

Some thoughts on (Teaching about) Public Sector Information

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Introduction

- The **Public Sector Information (PSI)** or **Government Information** is the information created, collected and freely disseminated in the form of **public records** by the **Public Administration's (PA) functions**
- PSI management is an Information Science domain
- Related to Archives and Records Management as well as Library domains
- What are the main dimensions on which a Government Information management course should focus?
- A review of the current state of the art
- A review of the related courses

Public Sector Information

- The **Public Sector Information (PSI)** or **Government Information** is the information created, collected and freely disseminated in the form of **public records** by the **Public Administration's (PA) functions**
- It depicts the structure, the functions and the control mechanisms of PA
- Interface between PA and citizens
- Public Sector is the largest information provider in many countries
- The **public records** carry significant **PSI** and have their own characteristics (*due to different documentation logics and Records Management policies*)

Public Records

- They are produced by PA, in order to fulfill their objectives and accomplish their tasks
- Records provide the evidence of deliberations, decisions and transactions
- Significant information resource and their reuse is essential for:
 - public servants, citizens, businessmen and consumers
 - decision making and reasoning
 - added value services to the society: transparency, participation
 - historical research

Public records

Their continuing integrity is crucial
for as long as they have value for
government or the community

Records Management

- Definition: capturing, registering, classifying and storing of records
- Adoption of standards is for:
 - documentation,
 - assigning terminology (i.e. administrative functions) to the documentation,
 - the organization and dissemination and
 - facilitating the communication between systems and promoting interoperability
- ISO 15489:
 - framework for recordkeeping; requirements for good records management; design of recordkeeping systems; developing records management policy
 - advices for records management processes: thesauri, disposal authorities, and security and access
 - auditing and training
- ISO 23081-1
 - a guide to understanding, implementing and using metadata within the framework of ISO 15489
 - Metadata about record itself, the business rules/policies and mandates, agents (or people), business activities/processes, records management processes, and the metadata record, itself

Related Archival Metadata Standards

- ISAD – EAD
- ISAAR – EAC
- ISDF (international standard for describing functions)

E-records

- Records in electronic format
 - Documents a transaction that happens as a result of someone taking a particular action at a particular time
 - evidence of what has happened, of who was involved and when
- The vehicle for developing e-government

E-Records (successful) management

- Main activities
 - creation & capture
 - control
 - classification, registration & indexing
 - maintenance and use
 - storage
 - disposal
 - access
- The role of standards
- The role of regulations and legislation

