

# The new RDA: resource description in libraries and beyond

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21st Century”

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R | D | A  
Resource Description & Access

# RDA

“RDA is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating **library and cultural heritage** resource metadata that are well-formed according to **international models** for **user-focussed linked data** applications.”

**RDA Toolkit** provides the user-focussed elements, guidelines, and instructions.

**RDA Registry** provides the infrastructure for well-formed, linked, RDA data applications.

# RDA Registry

Linked data representations of RDA Reference  
Entities (classes)  
Relationships and attributes (properties)  
Controlled terminologies (concepts)  
+ Translations  
+ Maps (e.g. to ISBD, MARC Relators, MARC 21)

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# Registry data in Toolkit

## 3R Project

Basic structure of all element “pages”  
generated from Registry

## Toolkit releases

Element definition and scope

Element reference

Related elements

Glossary

Vocabulary encoding schemes

Relationship matrix

# Impact of internationalization

Different cataloguing practices

Different authority files and vocabularies

No “one way” of describing an entity

Many ways, many choices

New elements for access points

# Impact of other communities

## Special library materials

- New elements and vocabularies

## Archive and museum communities

- Collections, curation, provenance

- LRM is compatible with CIDOC CRM

## Linked data communities

- IRI recording method, vocabulary notation

# Entities

WEMI = aspects of a “resource” (ISBD)

Agent (PFC), Place, Timespan associated with an information resource

Nomen associated with any other entity

All entities and their elements given equal presentation

But varying depth of coverage, relative to resource description

# Elements

Unit of focus in new Toolkit

e.g. “performer” has a “page” all to itself

Standard structure and layout

No distinction between attribute and relationship elements

All elements assigned a single entity “domain”

But attributes do not have a “range” of an entity

And no inverse elements

New entities  more relationships  more inverses

 Many more elements



# The numbers

13 entities

1700+ elements

Work	388	Agent	175
Expression	291	Person	85
Manifestation	282	Collective Agent	34
Item	70	Corporate Body	84
Place	45	Family	46
Timespan	54	Nomen	169
RDA Entity	27		

# Recording methods

Extended to all elements

Confined to relationships in original Toolkit

Linked data “method” now explicit

4 methods = “4-fold path”

Unstructured description

Structured description

Identifier

IRI

# Instructions

There are no rules!

Most instructions are now optional

Accommodates local practice in a global framework

Instructions assigned to recording methods

Much more choice

☞ Flexibility 😊

☞ How to choose? 😞

# Application profile

What elements must be recorded?

What elements should be recorded?

