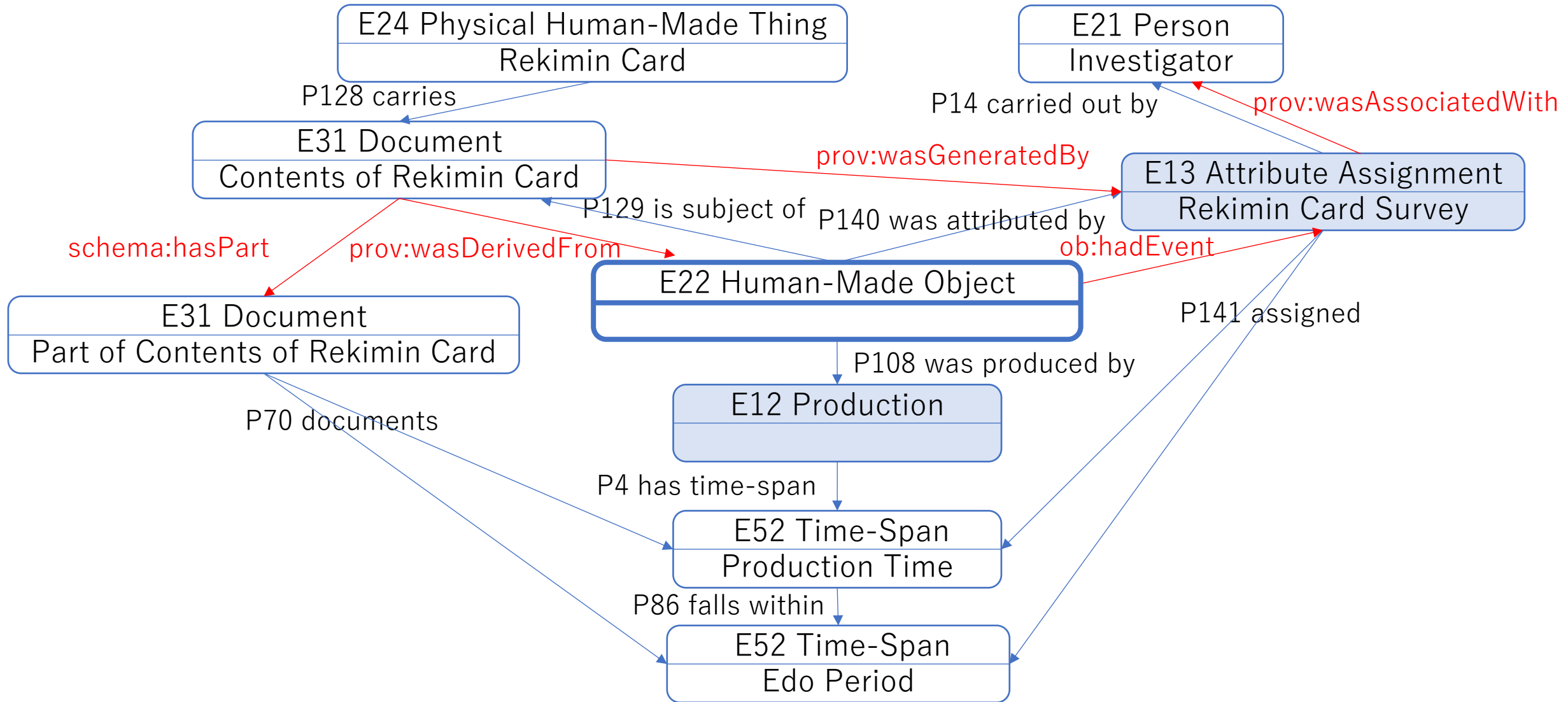
Q5

Can E31 Document be a subclass of E89 Propositional Object and E90 Symbolic Object at the same time?

3. Questions and tentative solutions

Q6

Can P70 documents and P141 assigned be used to connect both of attribute keys and values?

