Table of Contents

Introduction

Template Model

Template Model Concrete Representation

Representing Template Structure using JSON Schema

Representing Template Fields using JSON Schema

Representing Template Elements using JSON Schema

Representing Templates using JSON Schema

Representing Multiple Instances of Template Elements and Field Values

Representing Template Semantics using JSON-LD

Representing Template Instances as RDF

Expressing Ontology-Based Field Value Constraints

The _valueConstraints field

The ontologies Value Constraint Field

The classes Value Constraint Field

The branches Value Constraint Field

The valueSets Value Constraint Field

The literals Value Constraint Field

Representing User Interface Rendering Specifications

Template Rendering Information

Template Element Rendering Information

Template Field Rendering Information

Appendix A: JSON Schema

Restricting Property Values

Nesting JSON Schema specifications

Reusing JSON Schema specifications with $ref

Representing Arrays in JSON Schema

Appendix B: JSON-LD

JSON-LD @type Field

JSON-LD @id Field

JSON-LD @context Field

Glossary

References
Introduction

One of the main goals of the CEDAR project is to build an infrastructure for the creation and storage of machine-readable metadata templates. Metadata templates provide detailed definitions of the metadata that describes a particular data resource.

In CEDAR, the metadata template describes both the structure and the semantics of that metadata. The CEDAR system uses metadata templates to create metadata instances, which describe specific instances of data resources. Users typically generate these metadata instances to annotate their data.

This document describes the metadata template model developed for the CEDAR project. This model provides a detailed specification for the representation of metadata template and metadata template instances.

We first developed a template model to specify the key aspects of template construction [EKAW2016]. This model represents the core structural characteristics of templates—the common entities and compositional patterns that define a template. We then produced a concrete representation of the template model, emphasizing the addition of semantic markup and constraints. The concrete template model provides a consistent, interoperable information framework for defining templates and for creating and filling out metadata instances that correspond to those templates. Finally, we developed a set of tools for creating metadata templates and for acquiring metadata to generate metadata instances.

Template Model

Our system aims to recursively compose templates from existing, more granular templates. In our model, we term these sub-templates template elements. Template elements constitute the building blocks of metadata templates. Template elements may contain one or more atomic pieces of information, such a text or date field, or may be recursively composed from other template elements. Template fields are used to represent these atomic pieces of metadata. For example, a template field could be used to indicate the date at which a measurement was made for a particular scientific experiment. Template elements are used to recursively combine template fields or template elements to create more complex descriptions. For example, template fields “Phone” and “Email” could be contained in a template element called “Contact Information”, which could itself be contained in a template element called “Person”.
Figure 1 presents a basic overview of the schema level of the CEDAR template model. The Template, Template Element, and Template Field entities represent their namesake concepts. All entities have an @type field and are uniquely identifiable via an @id field. They also contain title and description fields. A variety of built-in template field types are provided. These include a Text Field, which represents a free text field, and a List Field, which represent a multiple-choice element. This set can be extended to incorporate additional field types. Both templates and template elements can optionally have fields or elements nested inside them. Template elements and fields can be grouped together in a Template to provide an overall description of a collection of metadata.

The template model also defines instances derived from templates, which we refer to as template instances. Template instances are created from template specifications. A template effectively serves as a schema specification for metadata instances conforming to that template. Figure 2 presents the instance level of the CEDAR template model. As with schema-level templates and elements, all template and element instances have an @id field, which uniquely identifies the instance. Template and element instances can also contain an optional @type field, which can contain one or more URIs that provide type information for the associated instance. Template field instances can have three subtypes: (1) literal fields, which contain...
literal values; (2) IRI fields, which contain IRI values, and (3) multiple value fields, which contain arrays of either literals or IRIs. Literal fields contain a literal value object that contains an @value field and an optional @type field. The @value field contains the raw literal value and the @type field contains one more datatypes for that literal (e.g., http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer). IRI value fields contain an IRI value object. In this case, an @id field is used to store the IRI value; the @type field can be used to optionally provide one or more types for that IRI.

![Figure 2. Instance Level of CEDAR’s Template Model](image)

The overall model provides an abstract structural specification of templates and instances. In the next section we will outline the development of a concrete representation of this model.

**Template Model Concrete Representation**

The template model requires a machine-interpretable representation for software systems to work with the model programatically. This representation must meet a variety of goals. Primarily, it must describe the structure of templates and the instances generated from these templates. It must also describe and constrain the various relationships between the entities in the model. Template representations must be conveniently serializable so that they can be provided via REST APIs and persisted to storage media. Ideally, the representation should be based on standard formats so that existing tools can be used to manage model entities. The representation should also permit easy validation, and easy indexing to support search. To enable interoperation with controlled terms, a standardized means to annotate templates with...
controlled terms is key. Finally, the template format must interoperate with Linked Open Data technologies such as RDF and OWL, and allow metadata to be represented as RDF graphs.

OWL is not particularly suited to representing the closed-world structural constraints required for this sort of data-centric problem [OWL-CONSTRAINTS]. The current SHACL [SHACL] effort aims to address this shortcoming by providing an RDF-based constraint language to structurally describe RDF data. Its goal is to “communicate information about data structures associated with some process or interface, generate or validate data, or drive user interfaces”. However, SHACL is not yet standardized and has almost no current tool support.

We identified two key JSON-based technologies can be combined to meet many of the goals outlined above—while retaining full interoperation with semantic resources: JSON Schema¹ [JSON SCHEMA], and JSON-LD [JSON-LD]². Both are supported by a large variety of Web-centric tools.

JSON Schema is a technology for describing and validating the structure of JSON data. Its directives—themselves represented as standard JSON elements—can be used to provide a structural description of any JSON document. JSON documents that are specified with JSON Schema can be structurally validated against their associated schemas via off-the-shelf tools. JSON Schema provides a structural specification only—it does not describe the semantics of JSON documents. A recent technology called JSON-LD (“Linked Data”) was developed to meet this goal. JSON-LD provides a lightweight syntax to add semantic annotations to JSON documents. The key goals of JSON-LD are to support the use of Linked Data in Web-based programming environments, to build interoperable Web services, and to store Linked Data in JSON-based storage engines. JSON-LD effectively allows JSON documents and their contents to be made available as Linked Data, offering the potential for machine-interpretable RDF semantics.

