London Theatres Bibliography: an introduction to the web database

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Summary

1. Context: REED & LTB projects

2. The advantages of a database application

3. Getting started with the LTB data model

4. Examples from the admin interface

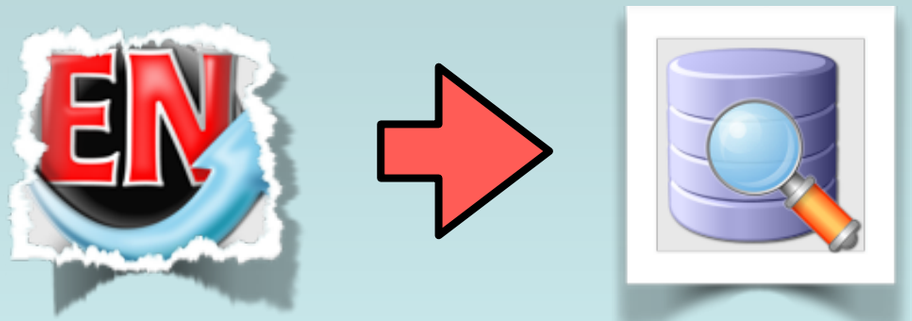
Context: REED and LTB projects

Records of Early English Drama

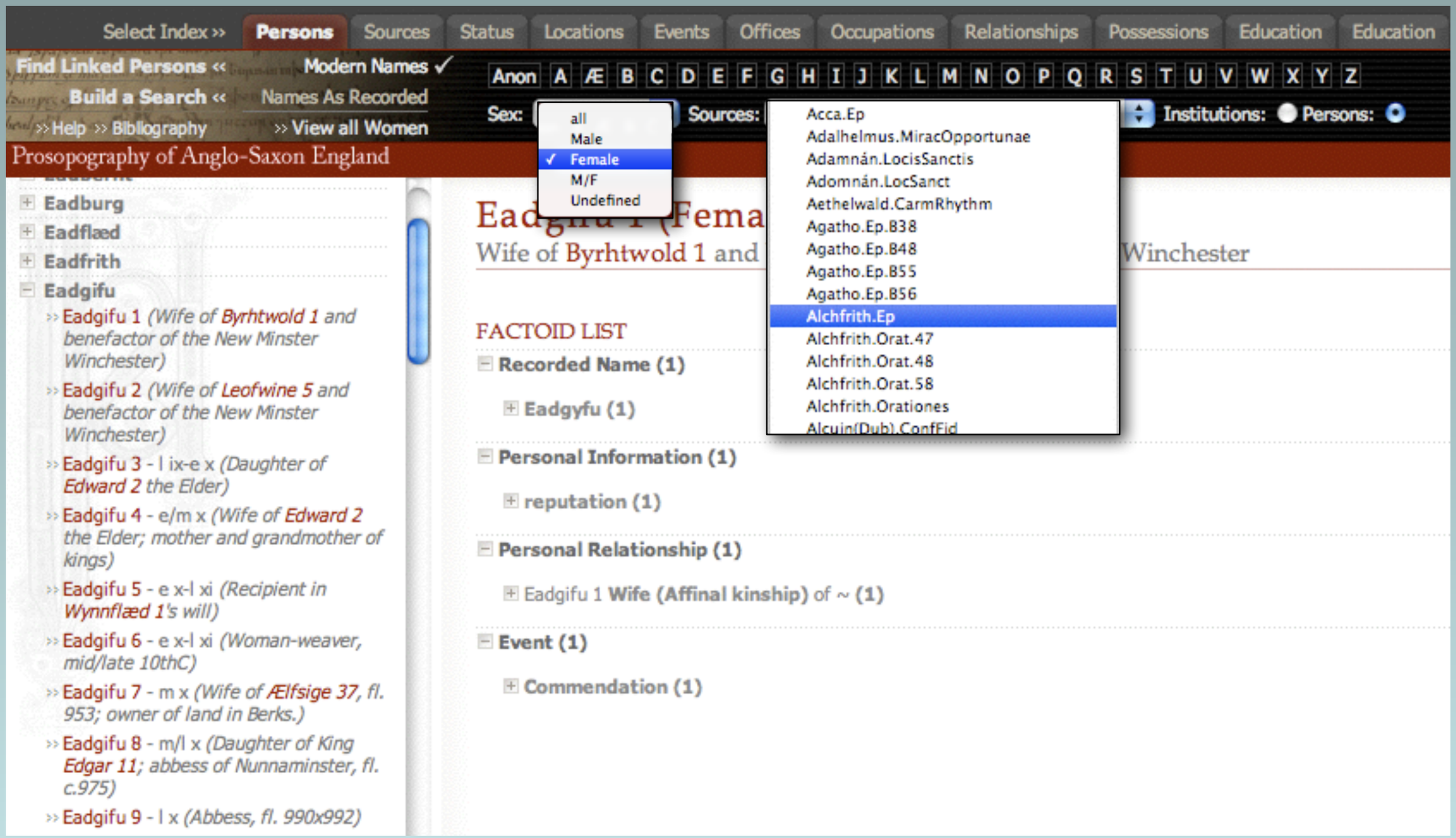
London Theatres Bibliography

A typical entry includes:

(1) bibliographical information on the **source**
(2) **dating** information
(3) notes on the **type** of the document; **location** and **citation** (standard and as cited in the source) and its **transcription** conventions
(4) notes on the **theatrical auspices**, **geographical** location, **company** and **individual** to which the record pertains
(5) an **abstract** of the document, and additional notes.