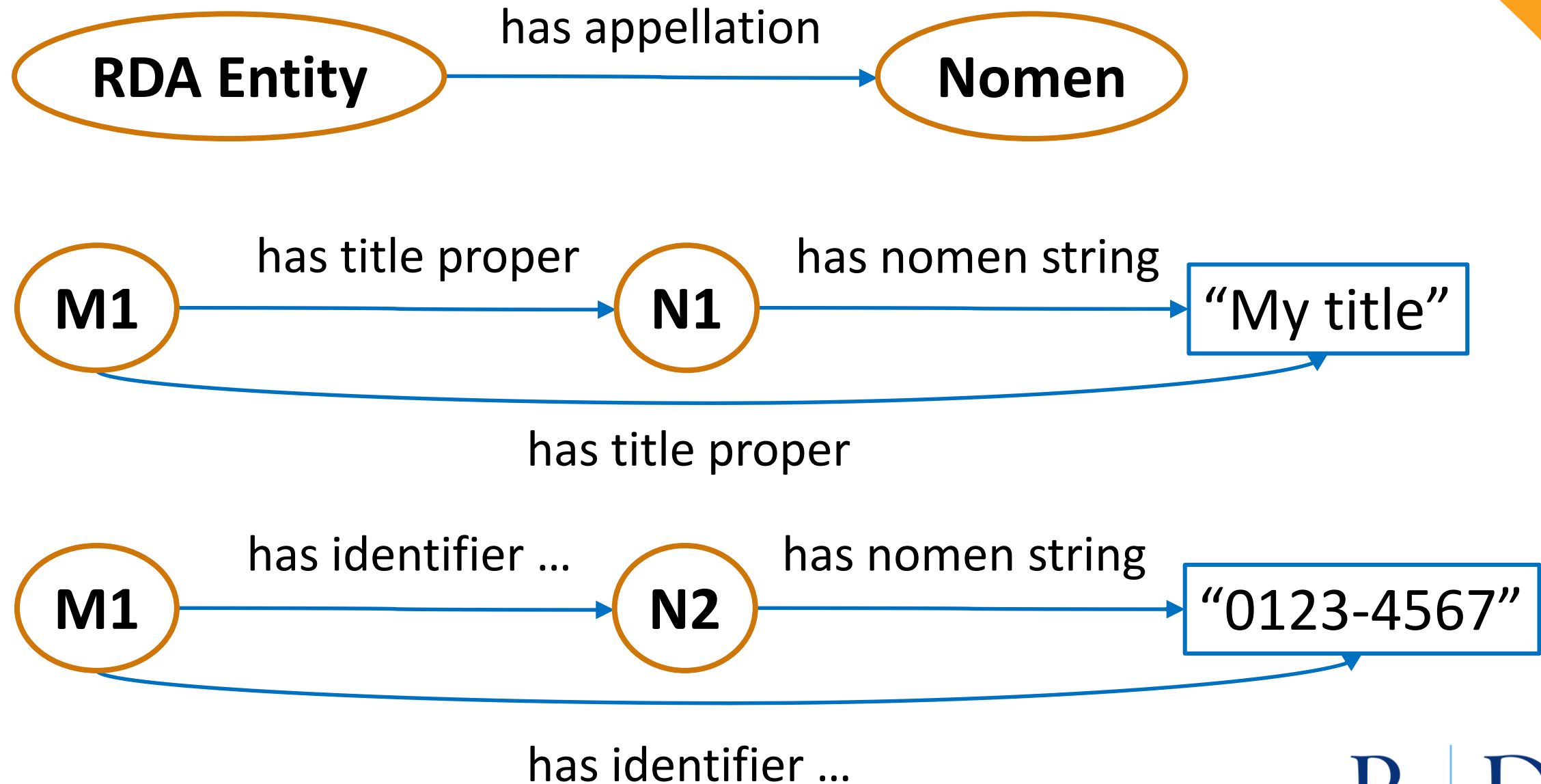
What elements may be repeated?

What vocabularies are used?

What recording methods are used?

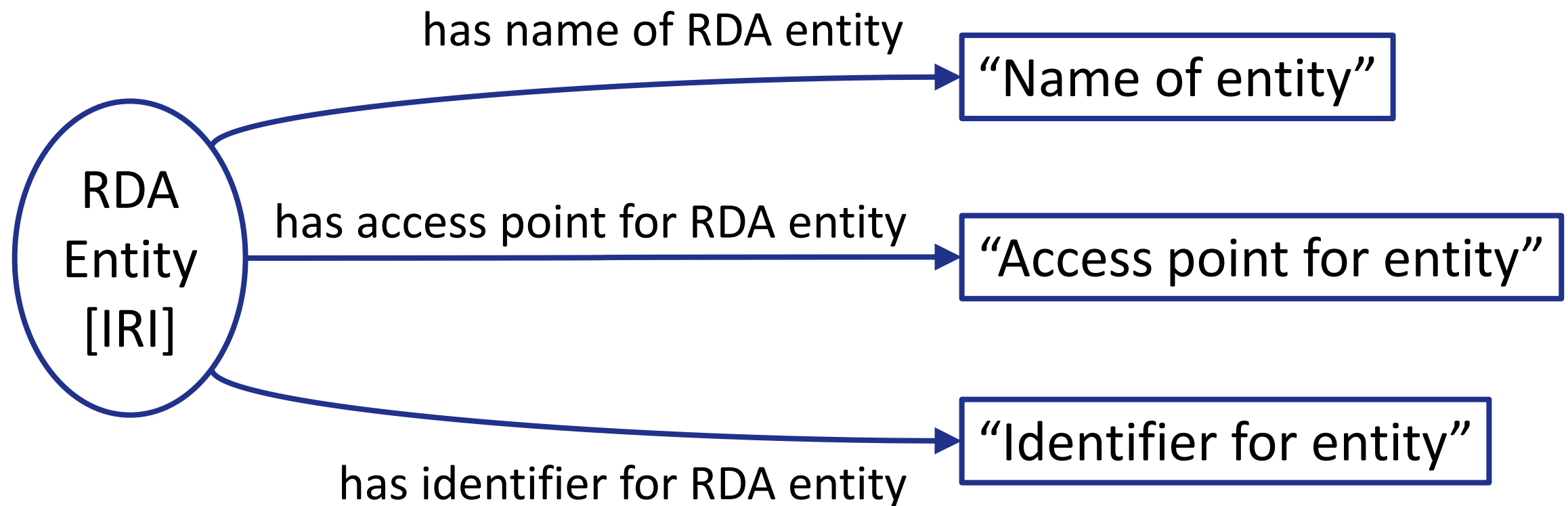
Multiple ways: bookmarks, policy statements, workflows, external documents