We first outline how we use JSON Schema to describe the structure of templates and to constrain and validate the template instances generated from those templates. We then show how we use JSON-LD to mark up these structural specifications, adding semantic content to these templates and instances. We show how this combination of JSON Schema and JSON-LD provides the capabilities to fully represent the template model and provide a strong bridge to semantic technologies.

Representing Template Structure using JSON Schema

With JSON Schema we define the structure of the primary entities in the CEDAR template model. We first outline its use to define the three core entities in the model: template fields, template elements, and templates.

¹ See Appendix A for an overview of JSON Schema.
² See Appendix B for an overview of JSON-LD.
Representing Template Fields using JSON Schema

Template fields are used to describe an atomic piece of metadata. Informally, they correspond to a single field in a form, which when filled out contains a single value. In principle, a template field could be stored as a simple JSON property value, such as string or number. However, in many cases we would like the option to add additional metadata to describe template fields. At a minimum, we want users to record a name and description of each field. Hence, we use a JSON object to describe template fields.

The template field representation includes a value field, in addition to the other descriptive information.

We use the JSON-LD @value field of type string to hold raw literal values. We also use the standard JSON Schema title and description fields to hold a name and description for the field.

For example, here is the definition of a Full Name template field, which contains the full name of a person as a single string:

```json
{
   "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
   "type": "object",
   "title": "Full Name",
   "description": "Full name template field",
   "properties": {
      "$value": { "type": "string" }
   },
   "required": [ "$value" ],
   "additionalProperties": false
}
```

A conforming instance of this template field could look as follows:

```json
{
   "$value": "John Smith"
}
```

In some cases, we may add further type restrictions to literals. For example, we know that the literal is an email address we can use the JSON Schema format keyword with type email to restrict the value.

For example, the specification for an email field could look as follows:

```json
{
   "type": "object",
   "title": "Email",
   "description": "Email template field",
   "properties": {
      "$value": { "type": "string", "format": "email" }
   },
   "required": [ "$value" ]
}
```

---

3 A useful online JSON Schema validator can be found at www.jsonschemavalidator.net.
Similar format restrictions can be used for the number, date-time, ipv4, and ipv6 JSON Schema formats.

The CEDAR model also distinguishes literals from IRIs. We use the JSON-LD @id field in place of the @value field to make this distinction.

For example, here is the definition of a Home Page template field, which contains the URL of a page:

```json
{
  "type": "object",
  "title": "Home Page", "description": "Home page template field",
  "properties": { "@id": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" } },
  "required": [ "@id" ], "additionalProperties": false,
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#"
}
```

A conforming instance of this template field could look as follows:

```json
{ "@id": "https://example.com/home/JohnSmith.html" } 
```

The CEDAR model also defines provenance fields. At present, four provenance fields are specified. These fields are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pav:createdOn</td>
<td>This is a Provenance and Versioning Ontology (PAV) field that specifies a datetime-encoded value indicating when the resource was created.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pav:createdBy</td>
<td>This is a PAV field that specifies a IRI-encoded value indicating who created the resource.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pav:lastUpdatedOn</td>
<td>This is a PAV field that specifies a datetime-encoded value indicating when the resource was last updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oslc:modifiedBy</td>
<td>This is an IRI-encoded field using an Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration (OSLC) ontology term that specifies who updated the resource last.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The model also requires that template field specifications contain the version of the CEDAR model being used. We used the Schema.org `schemaVersion` property to specify this version.

The `schema` prefix identifies the Schema.org namespace `https://schema.org/`, the `pav` prefix identified the Provenance and Versioning Ontology namespace `http://purl.org/pav/`, and the `oslc` prefix identifies the Open Services ontology namespace `http://open-services.net/ns/core#`

For example, the previous Home Page template field specification with this version field and the four provenance fields added could look as follows:

```
{
  "title": "Home Page", "description": "Home page template field",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "@id": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
    "required": [ "@id" ], "additionalProperties": false,
    "pav:createdOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
    "pav:createdBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
    "pav:lastUpdatedOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
    "oslc:modifiedBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
    "schema:schemaVersion": "1.1.0",
    "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#"
  }
}
```

The model also allows instances of fields contain the same four provenance fields. The schema specification for fields must include this requirement. The template field's JSON Schema properties fields can be used to express this restriction as follows:

```
"properties": {
  "pav:createdOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
  "pav:createdBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "uri" },
  "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
  "oslc:modifiedBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" }
}
```

For example, here is the previous Home Page template field specification extended to allow field instances to contain the four provenance fields:

```
{
  "title": "Home Page", "description": "Home page template field",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "@id": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
    "pav:createdOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
    "pav:createdBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "uri" },
    "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" }
  }
}
```

4 Later we will formally map these prefixes to their associated IRIs.
Note that we do not make the provenance fields required for template field instances. We also allow these provenance fields to be present with null values. Typically, these provenance fields are generated by server components so allowing nulls lets clients generate instances without values for these fields and still pass validation.

Some fields can also contain multiple values. In the CEDAR model these multiple values are stored as an array of objects containing @value or @id fields.

For example, the content of a multi-value literal field that contains the strings "O1" and "O2" could be represented as follows:

```
[ { "@value": "O1" }, { "@value": "O2" } ]
```

Similarly, the content of a multi-value IRI field that contains, say, the IRIs http://example.com/A1 and http://example.com/A2 could be represented as follows:

```
[ { "@id": "http://example.com/A1" }, { "@id": "http://example.com/A2" } ]
```

JSON Schema has inbuilt support for indicating that the value of a JSON field can be an array (see Appendix A and Section 4.1.4 of [JSON SCHEMA]).