P70 documents (is documented in)

Domain:	E31 Document
Range:	E1 CRM Entity
Subproperty of:	E89 Propositional Object. P67 refers to (is referred to by): E1 CRM Entity
Quantification:	many to many, necessary (1,n:0,n)

Scope note: This property describes the CRM Entities documented as instances of E31 Document. Documents may describe any conceivable entity, hence the link to the highest-level entity in the CIDOC CRM class hierarchy. This property is intended for cases where a reference is regarded as making a proposition about reality. This may be of a documentary character, in the scholarly or scientific sense, or a more general statement.

Examples:

- the British Museum catalogue (E31) *documents* the British Museum's Collection (E78)
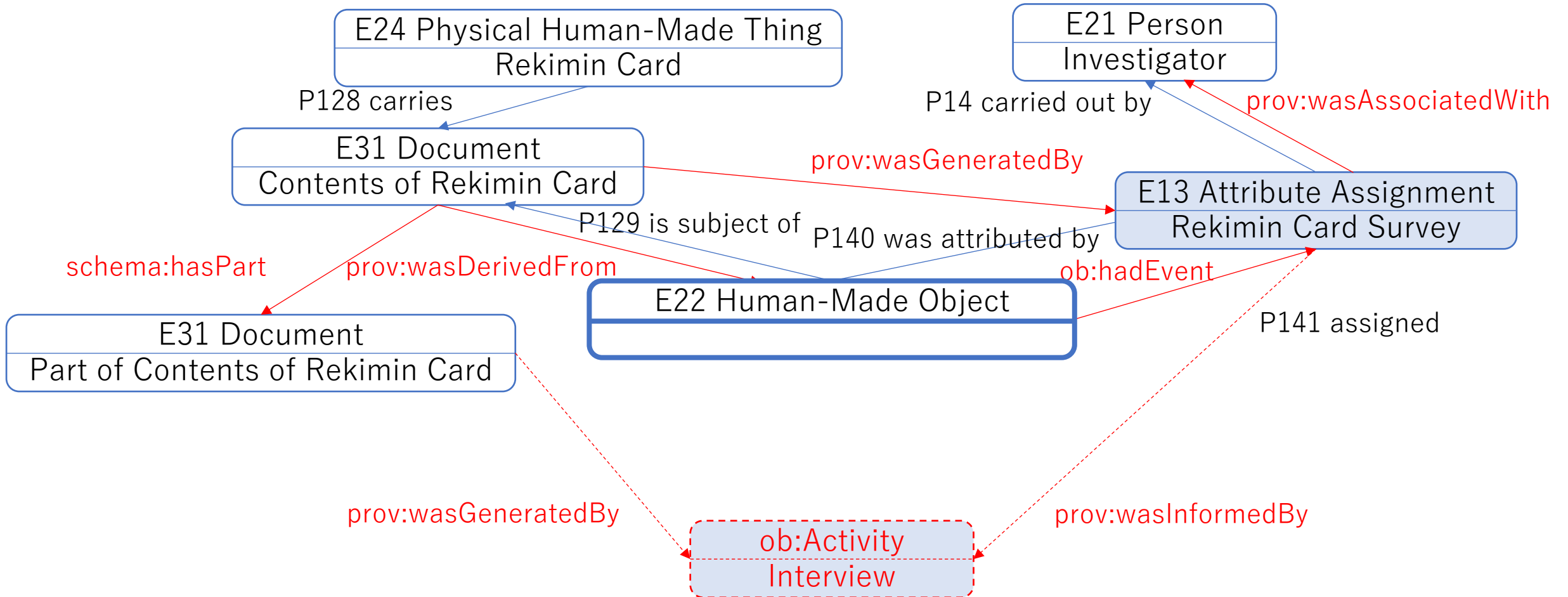
In First Order Logic:

P70 (x,y) ⊃ E31(x)

P70 (x,y) ⊃ E1(y)