# Nomens and recording methods



# Identifying an entity

An entity is identified with a label by humans  
= Record at least one appellation element



# Using appellation data

“Name of entity”

Unstructured description  
Keyword index: “**entity**”; “**name**”

“Access point for entity”

Structured description  
Authority index: “**Entity, access point for**”

“Identifier for entity”

Identifier  
Local application links: “**EntityID**”

IRI for entity

IRI  
Global linked data

# Well-formed description

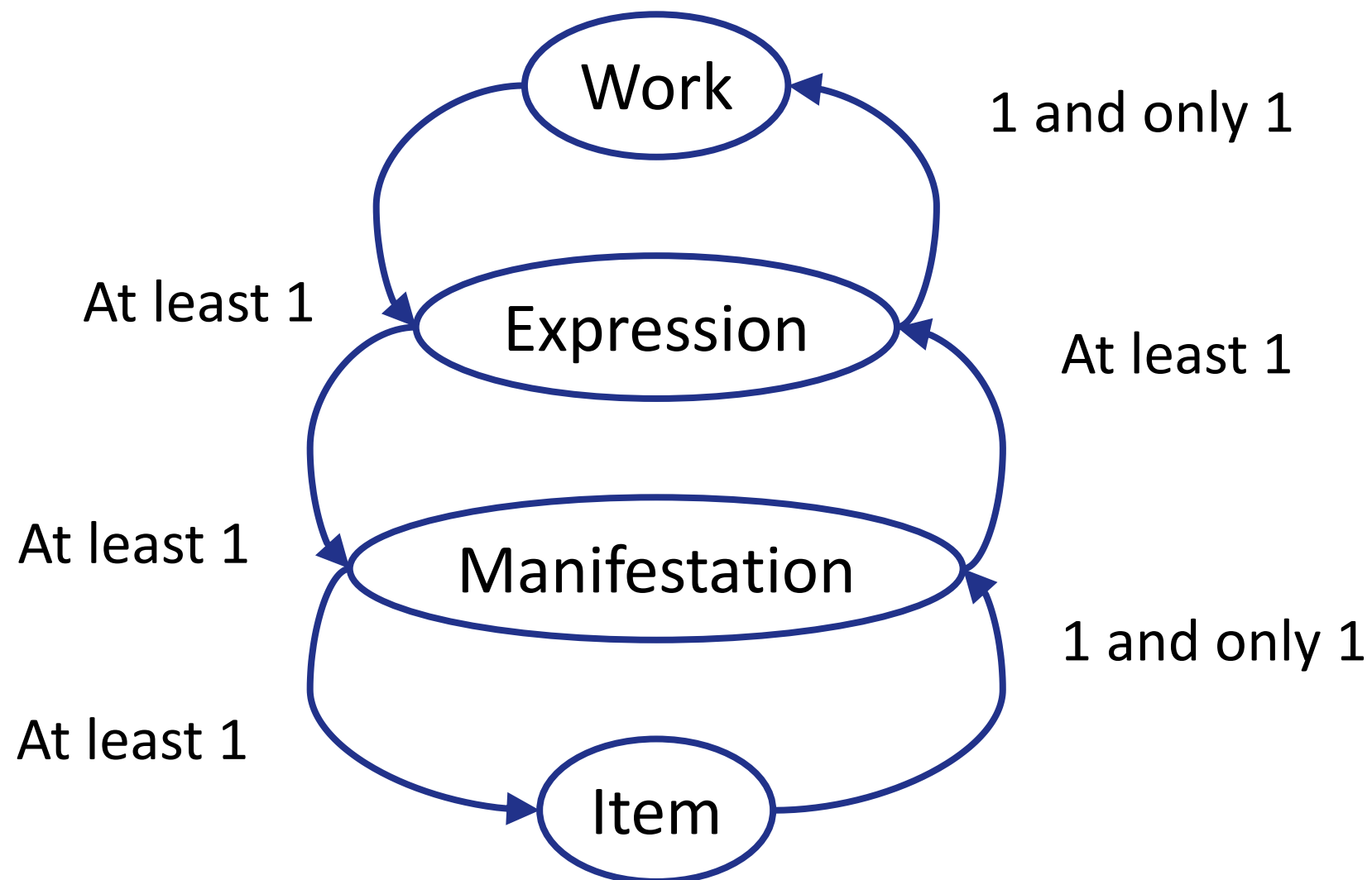
Coherent

Compliance with LRM/RDA **ontology**

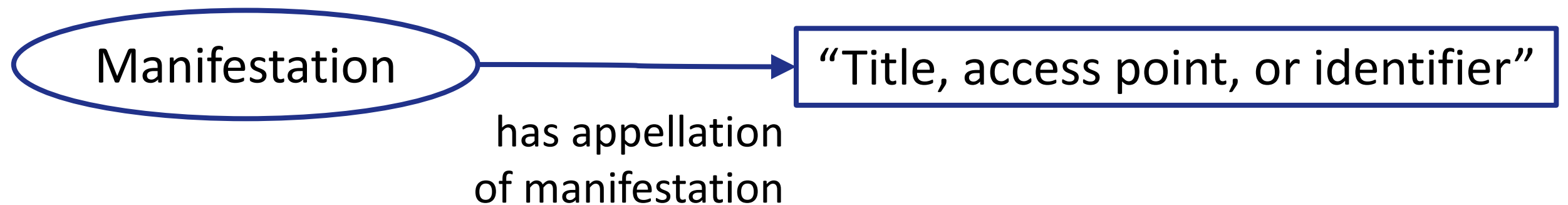
LRM retains FRBR relationships and **cardinality**  
restrictions (with clarification)