The template field schema to capture this representation could look as follows:

```
{
    "title": "Home Pages", "description": "Home pages template field",
    "type": "array", "minItems": 1,
    "items": {
        "type": "object",
        "properties": {
            "@id": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
            "pav:createdOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
            "pav:createdBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "uri" },
            "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
        }
    }
}
```
As can be seen, we use the JSON Schema array directive to indicate that the field values are stored in an array. We also indicate that the array must contain at least one item. Note that this approach allows each value object to contain provenance information.

Representing Template Elements using JSON Schema

Template elements offer composition—they can include multiple template fields and/or template elements. Template elements are represented using an approach equivalent to the one used to represent template fields. Again, we specify that a template element must be represented as a JSON object. We can then restrict each nested template field or template element using nested JSON Schema specifications.

For example, the definition of a Investigator template element is shown below. It contains one nested template field called fullName.

```json
{
  "title": "Investigator", "description": "Investigator element",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "fullName": {
      "title": "Full Name", "description": "Full name template field",
      "properties": { @value: { "type": "string" } },
      "required": [ @value ], "additionalProperties": false
    }
  },
  "required": [ "fullName" ], "additionalProperties": false,
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#"
}
```

A conforming template element instance could look like the following:

```json
{ "fullName": { @value: "Dr. P.I." } }
```
As with template fields, template elements can also contain model version and provenance fields and can also allow conforming instances to contain the same provenance information. Again, the JSON Schema properties field can be used to make this instance restriction.

For example, here is the above Investigator template element extended with its own provenance and model version information and with provenance restrictions on its instances:

```json
{
  "title": "Investigator", "description": "Investigator element",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "fullName": {
      "title": "Full Name", "description": "Full name template field",
      "properties": {
        "@value": { "type": "string" },
        "pav:createdOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
        "pav:createdBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "uri" },
        "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
        "oslc:modifiedBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" }
      },
      "required": [ "@value" ], "additionalProperties": false
    }
  }
  "required": [ "fullName" ], "additionalProperties": false,
  "pav:createdOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
  "pav:createdBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
  "pav:lastUpdatedOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
  "oslc:modifiedBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
  "schema:schemaVersion": "1.1.0",
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#"
}
```

As with template fields, we do not require that element instances contain these provenance fields.

**Representing Templates using JSON Schema**

The representation of templates follows the same principles as template elements. Like template elements, templates can have nested element values and template elements.

Templates must also contain model version and provenance fields and must specify that template instances also contain provenance fields.

Two additional Schema.org fields are also included in template instances: `schema:name` and `schema:description`. 
We additionally require that conforming template instances contain a `schema:isBasedOn` field to identify the template to which they conform (where the schema prefix identifies the Schema.org namespace [https://schema.org/](https://schema.org/)). The template's JSON Schema properties can be used to express this restriction as follows:

```
"properties": {
   "schema:isBasedOn": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
   "schema:name": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 },
   "schema:description": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 }
}
```

A complete template specification that contains a nested study title field and a nested principal investigator element could then look as follows:

```
{
   "title": "Investigation", "description": "Investigation template",
   "type": "object",
   "properties": {
      "schema:isBasedOn": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
      "schema:name": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 },
      "schema:description": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 }
      "pav:createdOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
      "pav:createdBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "uri" },
      "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
      "oslc:modifiedBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
      "studyTitle": { ... },
      "pi": { ... }
   },
   "required": 
      [ "schema:isBasedOn", "schema:name", "schema:description",
      "oslc:modifiedBy", "studyTitle", "pi" ],
   "additionalProperties": false,
   "pav:createdOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
   "pav:createdBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
   "pav:lastUpdatedOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
   "oslc:modifiedBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
   "schema:version": "1.1.0",
   "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#"
}
```

Note that, unlike fields and elements, the template specification requires that all provenance fields are present in template instances. The specification also requires that the `schema:name` and `schema:description` fields are in instances.

Here is an example of a template instance conforming to the above template:
Representing Multiple Instances of Template Elements and Field Values

The above specifications support the definition of nested template elements or element fields that contain exactly one instance of each. For example, only one principal investigator template element instance is allowed inside an investigation template instance. In many cases we would like items or elements to be capable of acquiring multiple instances at runtime. As mentioned earlier, JSON Schema has inbuilt support for indicating that the value of a JSON field can be an array (see Appendix A and Section 4.1.4 of [JSON SCHEMA]).

In the CEDAR template model, this approach can be used to indicate that a template instance may contain, or must contain, multiple instances of nested template elements or template fields.

For example, we can extend the earlier investigation template to indicate that an investigation can have between 1 and 4 principal investigators as follows:

```json
{
  "title": "Investigation", "description": "Investigation template",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "schema:isBasedOn": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
    "schema:name": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 },
    "schema:description": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 },
    "pav:createdOn": { "type": "[string, null]", "format": "date-time" },
    "pav:createdBy": { "type": "[string, null]", "format": "uri" },
    "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "type": "[string, null]", "format": "date-time" },
    "oslc:modifiedBy": { "type": "[string, null]", "format": "date-time" },
    "studyName": { ... },
    "pis": {
      "type": array, "minItems" : 1, "maxItems" : 4,
      "items": {
        "type": "object",
        "title": "Principal Investigator",
      }
    }
  }
}
```
Representing Template Semantics using JSON-LD

JSON Schema is useful for defining structural restrictions on JSON documents. It can also be used to specify basic type restrictions on field values. However, it provides a very basic set of built-in type restrictions. It also does not provide a way to add additional types or to interoperate with types defined in external sources, such as RDF- or OWL-based ontologies.

As mentioned, JSON-LD [JSON-LD] was developed to meet this goal. JSON-LD provides a lightweight syntax to add semantic annotations to JSON documents that can restrict the types and values of fields using terms from external vocabularies. Like JSON Schema, it adds some custom fields with well-known names to a JSON document to provide additional markup information.

JSON-LD provides three core fields to add semantic markup to JSON documents: @context, @type, and @id. The @context field is used to define prefixes for controlled vocabularies and to map JSON properties to controlled vocabularies; the @type field indicates the semantic type of a JSON object; the @id field gives a unique identifier to a JSON object instance. JSON-LD is used to mark up the structural specification to add semantic content to the CEDAR templates and instances. Essentially, JSON-LD is used to add type information to JSON-described content.