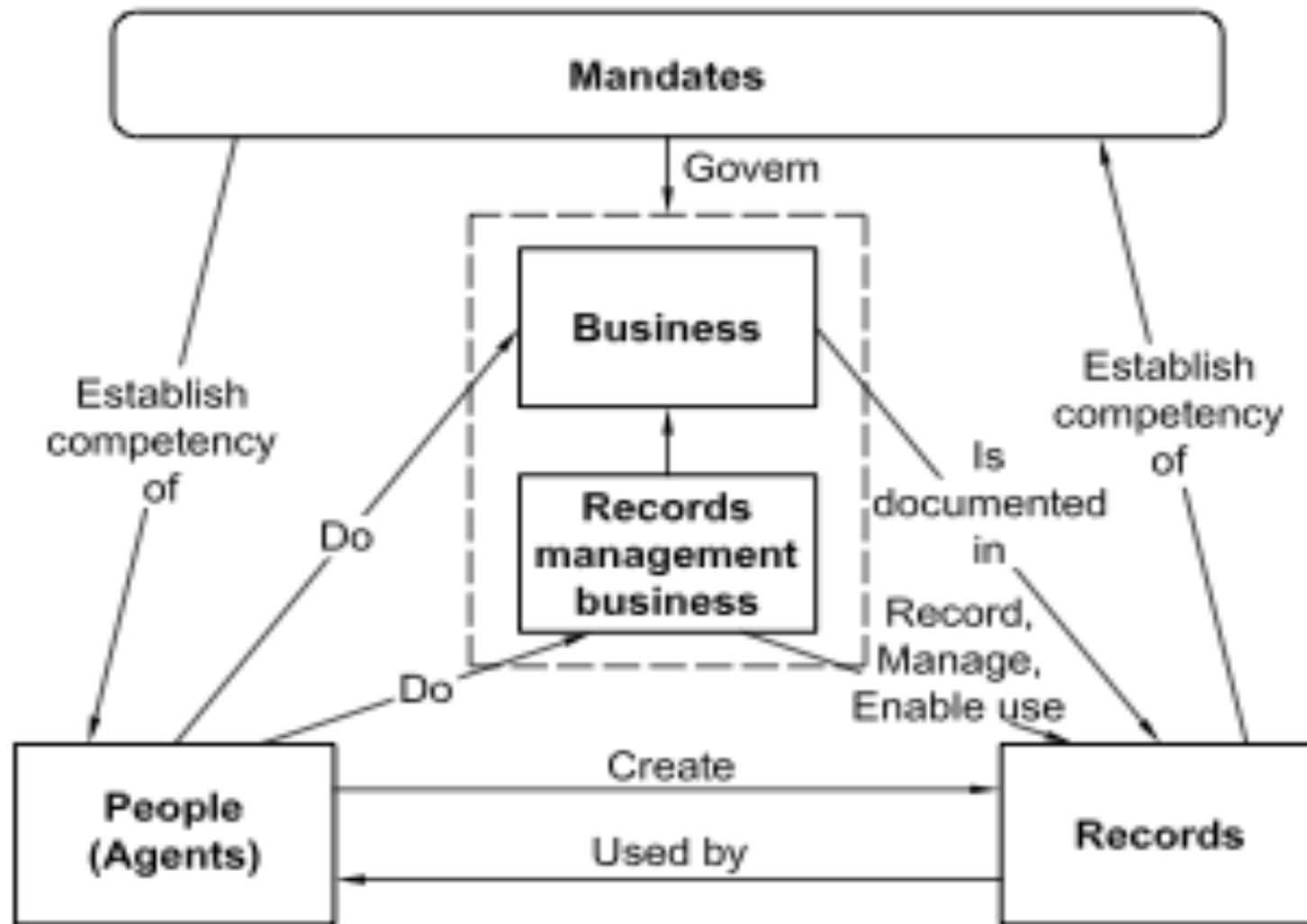
New issues (1/2)

- Capture: web archiving, e-mails, integration
- Organization and access
 - Metadata standards:
 - Moreq (European Standard),
 - Dublin Core e-government application profile
 - AGLS, NZGLS, e-GMS (based on Dublin Core),
 - GILS(based on MARC),
 - GovML
 - Approaches: Citizen/services vs management
- Terminology:
 - EUROVOC, GLIN