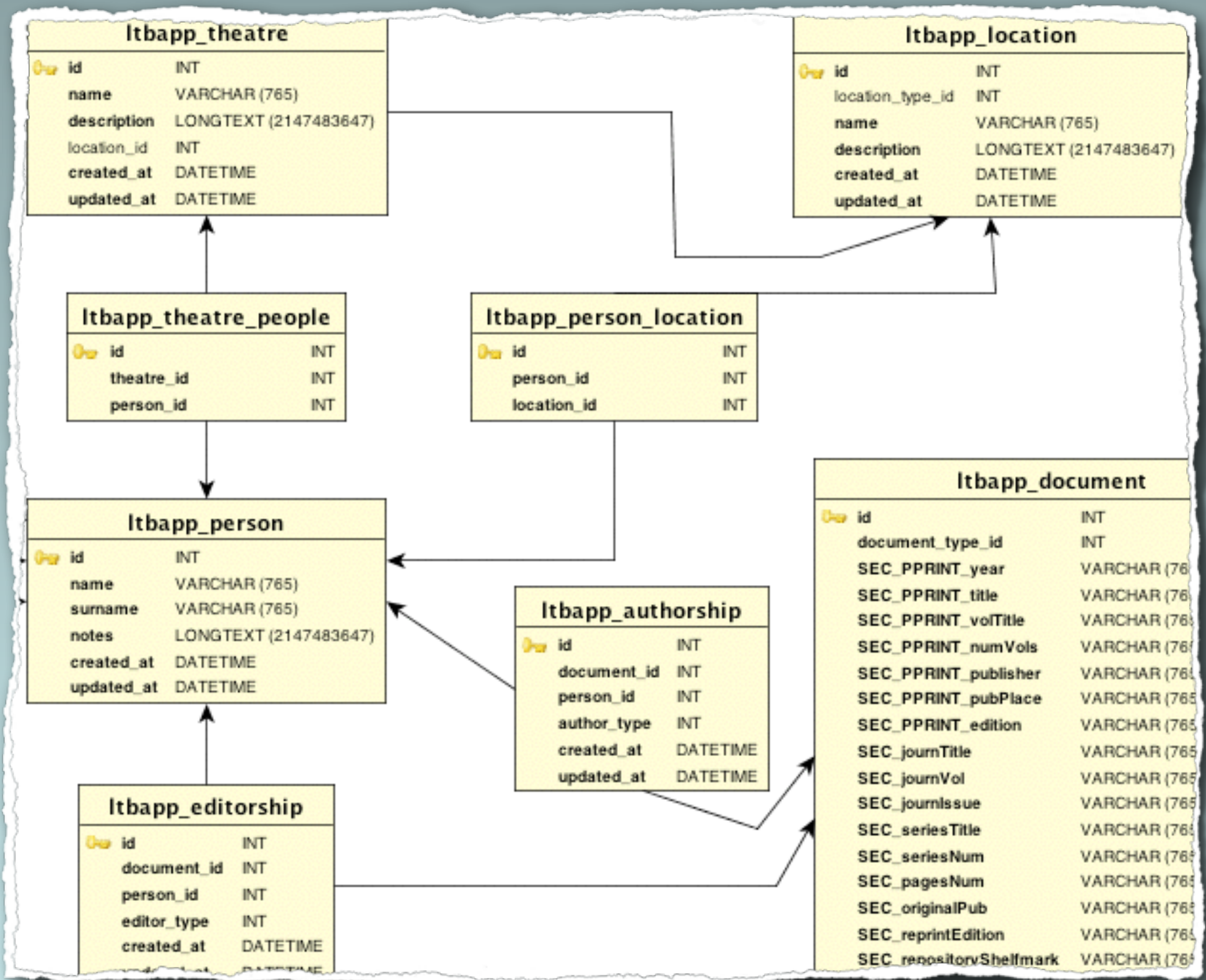


The advantages of a database application

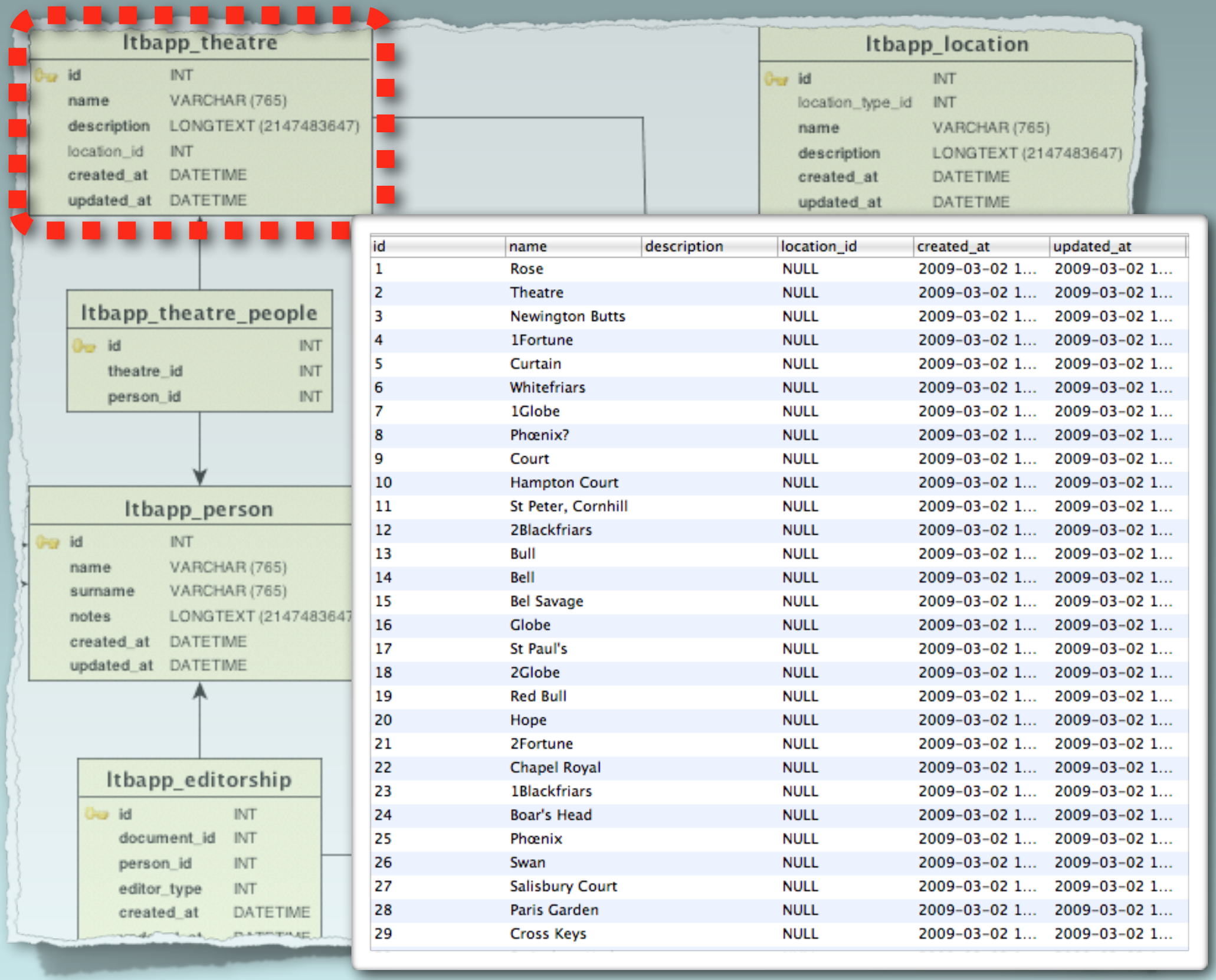


http://www.pase.ac.uk/

One step back: what's a database?



From Endnote to MySql..



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2	Theatre		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
3	Newington Butts		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
4	1Fortune		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
5	Curtain		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
6	Whitefriars		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
7	1Globe		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
8	Phœnix?		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
9	Court		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
10	Hampton Court		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
11	St Peter, Cornhill		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
12	2Blackfriars		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
13	Bull		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
14	Bell		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
15	Bel Savage		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
16	Globe		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
17	St Paul's		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
18	2Globe		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
19	Red Bull		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
20	Hope		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
21	2Fortune		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
22	Chapel Royal		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
23	1Blackfriars		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
24	Boar's Head		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
25	Phœnix		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
26	Swan		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
27	Salisbury Court		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
28	Paris Garden		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...
29	Cross Keys		NULL	2009-03-02 1...	2009-03-02 1...

LTB: what are we describing?