Here, for example, is a JSON-LD–enhanced template instance representing a study (with JSON-LD clauses in bold):

```json
{
    "@type": "http://semantic-dicom.org/dcm#Study",
```

---

5 See Appendix B for an introduction to JSON-LD; a good introduction can also be found at json-id.org.
Note that we have added JSON-LD @context, @type, and @id fields to provide semantic markup. The @context field ensures that properties are mapped to properties in controlled vocabularies. The @context specification does a full mapping of prefixes to namespaces for all CEDAR model prefixes and also specifies their datatypes. The @type field indicates the semantic type of the instance, which in the case above is the Study class in the Radiation Oncology Ontology. Finally, the @id field gives a unique identifier to the instance.

The JSON Schema specification can ensure that conforming instances are marked up with JSON-LD, both by demanding that specific fields are present and by restricting the content of those fields.

If we want to enforce that the @type field is contained in the instance and uses a specific IRI we can do so as follows:
If we want to enforce that the @id field is contained in the instance and contains an IRI we can do so as follows:

```json
"properties": { "@id": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" } }
```

The @context field is far more complex but can be declaratively specified as follows:

```json
"properties": {
  "@context": {
    "type": "object",
    "properties": {
      "xsd": { "type": "string", "format": "uri",
               "enum": [ "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#" ] },
      "pav": { "type": "string", "format": "uri",
               "enum": [ "http://purl.org/pav/" ] },
      "schema": { "type": "string", "format": "uri",
                  "enum": [ "http://schema.org/" ] },
      "oslc": { "type": "string", "format": "uri",
                "enum": [ "http://open-services.net/ns/core#" ] },
      "schema:isBasedOn": { "type": "object",
                           "properties": { "@type": { "type": "string", "enum": [ "$id" ] } },
                           "schema:name": { "@type": { "type": "string", "enum": [ "xsd:string" ] } },
                           "schema:description": { "@type": { "type": "string", "enum": [ "xsd:string" ] } },
                           "pav:createdOn": { "@type": { "type": "string", "enum": [ "xsd:dateTime" ] } },
                           "pav:createdBy": { "@type": { "type": "string", "enum": [ "$id" ] } },
                           "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "@type": { "type": "string", "enum": [ "xsd:dateTime" ] } },
                           "oslc:modifiedBy": { "@type": { "type": "object", "properties": { "@type": { "type": "string", "enum": [ "$id" ] } } } },
                           "patternProperties": {
                                       "^(?![pav])(?!schema)(?!oslc)[a-zA-Z][a-zA-Z0-9]*$": {
                                       "type": "string", "format": "uri" }
                           },
                           "required": [ "xsd", "pav", "schema", "oslc", "schema:isBasedOn",
                                      "pav:lastUpdatedOn", "oslc:modifiedBy"
                           ],
                           "additionalProperties": false
    }
  }
}
```
The above schema specification is basically requiring that a template instance contains the following context definition:

```json
"@context": {
  "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
  "pav": "http://purl.org/pav/",
  "schema": "http://schema.org/",
  "oslc": "http://open-services.net/ns/core#",
  "schema:isBasedOn": { "@type": "@id" },
  "schema:name": { "@type": "xsd:string" },
  "schema:description": { "@type": "xsd:string" },
  "pav:createdOn": { "@type": "xsd:dateTime" },
  "pav:createdBy": { "@type": "@id" },
  "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "@type": "xsd:dateTime" },
  "oslc:modifiedBy": { "@type": "@id" }
}
```

Note the JSON Schema patternProperties in the schema specification. It supports the addition of additional context specifications in template instances beyond the core set and ensures that they map to IRI values. These mappings allow property assignments to be made for nested template elements and fields.

For example, if a template contains a `studyTitle` field and we would like to map that name to the IRI `https://schema.org/title` we can add it to the template context definition as follows:

```json
"@context": {
  "properties": {
    ...
    "studyTitle": { "enum": [ "https://schema.org/title" ]
  }
}
```

This restriction forces instances conforming to the template to contain the following property assignment in their context definition:

```
"studyTitle": "https://schema.org/title"
```

Coupled with the type assignment to templates, elements and fields, this property assignment allows relationships between nested elements and fields to be mapped to controlled terms.

The overall template specification also makes the `@context`, `@type`, and `@id` fields required to ensure that instances are self descriptive.
For example, here is a JSON Schema template specification for the above study instance with clauses (marked in bold) ensuring that conforming instances carry appropriate JSON-LD markup (we elide the full context definition for brevity):

```json
{
    "title": "Study", "description": "Study template",
    "@type": "https://repo.metadatacenter.org/core/Template",
    "@id": "https://repo.metadatacenter.org/templates/4353",
    "properties": {
        "schema:isBasedOn": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
        "schema:name": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 },
        "schema:description": { "type": "string", "minLength": 1 }
    },
    "pav:createdOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
    "pav:createdBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "uri" },
    "pav:lastUpdatedOn": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
    "oslc:modifiedBy": { "type": ["string", "null"], "format": "date-time" },
    "@type": { "enum": [ "http://semantic-dicom.org/dcm#Study" ] },
    "@id": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
    "@context": {
        "properties": {
            "studyTitle": { "enum": [ "https://schema.org/title" ] },
            "pi": { "enum": [ "https://mschema.org/property/hasPI" ] }
        },
        "required": [ ..., "studyTitle", "pi" ], "additionalProperties": false
    },
    "studyTitle": { "..." },
    "pi": { "..." }
},
"required": [
    "schema:isBasedOn", "schema:isBasedOn", "schema:name",
    "pav:lastUpdatedOn", "oslc:modifiedBy",
    "@context", "@type", "@id", "studyTitle", "pi"
],
"additionalProperties": false,
"pav:createdOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
"pav:createdBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
"pav:lastUpdatedOn": "2017-05-03T09:00:52-0700",
"oslc:modifiedBy": "https://metadatacenter.org/users/8d787b98",
"schema:schemaVersion": "1.1.0",
"$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#"
}
```

As can be seen in this example, the JSON Schema template specification can ensure that template instances contain a significant amount of JSON-LD–encoded type information. Here, we are forcing the @context, @type, and @id fields in an instance to carry specific controlled terms. These instances can be automatically checked for conformance against the template
specification. This use of JSON Schema is completely standard and instance validation can be performed with off-the-shelf tools. We also developed a JSON Schema-based validation schema that can be used to validate template, elements, and fields [CEDAR-SCHEMA].