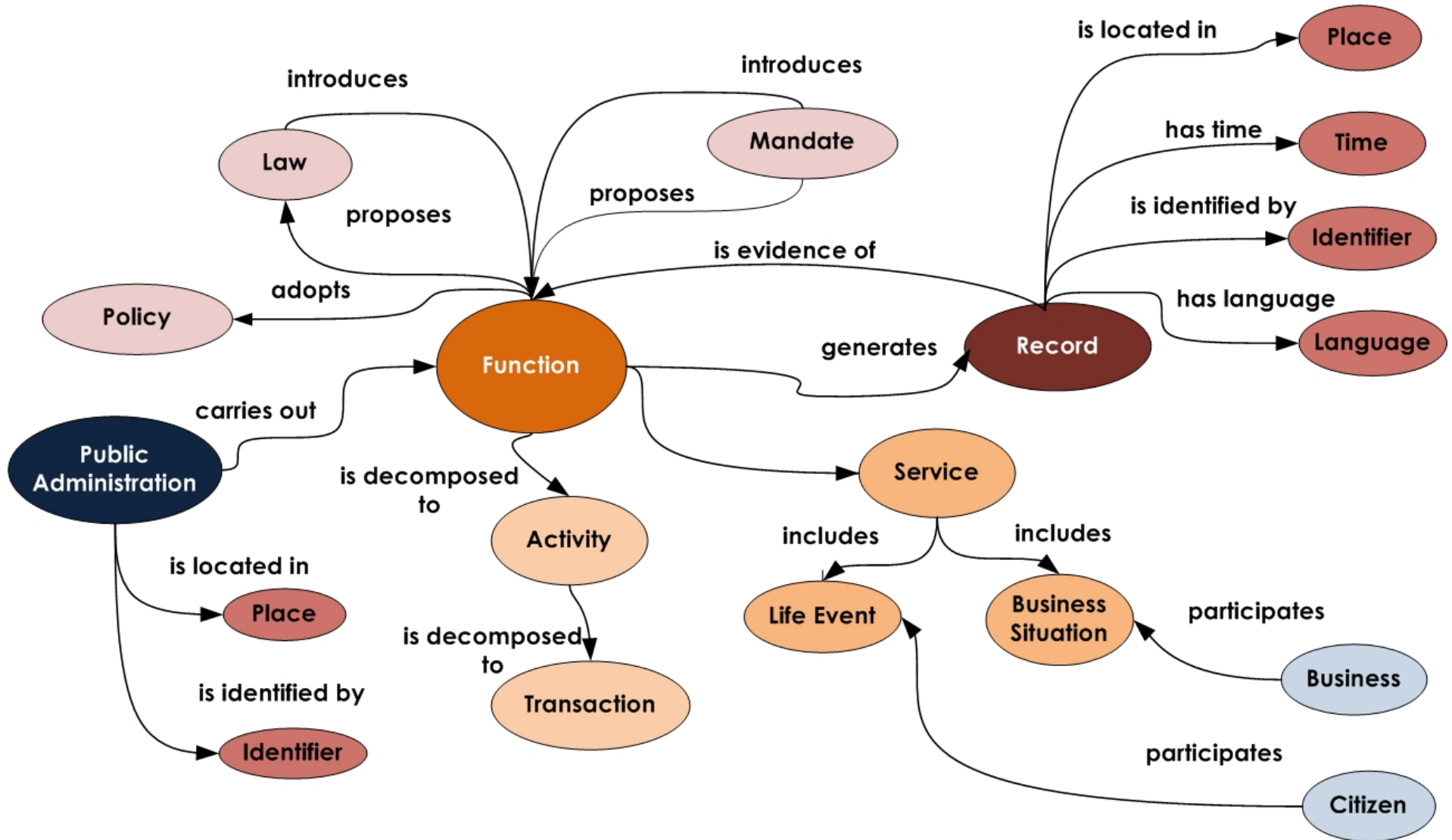
New issues (2/2)

- Harvesting, aggregation
- Preservation, curation
- Interoperability
 - e-GIF
- How Government Information will meet the web community?
 - Linked Data and Semantic web
 - Data Models for Government Information
 - Abstract models, reference models or ontologies
 - Main concepts in PA and their relations