Persons

- *authors*
- *editors*
- *playwrights*
- *common p.*
- *etc..*

Places

- *county*
- *city*
- *state*
- *etc..*

Records

- *author*
- *comments*
- *events rel.*
- *pages cited*
- *etc..*

Sources

- *printed*
- *manuscript*
- *etc*

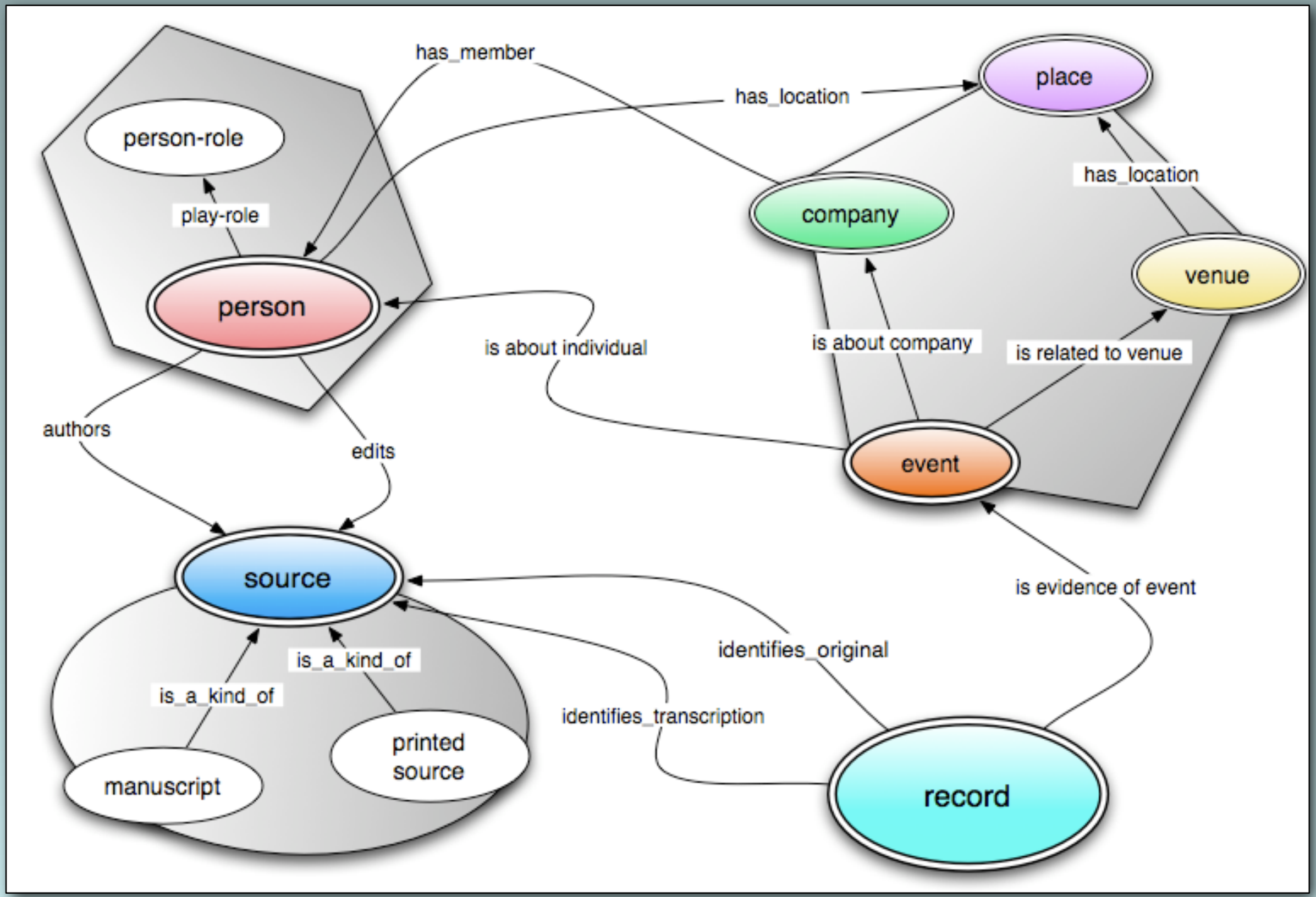
Companies

- *name*
- *location*
- *members*
- *etc..*

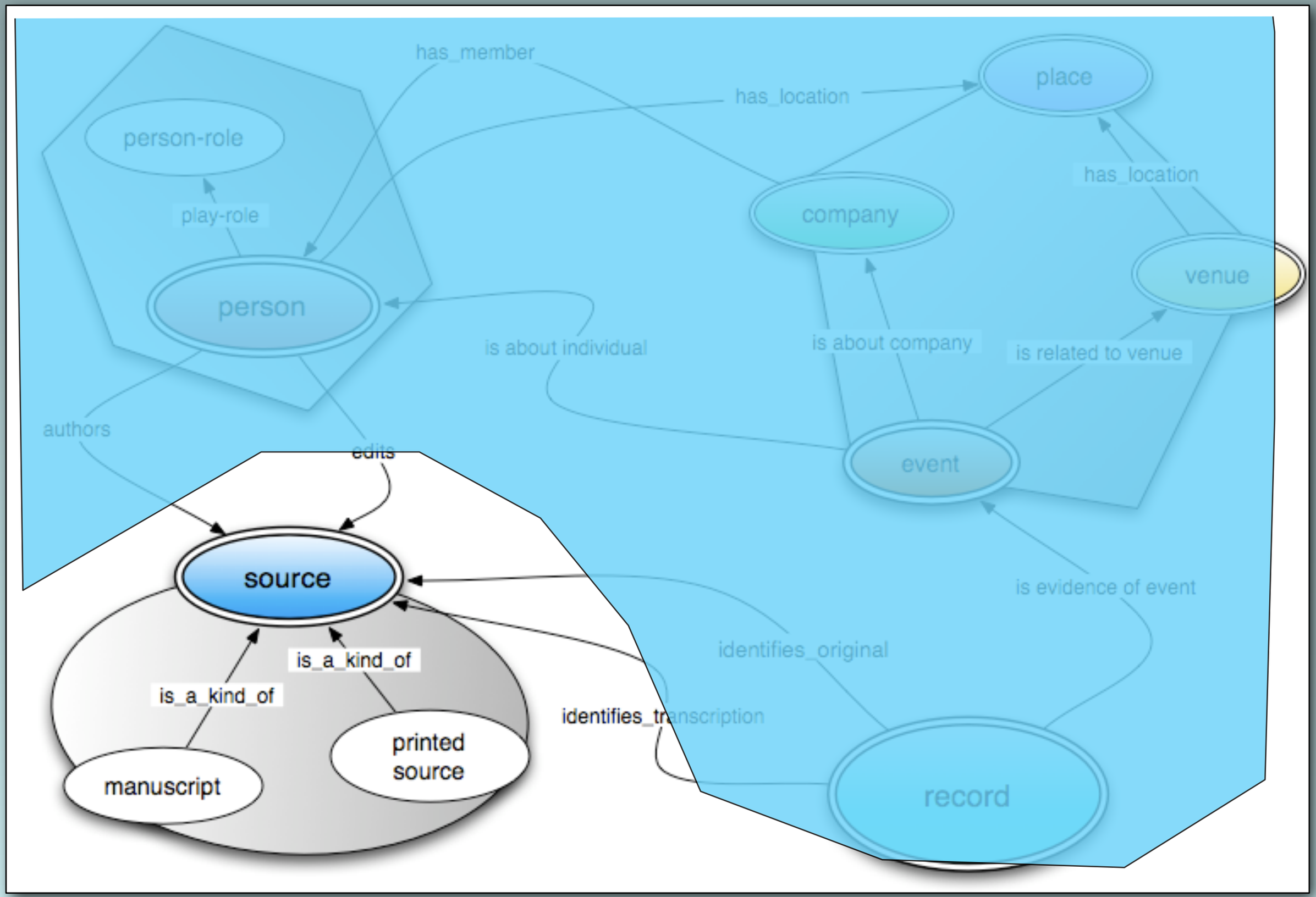
Theatres

- *name*