Representing Template Instances as RDF

Note that CEDAR's JSON-LD representation can be automatically converted to an RDF representation. Here, for example, is a Turtle representation of the above study template instance:

```turtle
<https://repo.metadatacenter.org/template_instances/55417>  
a <http://semantic-dicom.org/dcm#Study> ;  
schema:name "Immune biomarkers" ;  
schema:description "Metadata about an immune biomarkers study"^^xsd:string ;  
schema:isBasedOn <https://repo.metadatacenter.org/template/4343> ;  
oslc:modifiedBy <https://repo.metadatacenter.net/users/6d21a887> ;  
pav:createdBy <https://repo.metadatacenter.net/users/6d21a887> ;  
pav:createdOn "2016-06-29T10:58:26-0700"^^xsd:dateTime ;  
pav:lastUpdatedOn "2016-06-29T10:58:26-0700"^^xsd:dateTime ;  
myschema:hasStudyTitle "Immune biomarkers study" ;  
myschema:hasPI [
  a <https://schema.org/Person> ;  
schema:name "Dr. P.I";  
schema:address "Stanford, CA 94305, USA"
] .
```

Expressing Ontology-Based Field Value Constraints

JSON Schema allows us to express a very limited set of value constraints. We can, for example, state that the value of a field should be a particular value, or selected from a set of values. We can also restrict a field value to be of a particular type or format.

In CEDAR, we require more advanced constraints on field values that we want to come from controlled terminologies. For example, we may specify that the value of a field should be the IRI of a class in a particular ontology.

There are four main constraint types provided by CEDAR. We want to encode the constraints on the possible values for a particular field to (1) specific ontology classes, (2) ontology branches, (3) classes from specific ontologies, and (4) value sets, which are simple collections of values. Where a constraint is a collections of values, individual values may be excluded from consideration.

The possible values of a field could also be composed of some combination of the above four constraint types; the union of all the constraints is used as the set of values that may be entered by the user.
The _valueConstraints field

To do this, we use a _valueConstraints field that will be placed inside a template field. The _valueConstraints field will have four possible subfields for the four types of value sources (ontologies, classes, branches, and value sets). We also include the ability to specify that the user may supply multiple entries when filling out the template field.

The JSON format adopted by CEDAR is as follows:

```json
{
    "_valueConstraints": {
        "ontologies": [ ... ],
        "valueSets": [ ... ],
        "classes": [ ... ],
        "branches": [ ... ],
        "literals": [ ... ],
        "multipleChoice": true | false,
        "requiredValue": true | false,
        "defaultValue": "...
    }
}
```

The different fields used are:

- **ontologies** This field is used to constrain the accepted values to one or more classes from one or more ontologies, each identified by their IRI. Specific classes can be excluded using the exclusions field.

- **classes** This field constrains the accepted values to specific classes, identified by their IRI. Any value selected by default (when the field is presented to the user) can be specified using the default attribute. If the default attribute is not present, it defaults to false.

- **branches** This field constrains the possible values to classes in specific ontology branches. The branch root class is specified using the uri field; maxDepth represents the levels of children considered and includesRoot specifies whether the root branch is included as a possible value or not.

- **valueSets** This field constrains the accepted values to one or several classes from particular value sets, identified by their IRI.

- **literals** This field constrains the accepted values to one or several string literals.

- **multipleChoice** This field defines if multiple choices are allowed or not. If set to true, then a field may contain multiple values.
This field defines if the field must be supplied for final instance validation.

This field contains a default value for a text field. At present, only string values are allowed.

Each option within each field choice can also have an optional boolean field called `selectedByDefault`. When present and set to true this field indicates that this option is selected when presented.

The **ontologies** Value Constraint Field

This field contains a set of ontologies from which controlled terms can be selected. It stores an array of IRIs of ontologies, together with an acronym and short name for each specified ontology.

The following example shows an ontologies value constraint that specifies that field values should come only from the MEDDRA and RXNORM ontologies:

```json
"ontologies": [
{
  "uri": "http://bioportal.bioontology.org/ontologies/MEDDRA",
  "acronym": "MEDDRA",
  "name": "Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities Terminology (MedDRA)"
},
{
  "uri": "http://bioportal.bioontology.org/ontologies/RXNORM",
  "acronym": "RXNORM",
  "name": "RxNorm Vocabulary"
}
]
```

The **classes** Value Constraint Field

A common use case is to constrain the values of a field to a predefined set of classes, not necessarily from the same ontology. For example, to constrain the possible values for a field called `studyType` to one of the classes “Observational Study” ([http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#C16084](http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#C16084)) from the NCIT ontology and “Longitudinal Study” ([http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#Longitudinal_Study](http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#Longitudinal_Study)) from the SYN ontology one can do the following:

```json
{
  "studyType": {
    ...
    "_valueConstraints": {
```
"classes": [
{
  "uri": "http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#C16084",
  "label": "Observational",
  "default": true
},
{
  "uri": "http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#Longitudinal_Study",
  "label": "Longitudinal",
  "default": false
}
],
"multipleChoice": false
}

The branches Value Constraint Field

The branches field is analogous to the ontologies field, but restricts values to branches within ontologies.

Here is an example that restricts the possible values to classes in branches rooted in assay classes in the Ontology of Biomedical Investigation and in the GALEN ontology.