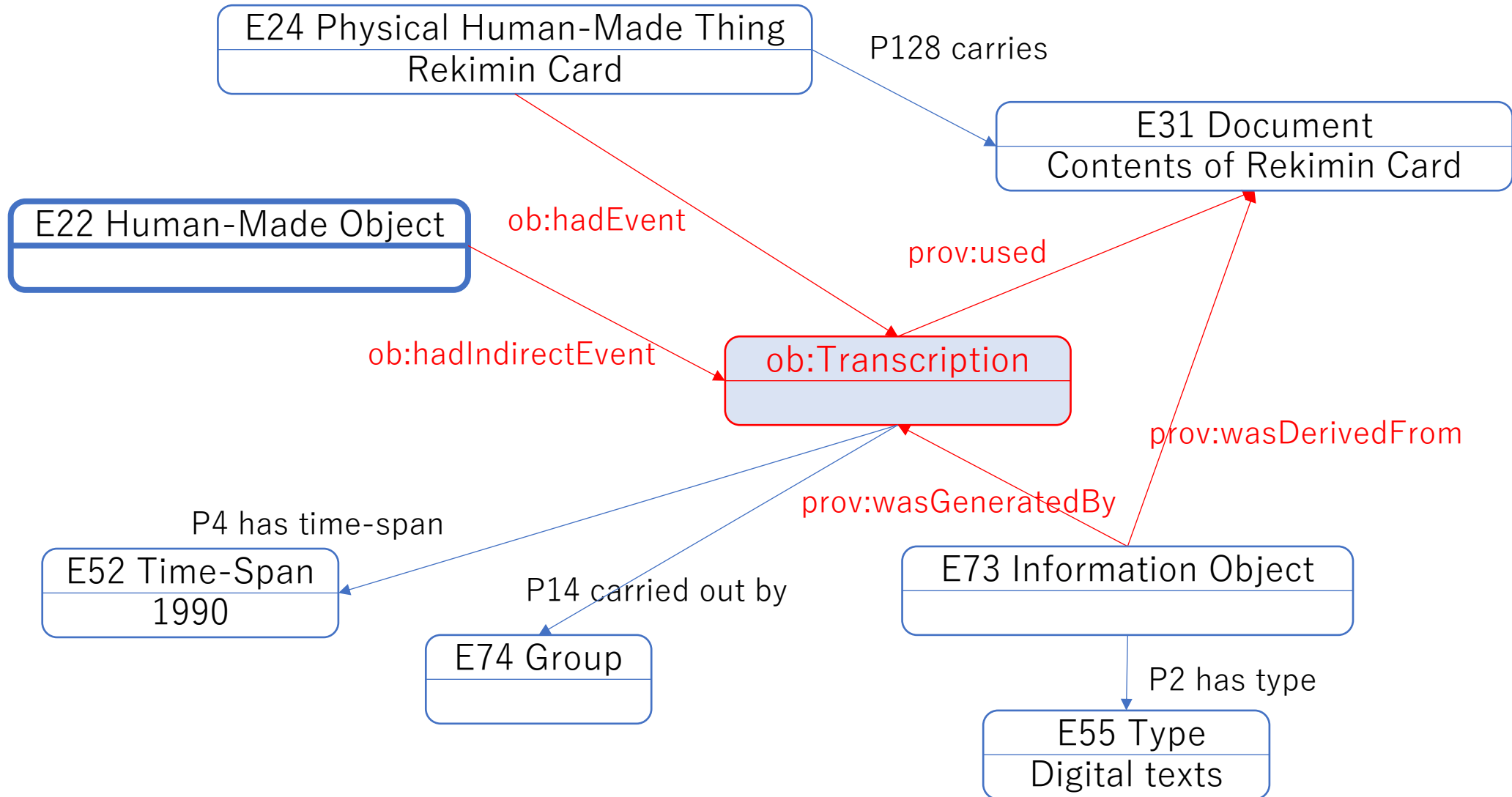P70(x,y) ⊃ P67(x,y)