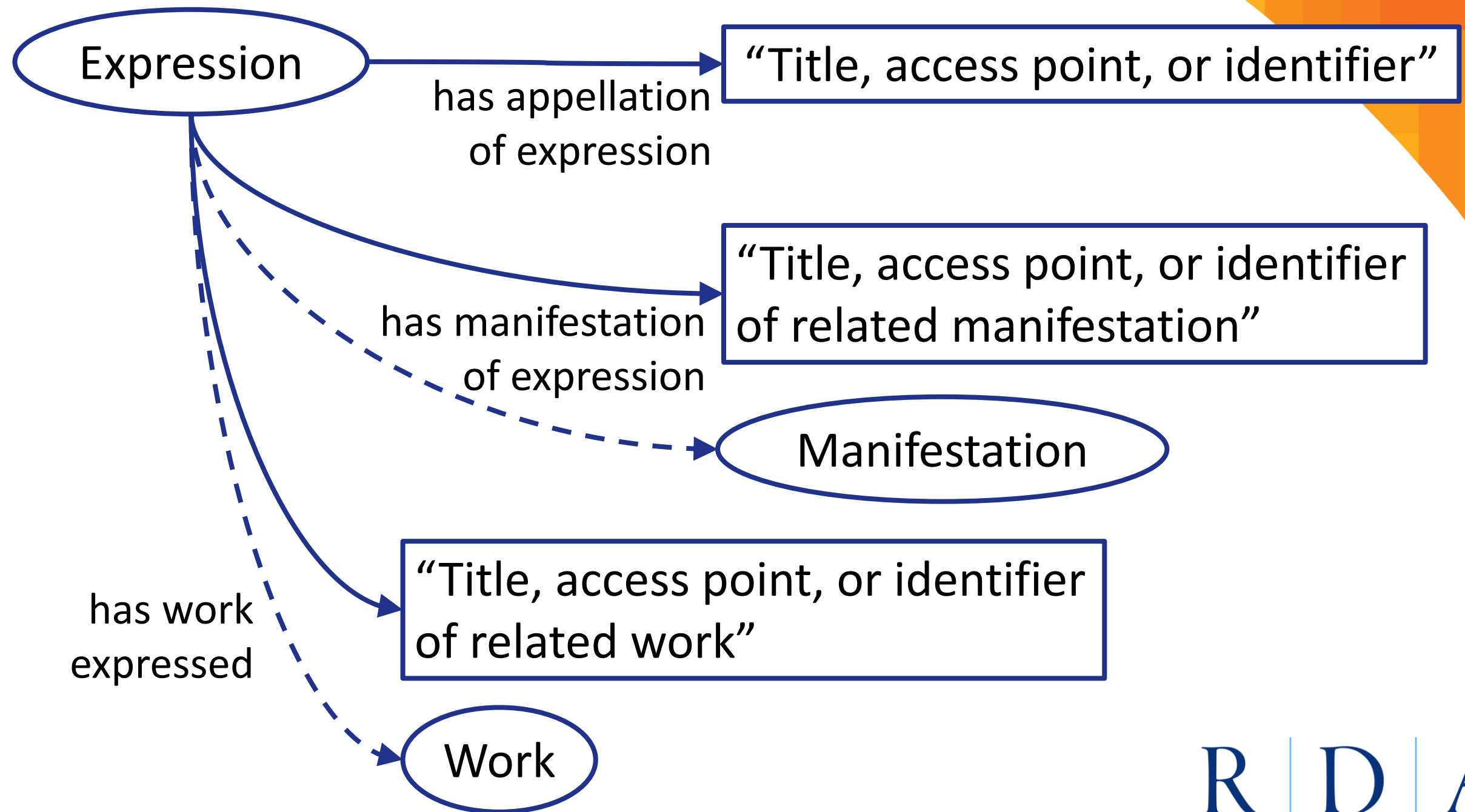
# FRBR cardinality