- *location*
- *members*
- *etc..*

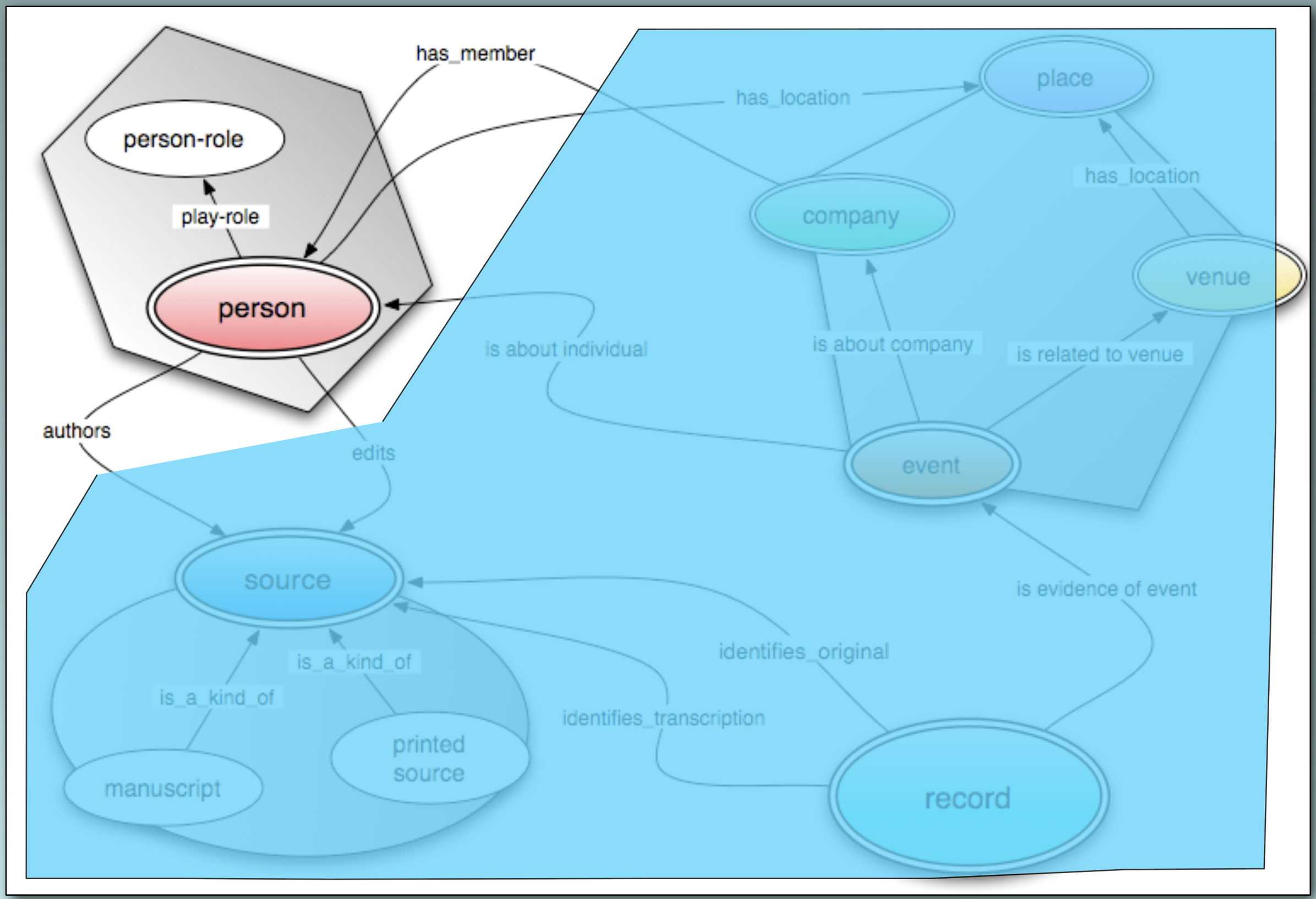
The entities in the LTB world: a ‘map’



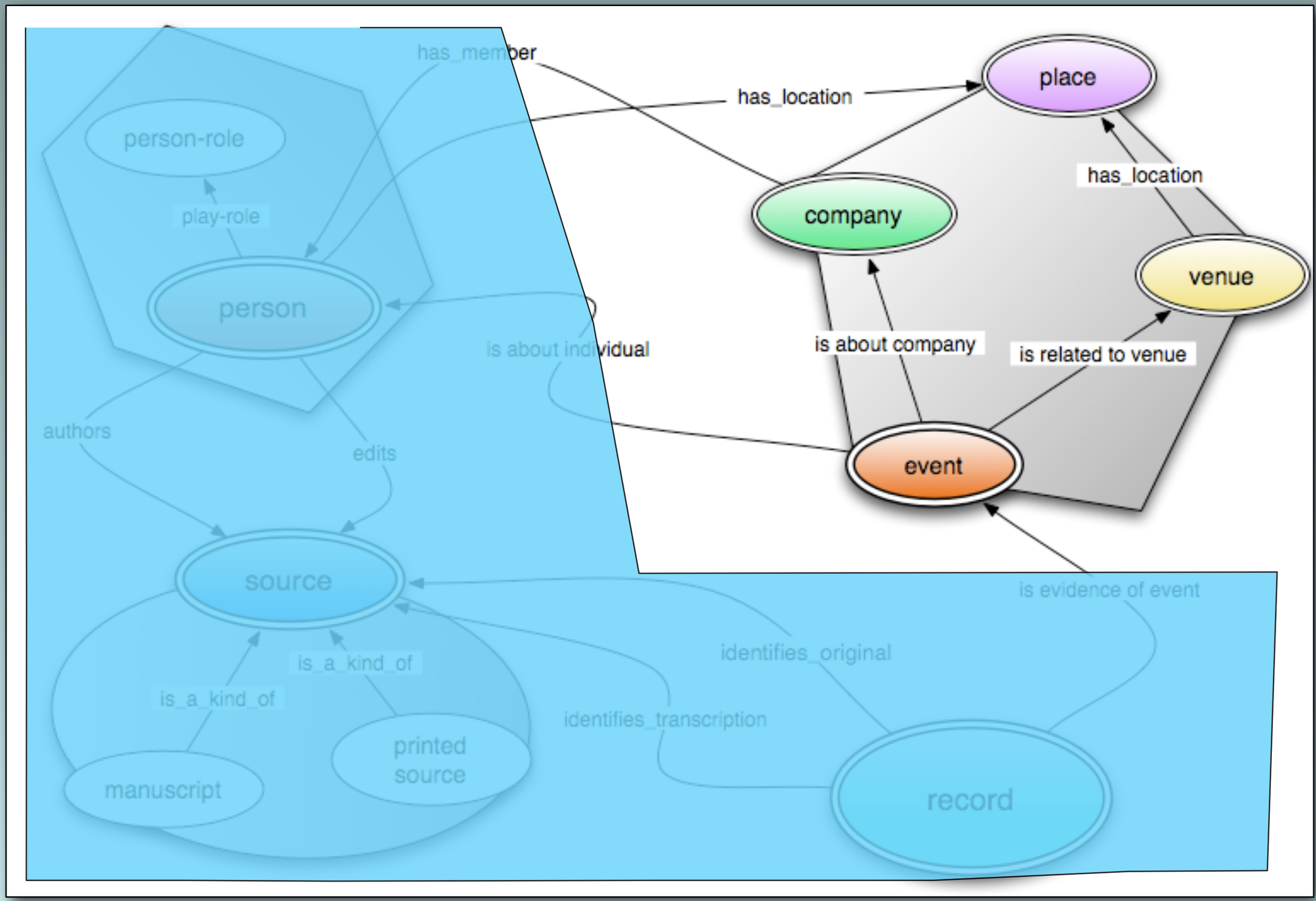
The entities in the LTB world: a ‘map’ #1