ISO 23081-1 data model

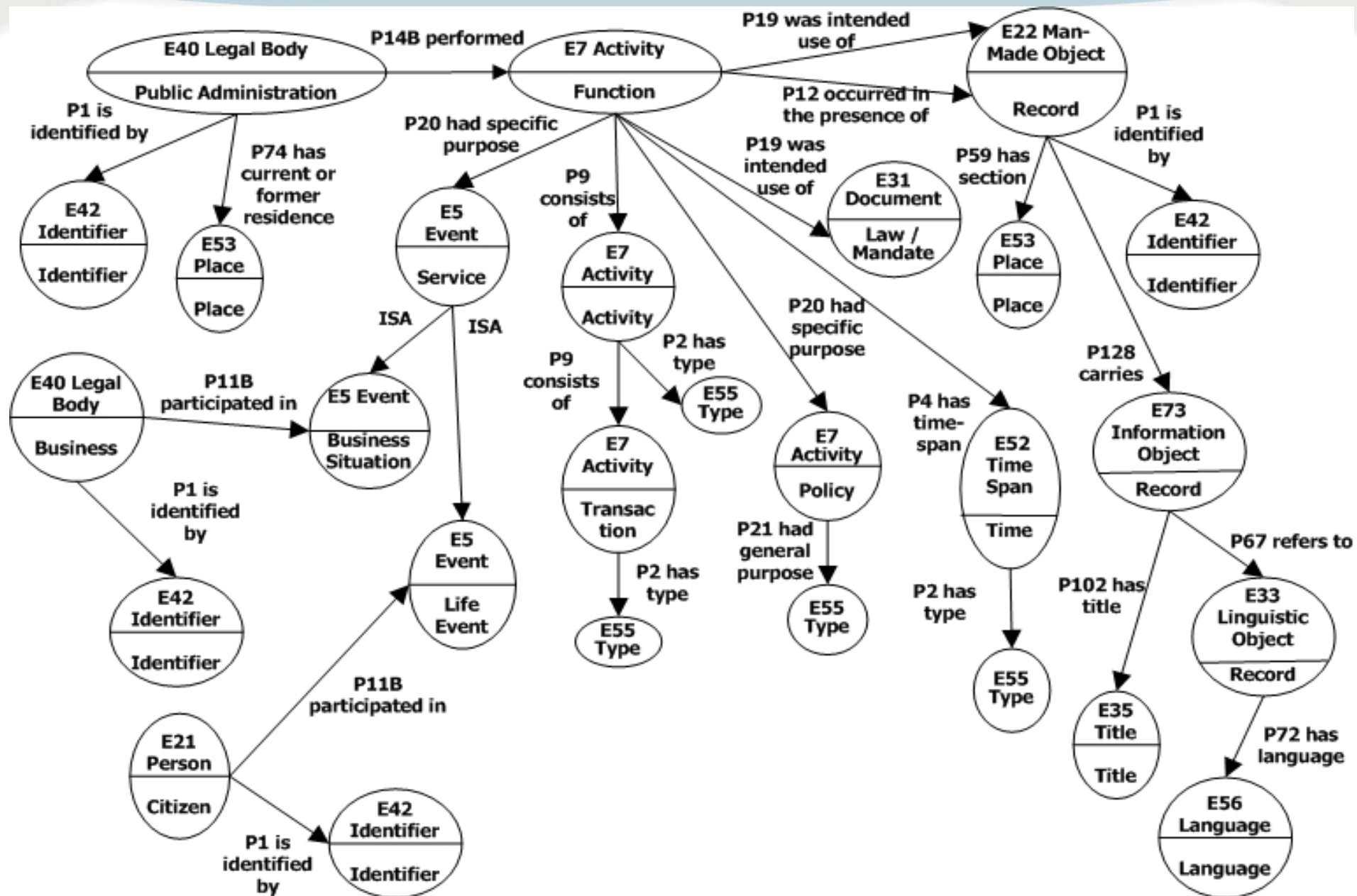


The production and management of PSI



Mapping PSI concepts to CIDOC CRM

- The three main PSI concepts and their corresponding CIDOC CRM classes are:
 - **Function**: E7 Activity (actions intentionally carried out by E39 Actor and its subclasses (i.e. E40 Legal Body) that result in changes of state in the cultural, social, or physical systems). Hence, its instances can be used to represent the functions carried out by the PA for the creation and modification of PSI.
 - **Record**: E22 Man-Made Object, E73 Information Object, E33 Linguistic object (a record may incorporate multiple views).
 - **PA**: E40 Legal Body (the institutions or groups of people that have obtained a legal form as a group, can act collectively and can be held collectively responsible for their actions).
- Notice that the **functions** include **activities** and activities include **transactions**, which are also represented as instances of E7 Activity.



Dept. Archives, Library Science and Museology, Ionian University

- Undergraduate

- Archive studies (4 core courses)
- Business and Organization Archives: Records Management, e-Records
- Data encoding
- Metadata
- Preservation
- Institutions history
- Government Publications
- History of the Greek state
- General Principles of Law
- Copyright Law

- Postgraduate (2003 – 2008)

- Government Information

Conclusions

- Multi-dimensionality
 - cover every aspect of human life
 - cover the activities of PSI management ('traditional' and electronic formats)
- Multi-volume (storage, retrieval)
- Variable (preservation, curation)
- Web – based standards
- Interoperability