3. Questions and tentative solutions

Q7

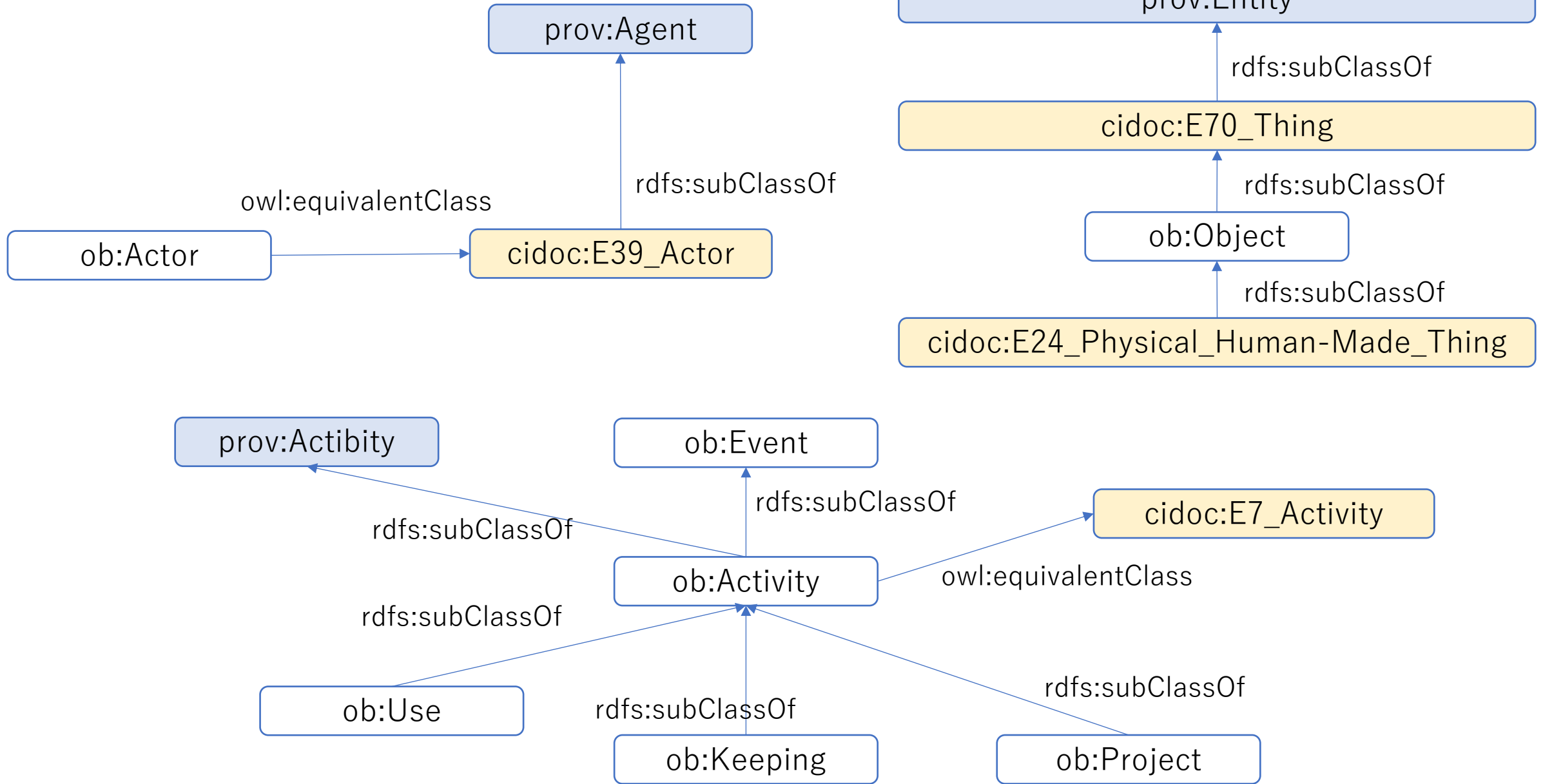How to describe relationships between information and its source?

Q8

How to describe digitalization of text data using CIDOC CRM?

4. Object Biography ontology

5. Conclusion

In our modeling process, it was revealed that ethnographical object biography can be documented by using CIDOC CRM with other supplementary ontologies in a way to accurately describe events that have happened to objects and the knowledge generation where the "reality" was written.

We hope to discuss further the improvement of the models and documentation processes among various practitioners.

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Thank you!

Comments or suggestions?

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