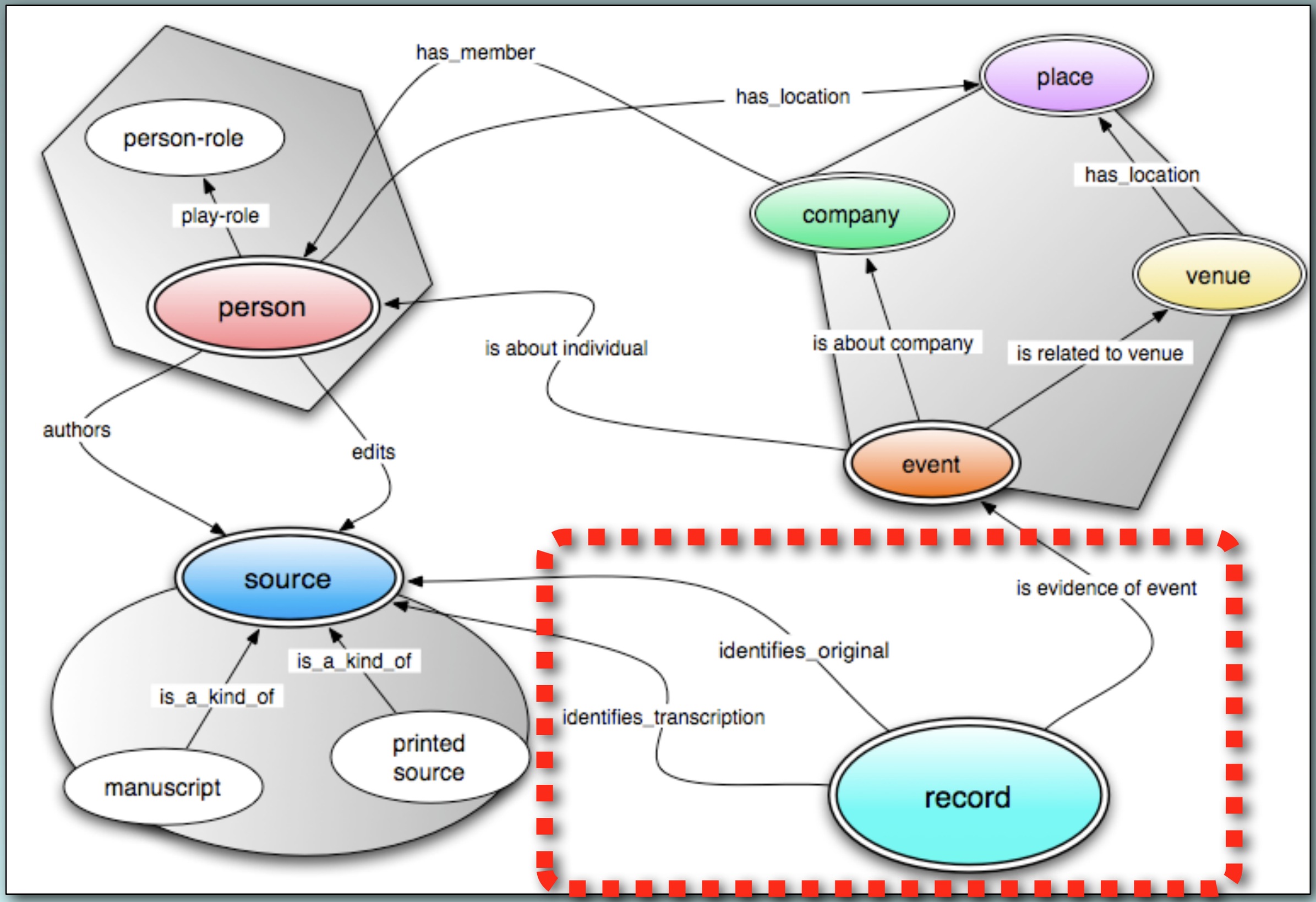
The entities in the LTB world: a ‘map’ #2