{
  "_valueConstraints": {
    "branches": [
    {
      "uri": "http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/OBI_0000070",
      "includesRoot": false
    },
    {
      "uri": "http://www.co-ode.org/ontologies/galen#Assay",
      "includesRoot": false
    }
    ],
    "multipleChoice": true
  }
}

The valueSets Value Constraint Field

This field constrains the accepted values to one of several classes from particular value sets.
The following example shows a value set constraint that specifies that field values should come only from the ACE Inhibitor or ARB and ADHD Medications NLM value sets:

```
{
    "_valueConstraints": {
        "valueSets": [
            {
                "name": "ACE Inhibitor or ARB",
                "vsCollection": "http://data.bioontology.org/ontologies/NLMVS",
                "uri": "http://purl.bioontology.org/ontology/NLMVS/2.16.32"
            },
            {
                "name": "ADHD Medications",
                "vsCollection": "http://data.bioontology.org/ontologies/NLMVS",
                "uri": "http://purl.bioontology.org/ontology/NLMVS/2.16.840"
            }
        ]
    }
}
```

The **literals** Value Constraint Field

This field constrains the accepted values to one or several string literals.

The following example shows a literals constraint that specifies that field values should come only from the values “Germany”, “France”, and “UK”:

```
{
    "_valueConstraints": {
        "literals": [
            {
                "label": "Germany"
            },
            {
                "label": "France"
            },
            {
                "label": "U.K."
            }
        ]
    }
}
```
Representing User Interface Rendering Specifications

CEDAR's templates can also contain markup that can drive knowledge acquisition tools. This markup has no effect on the semantics of templates, elements, or fields. It is used at design time to indicate rendering preferences when displaying templates, and at instance population time to specify types of user interface elements that should be used when generating instances from templates.

In a CEDAR template all user interface markup is contained in a field called _ui. This field is present in templates, template elements, and field elements. Instances do not contain this user interface field. The associated template is used to indicate how populated instances are displayed. The user interface field contains no modeling information - it specifies rendering choices only.

Template Rendering Information

The _ui field for a template contains a name and description field, which provide descriptive information to present when rendering the template.

CEDAR templates contain an ordered collection of template elements and fields. Since JSON Schema does not have directives to specify field ordering we store this order in the _ui field. We use a field called order to store this information. This field contains an array containing the names of the enclosed fields and elements, with the order following the array order.

Since a template can have multiple pages and each page can contain a mixture of template elements and fields, a pages specification is also needed. A field called pages contains the information. This field contains a two-dimensional array. The first dimension stores the page ordering. Each element in this array stores the order of template elements and fields on a page.

A field called propertyLabels is used to map JSON field names to user-friendly display names. It contains a map of JSON field names to display names.

For example, a template containing two pages, each of which has two template elements or fields could look as follows:

"_ui": {
    "title": "Investigation", "description": "Investigation template",
    "order": [
        "principalInvestigator", "study", "contactInformation", "institution"
    ],
    "pages": [
        [ "principalInvestigator", "study" ],
        [ "contactInformation", "institution" ]
    ]
}
Template Element Rendering Information

The _ui field for a template element contains a name and description field, which provide descriptive information to present when rendering the element. Like a template, a template element can have nested fields and elements so we also need an order field to indicate their order. Template elements are not paged so a pages field is not needed. Like templates, elements can also contain a propertyLabels field.

Here is an example of a _ui field for a template element:

```
"ui": {
  "title": "Description",  "description": "Please provide a description",
  "order": [ "name", "description" ],
  "propertyLabels": {
    "address": "Address"
  }
}
```

Template Field Rendering Information

As with templates and elements, the _ui field for a template field contains a name and description field, which provide descriptive information to present when rendering the field. Every field also has an inputType field that indicated the type of user interface element that can be used for display the field.

The current possible input types are textfield, textarea, radio, checkbox, date, email, list, numeric, phone-number, section-break, richtext, image, link, and youtube.

Finally, a field called valueRecommendationEnabled indicates whether the field’s value should be used for CEDAR’s intelligent authoring facilities.

Here is an example _ui field for a text field:

```
"ui": {
  "title": "Investigation Description",
  "description": "Provide a description of the investigation",
  "inputType": "textfield",
  "valueRecommendationEnabled": true
}
```
A template field can also be indicated as hidden, in which case the field will not be rendered in an acquisition tool. An optional boolean-valued field called hidden can be used inside the _ui object to indicate this state. In general, hidden fields must have a default value specified via an appropriate value constraint on the field.
Appendix A: JSON Schema

JSON Schema is a technology for describing and validating the structure of JSON data [JSON SCHEMA]. Its directives—themselves represented as standard JSON elements—can be used to provide a structural description of any JSON document. JSON documents that are specified with JSON Schema can be structurally validated against their associated schemas via off-the-shelf tools.

JSON Schema provides a set of directives to describes the structure of a JSON document. A JSON Schema specification contains a set of JSON Schema directives and is represented as a standard JSON document. A JSON Schema description is specified as a JSON object. The presence of a top-level field named `$schema` in a JSON object signals that it is a JSON Schema specification. The value of this field identifies the particular version of the JSON Schema specification that is being used.

A `type` field indicates the required type of the conforming JSON object. The possible value for this field are the core JSON types: `object`, `array`, `string`, `boolean`, `numeric`, and `null`. JSON Schema description objects can also optionally contain `title` and a `description` fields, which are descriptive only.

Here is a minimal JSON Schema description:

```json
{
    "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
    "type": "object",
    "title": "Minimal JSON Schema",
    "description": "Minimal JSON Schema specification"
}
```

The core JSON Schema directive is represented using a field called `properties`. This directive describes the fields that a conformant JSON object might or must have, together with associated sub-schema that constrain the values of these fields. The various fields in a schema and restrictions on them are listed in the `properties` field. The field names and their type information can be specified at this level.

As associated field called `required` is used to signal if those fields are required in a conforming JSON document. An `additionalProperties` Boolean field can also be included to indicate whether properties beyond those listed in the `properties` field can be included in a conforming instance data.

Here is a JSON Schema description for an empty JSON document:
This schema description specifies a JSON object that must not contain any fields. The only conforming JSON instance will be an empty object, i.e., it will be: {}.

The field values are in turn specified using JSON Schema.