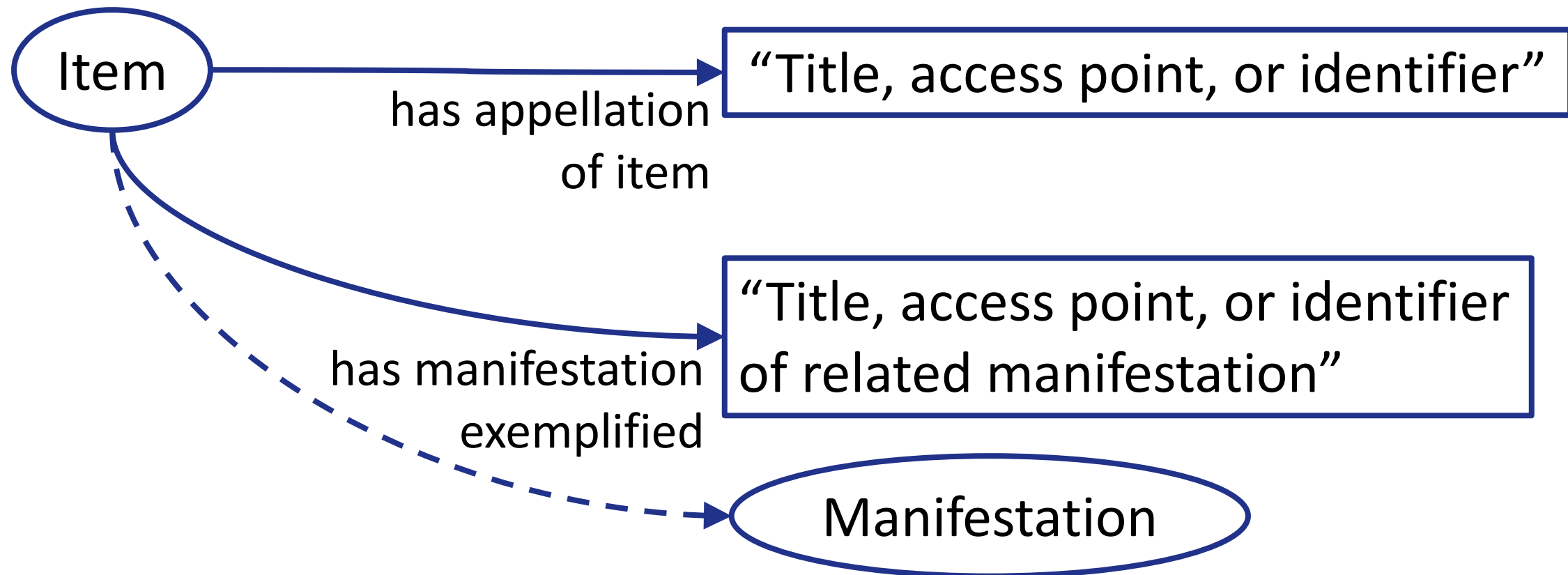
# Minimal configuration (M)