The entities in the LTB world: a ‘map’ #3



The entities in the LTB world: a ‘map’ #4



Designing a data model: 3 main points

1) **what** we want to represent
   - interests of the project
   - time constraints

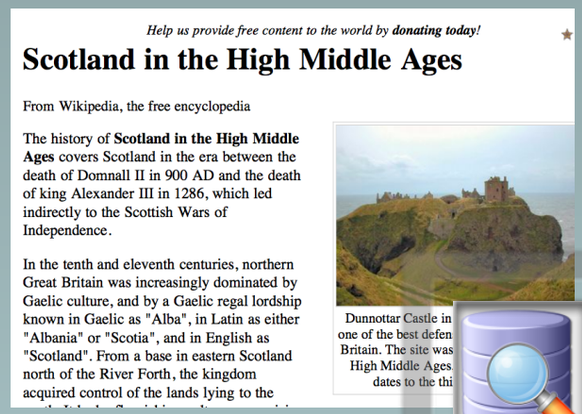
2) constraints imposed by the **medium**
   - because of its internal functioning
   - for better performance

3) data **interoperability** (both at human and machine level)
   - because we want to use other people's data
   - because we want to let other people use our data

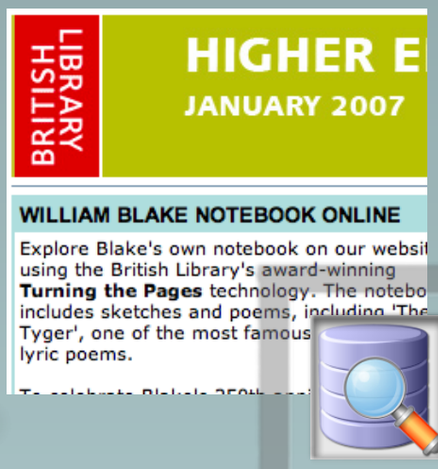
Databases and the web

P&P

DBPedia

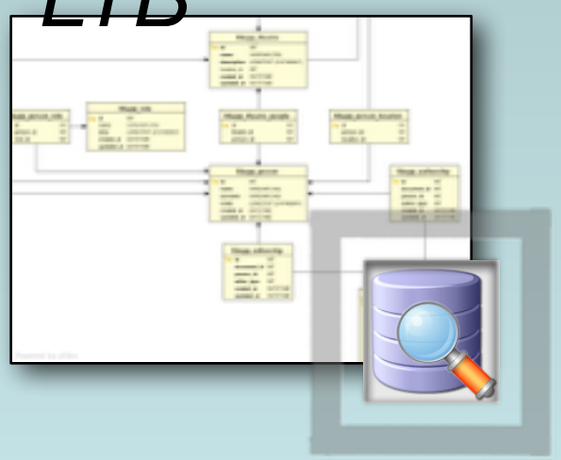


BL collection

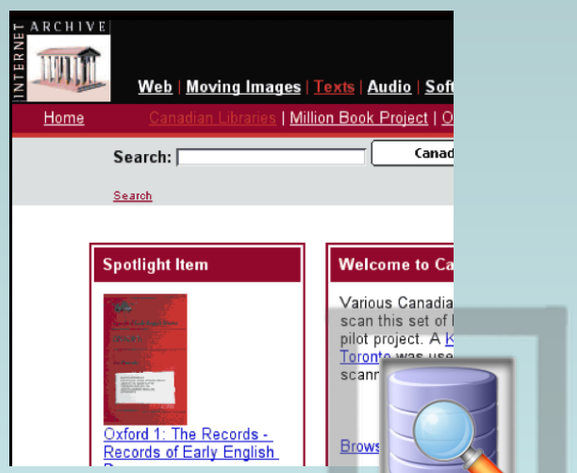


???