For example, a schema description for a simple JSON object representing a basic study design, which has two required fields called `briefTitle` and `principalInvestigatorName`, can be specified in JSON Schema as follows:

```json
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
  "type": "object",
  "title": "Basic study design",
  "description": "Basic study design JSON Schema specification",
  "properties": {
    "briefTitle": { "type": "string" },
    "principalInvestigatorName": { "type": "string" }
  },
  "required": [ "briefTitle", "principalInvestigatorName" ],
  "additionalProperties": false
}
```

The above definition indicates that in any JSON document that follows this schema, `briefTitle` and `principalInvestigatorName` must be present and contain JSON strings, even if their values are empty. The field `additionalProperties` is false, which means that properties other than those listed in `properties` are not allowed. A conforming instance could look as follows:

```json
{
  "briefTitle": "A Big Study",
  "principalInvestigatorName": "Dr. P.I."
}
```

Restricting Property Values
In addition to restricting the type of a property, JSON Schema can also be used to restrict the values that a property can take. A JSON Schema field called `enum` can be used in a property definition directive to specify this value restriction. This field must have a value that is an array with at least one element, where each element is unique. The values in this array effectively specify the allowed values for the field.

For example, let's suppose that we would like a JSON object with a single required field called `language` and would like to restrict the possible values of that field to one of the strings “English” and “Spanish”. This can be achieved using the following schema:

```json
{
    "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
    "type": "object",
    "title": "Language type",
    "description": "Language type JSON Schema specification",
    "properties": {
        "language": {
            "type": "string",
            "enum": [ "English", "Spanish" ]
        }
    },
    "required": [ "language" ],
    "additionalProperties": false
}
```

A conforming JSON document fragment would be:

```json
{
    "language": "English",
}
```

An array with a single element can be used to restrict a field to a single value. For example, if we would like to specify that the above `language` field should only contain the language “English” we can simply specify that language as the single value in the array (i.e., `enum`: ["English"]).

**Nesting JSON Schema specifications**

As mentioned, field definitions inside a JSON Schema specification can themselves contain JSON Schema specifications, which effectively allows JSON Schema specification to be nested to arbitrary depths. For example, if we wish to indicate that the principal investigator named in the previous study design Schema is actually a compound object containing forename and surname fields we can express this as follows:

```json
{

}
As can be seen above, it is not necessary to repeat the $schema field inside nested elements. An instance conforming to the above specification would look as follows:

```json
{
    "briefTitle": "A Big Study",
    "principalInvestigatorName": {
        "forename": "Patrick",
        "surname": "O’Bannion"
    }
}
```

### Reusing JSON Schema specifications with $ref

To support the reuse of schema specifications, JSON Schema also includes a $ref directive. This directive can be used to refer to external JSON Schema descriptions. For example, instead of inlining the principal investigator name specification inside the study design specification, we can separately define the the principal investigator name and use the $ref directive to refer to it inside the study design specification:

```json
{
    "principalInvestigatorName": {
        "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
        "type": "object",
        "title": "Principal Investigator Name",
```
"description": "Principal investigator name JSON Schema specification",
"properties": {
    "forename": { "type": "string" },
    "surname": { "type": "string" }
},
"required": [ "forename", "surname" ],
"additionalProperties": false
},
"basicStudyDesign": {
    "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
    "type": "object",
    "title": "Basic study design",
    "description": "Basic study design JSON Schema specification",
    "properties": {
        "briefTitle": { "type": "string" },
        "principalInvestigatorName": { "$ref": "/principalInvestigatorName" }
    },
    "required": [ "briefTitle", "principalInvestigatorName" ],
    "additionalProperties": false
}
}

The reference uses JSON Pointer [JSON-POINTER] to specify the location of the referenced JSON Schema object. Here, the reference is to a field inside a JSON object in the same file. The reference can also be prefixed with a relative or absolute URL to reference a web-accessible resource.

Representing Arrays in JSON Schema

JSON Schema has inbuilt support for indicating that the value of a JSON field can be an array (see Section 4.1.4 of [JSON SCHEMA]).

For example, if we have a JSON field called \texttt{f1} that can contain an array of 2 to 4 objects we can express this in JSON Schema as:

\begin{verbatim}
"f1": {
    "type": "array", "minItems" : 2, "maxItems" : 4,
    "items" : {
        "type": "object"
    }
}
\end{verbatim}

A JSON document fragment for the property \texttt{f1} conforming to this schema could then look something like:
Here, the array elements could contain any JSON object.

If we want to restrict the schema of the objects in the array we can simply embed standard JSON Schema description inside the `items` field value.

For example, if we have the following JSON Schema description of a person object:

```json
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/schema#",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "name": { "type": "string" },
    "age": { "type": "number" }
  },
  "required": [ "name", "age" ],
}
```

we can extend the earlier definition of the `f1` field to indicate that the array must consist of person objects as follows:

```json
"f1": {
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/schema#",
  "type": "array", "minItems": 2, "maxItems": 4,
  "items": {
    "type": "object",
    "properties": {
      "name": { "type": "string" },
      "age": { "type": "number" }
    },
    "required": [ "name", "age" ],
  }
}
```

An example of a JSON document fragment for property "f1" conforming to this JSON Schema could then be:

```json
"f1": [ { "name": "Fred", "age": 55 },
        { "name": "Bob", "age": 26 } ]
```
Appendix B: JSON-LD

JSON-LD provides a lightweight syntax to add semantic annotations to JSON documents [JSON-LD]. The key goals of JSON-LD are to support the use of Linked Data in Web-based programming environments, to build interoperable Web services, and to store Linked Data in JSON-based storage engines. JSON-LD effectively allows JSON documents and their contents to be made available as Linked Data, offering the potential for machine-interpretable RDF semantics.

Core JSON-LD functionality is provided with just three fields: @type, @id, and @context. We will first describe these fields and outline how they can be used to add semantic markup to JSON documents.

**JSON-LD @type Field**

The @type field is used by JSON-LD to provide a principled way of adding additional type information to JSON objects. The value of this field is one or more URIs indicating the type or types of the associated object or field. (This constraint must be specified with JSON Schema on each @type declaration.)

For example, here is a simple template element for a study design where we indicate that each metadata instance must have a @type field, and that the value of the field must be a URI:

```json
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
  "type": "object",
  "title": "Basic Study Design",
  "description": "Basic example of a template element to describe a study",
  "properties": {
    "@type": {
      "type": "string", "format": "uri"
    },
    "briefTitle": { ... },
    "principalInvestigator": { ... }
  },
  "required": [ "@type", "briefTitle", "principalInvestigator" ],
  "additionalProperties": false
}
```

The following is an example of a conforming instance:

```json
{
  "@type": "https://example.com/SomeType",
}
```
It contains a @type field with a URI identifying a type.

If we wish to constrain the value of the @type field we can use JSON Schema’s enum clause to constrain the field value.

For example, to force the @type field in the instance data to contain the URI http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#C19067 we can extend the above specification as follows:

```json
{
    "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
    "type": "object",
    "title": "Basic Study Design",
    "description": "Basic example of a schema to describe a study",
    "properties": {
        "@type": {
            "type": "string", "format": "uri",
            "enum": [ "http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#C19067" ]
        },
        "briefTitle": { ... },
        "principalInvestigator": { ... }
    },
    "required": [ "@type", "briefTitle", "principalInvestigator" ],
    "additionalProperties": false
}
```

A conforming instance would then need to include a @type field with the specified URI as its value:

```json
{
    "@type": "http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/xml/owl/EVS/Thesaurus.owl#C19067",
    "briefTitle": { ... },
    "principalInvestigator": { ... }
}
```

This is basically a standard JSON Schema approach to forcing the values in JSON instance data to come from controlled term lists. The data will not validate if each field does not contain an exact value from the enumerated list.

If we wish to indicate that @type field may contain one or more URIs, we can use the JSON Schema oneOf directive to add that option. Here is the resulting specification:
The above specification states that the `@type` field must contain either a single quotation-enclosed URI value, or one or more quotation-enclosed URIs in a JSON array.

Examples of conforming field instances include:

```
"@type": "https://schema.org/Person"
"@type": [ "https://schema.org/Person" ]
"@type": [ "https://schema.org/Person", "https://schema.org/Place" ]
```

**JSON-LD @id Field**

JSON-LD also provides a universal identifier mechanism for JSON objects. It includes an identifier field called `@id` which contains an URI-encoded identifier. This field allows JSON objects to be identified via a web-accessible URI and allows the values of JSON fields to refer to a JSON object on a different site on the Web.

For example, here is a JSON Schema definition for a study design, which has been enhanced with JSON-LD `@id` markup:

```
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
  "type": "object",
  "@id": "https://example.com/StudyDesign",
  "title": "Basic Study Design",
  "description": "Basic example of a schema to describe a study",
  "properties": {
    "briefTitle": { ... },
```
Here the \texttt{@id} field is used to define the identifier used for this metadata template (i.e., https://example.com/StudyDesign). This field will make it possible to uniquely identify the schema specification object and to externally reference it.

We can also indicate that an instance conforming to this JSON Schema definition must include an \texttt{@id} field.

For example, here is the above study design template extended to force instances to contain an \texttt{@id} field:

```json
{
    "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
    "type": "object",
    "@id": "https://example.com/StudyDesign",
    "title": "Basic Study Design",
    "description": "Basic example of a schema to describe a study",
    "properties": {
        "@id": { "type": "string", "format": "uri" },
        "briefTitle": { ... },
        "principalInvestigator": { ... }
    },
    "required": [ "@id", "briefTitle", "principalInvestigator" ],
    "additionalProperties": false
}
```

The second \texttt{@id} field is located inside the \texttt{properties} object and it has also been set as a \texttt{required} property, so it indicates that any JSON document that follows this schema must have a property \texttt{@id} to identify it, whose value will be a URI. It restricts the identifier value in the field to be a URI, though users can use their own identifier mechanism to provide the actual identifier.

**JSON-LD \texttt{@context} Field**

Another key field defined by JSON-LD is named \texttt{@context}, and it is used to establish the namespaces for the elements in the document by mapping JSON field names to URIs. Primarily it is used to map field names to URIs identifying properties.
For example, a context definition mapping a _value field to the Schema.org https://schema.org/value property be:

"@context": {
    "_value": "https://schema.org/value"
}

The @context field is slightly more complex to specify than @type or @id fields, but adopts their same JSON-Schema-based specification approach.

For example, to force a JSON instance to contain the following @context field:

"@context": {
    "title": "https://schema.metadatacenter.org/title",
    "year": "https://schema.metadatacenter.org/year",
    "_value": "https://schema.org/value"
}

we can write the following in the JSON Schema-encoded specification:

"properties": {
    "@context": {
        "properties": {
            "title": { "enum": [ "https://schema.metadatacenter.org/title" ] },
            "year": { "enum": [ "https://schema.metadatacenter.org/year" ] },
            "_value": { "enum": [ "https://schema.org/value" ] }
        },
        "required": [ "title", "year", "_value" ],
        "additionalProperties": false
    },
    "required": [ "@context" ]
}

What we are basically trying to do here is to force the data to contain specific URIs that encode type information for the properties in the JSON object.
Glossary

**Metadata** – descriptors that describe the properties of data

**Metadata Template** – a composite set of metadata template elements and value elements

**Metadata Template Element** – reusable representation of one or more metadata descriptors relating to a particular aspect of some data; metadata template elements may contain more or more value elements and may be combined recursively to create more complex elements

**Metadata Template Field** - an atomic piece of metadata

**Metadata Template Instance** – instantiated metadata template

**URI** – Universal Resource Identifier
References

[BIOCADDIE] Ohno-machado, Lucila; Alter, George; Fore, Ian; Martone, Maryann; Sansone, Susanna-Assunta; Xu, Hua (2015): bioCADDIE white paper - Data Discovery Index. https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1362572.v1


[SHACL] Shapes Constraint Language (SHACL) https://www.w3.org/TR/shacl/

[SNOMEDCT-INSTITUTION] SNOMEDCT Institution class: http://purl.bioontology.org/ontology/SNOMEDCT/385437003