# Minimal configuration (E)



# Minimal configuration (I)



# Effective description

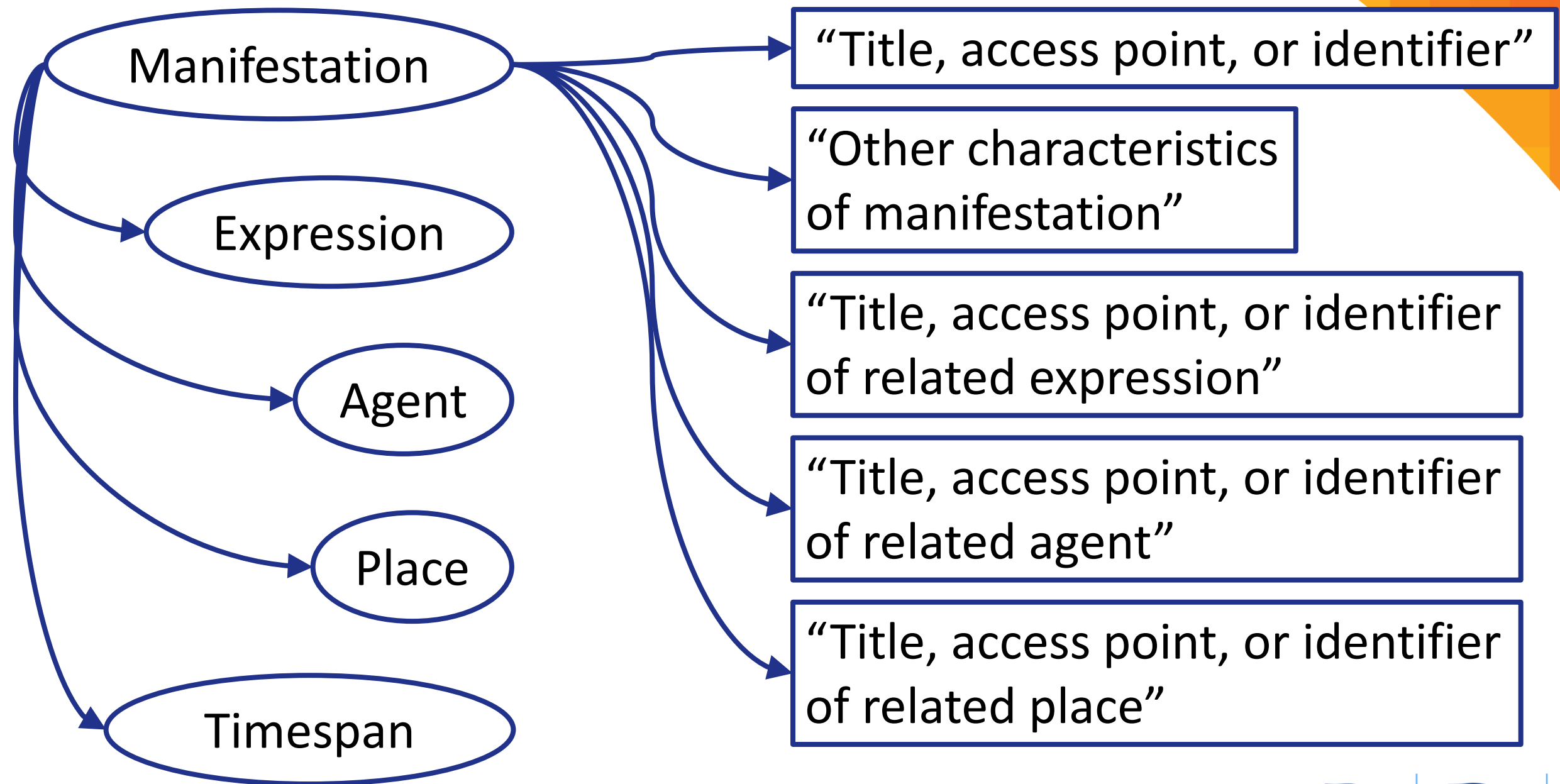
Choice of which resource entity to describe is governed by an application profile.