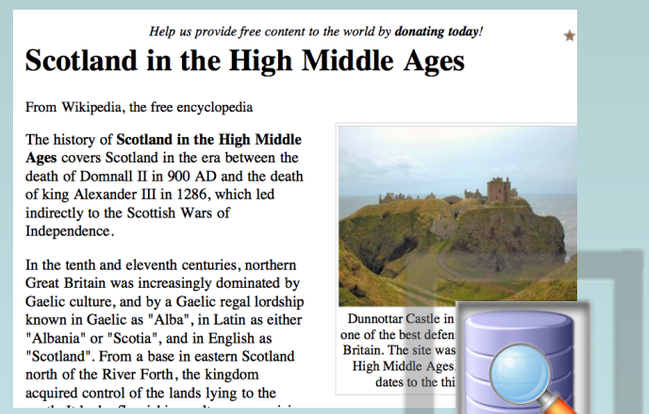
LTB



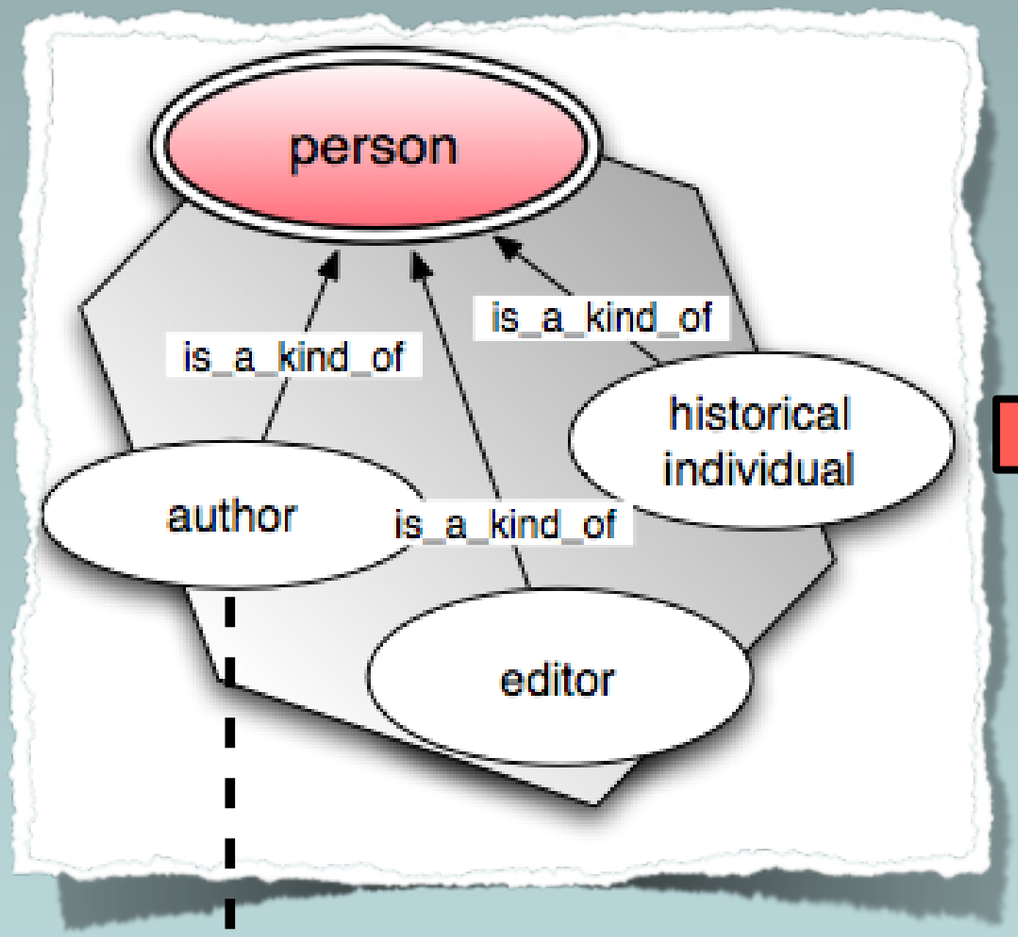
REED library



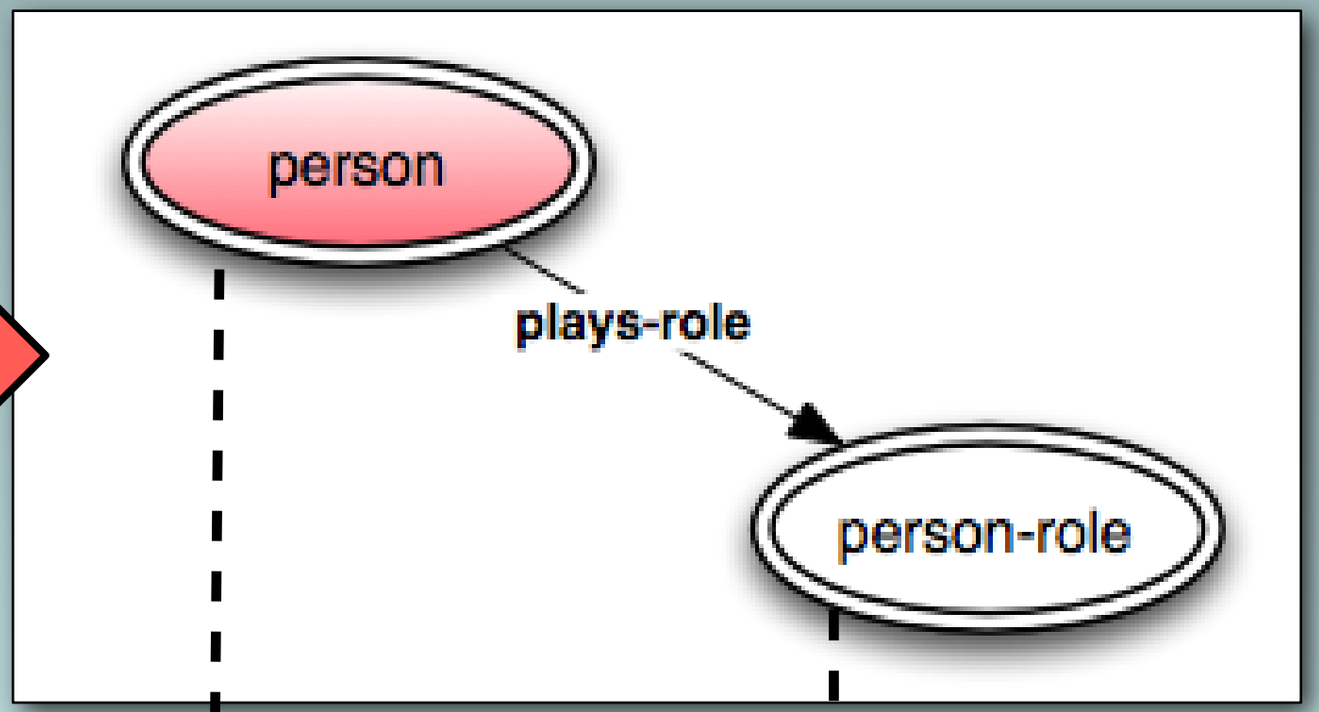
Geonames.org



LTB: looking for essential properties...



Mr. Jones



Mr. Jones

author, editor, common person...

Some conclusions

- it we care about interoperability, a ‘sound’ conceptual model will help!

- we’re now in the database-refinement phase
  - web application will be ready by next september
  - http://ltb.cch.kcl.ac.uk (still not working)

- ...many more technical details...
  - python language
  - django web-framework (will show some examples)
  - mysql database

Thanks.....

http://ltb.cch.kcl.ac.uk

http://staff.cch.kcl.ac.uk/~mpasin/