A well-formed description must conform to an appropriate minimal configuration.

Choice of which additional elements to record, and the recording method, is governed by an application profile.

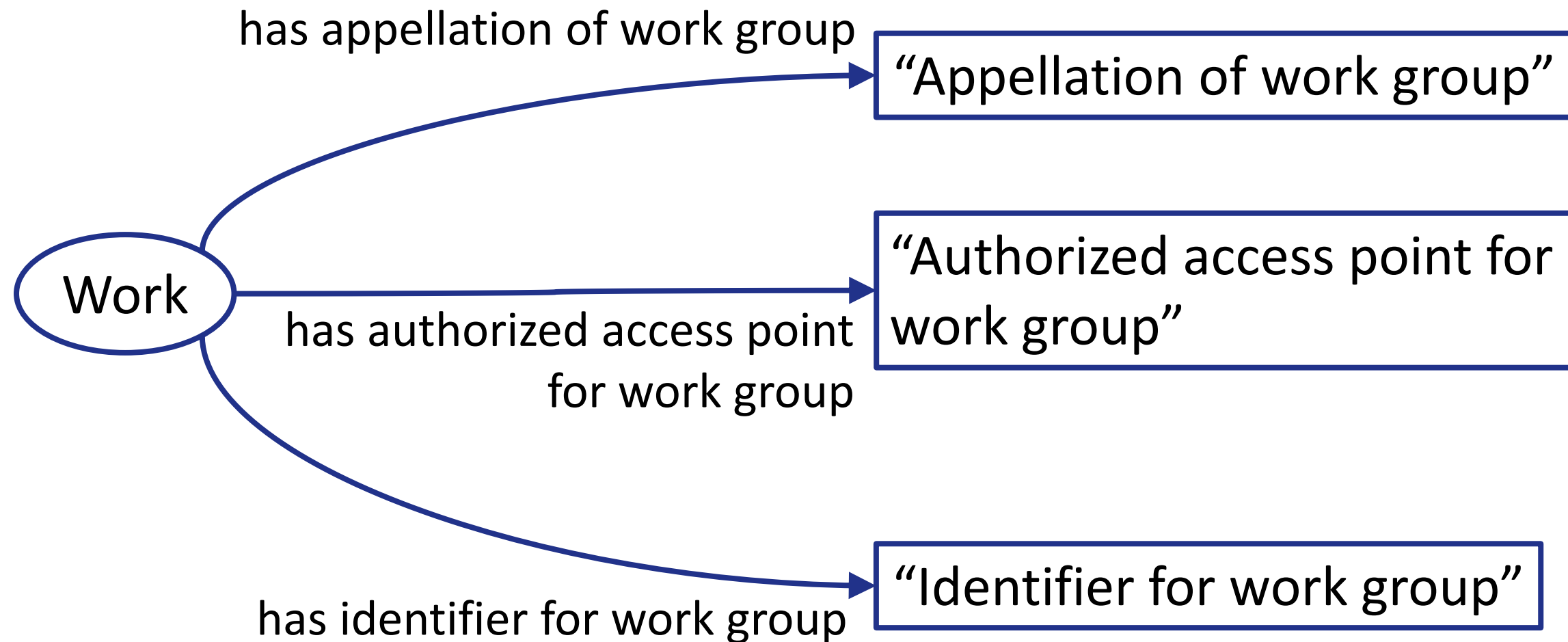
Or cataloguer's judgement

# Effective manifestation description



# Work groups

A set of works that are identified as a whole



# Data provenance

Who made the metadata statement?

When was it stated?

Where did the values come from?

What standards were applied?

The trick: treat each statement or set as a work

Then apply RDA ...



# The new RDA Toolkit

A package of data elements, guidelines,  
and instructions ...

A package that meets the resource description  
and access needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# Thank you!

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