

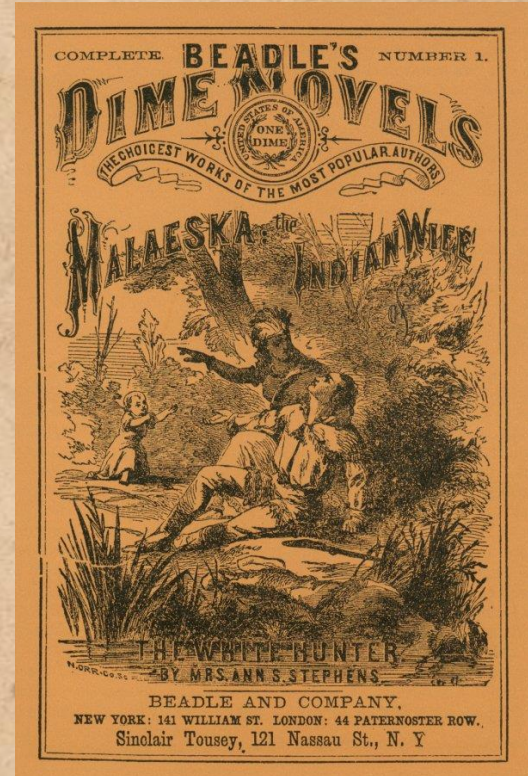
Linked Open Dime Novels; or, 19th Century Fiction and 21st Century Data

Demian Katz, Villanova University

Matthew Short, Northern Illinois University

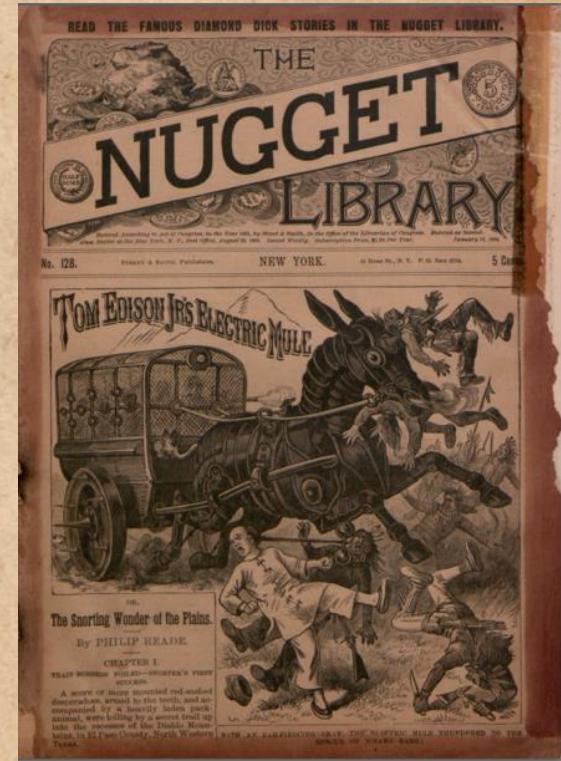
What are Dime Novels?

- Cheaply produced popular fiction sold in the United States in the late 19th century (1860-1915)
- Popular among working class people and children
- Often dealt with issues of gender, class, and race
- Early American genre fiction, including westerns, romance, detective stories, and science fiction



Bibliographic Nightmares

- Always issued in a series, issues often contain multiple stories, stories sometimes serialized
- Frequently reprinted, usually in different formats and with major or minor variations
- Stories often attributed to pseudonyms, which may be shared by several real-world persons



Johannsen and LeBlanc

[Home](#)[Information](#)[Contents](#)[Search](#)[Links](#)

The House of Beadle and Adams AND ITS DIME AND NICKEL NOVELS *The Story of a Vanished Literature*

BY

ALBERT JOHANNSEN

Online

A project of the Northern Illinois University Libraries DeKalb, Illinois 60115
DimeNovels@niu.edu



The Edward T. LeBlanc Memorial
DIME NOVEL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sign Up • Log In • Search:

Title



Search

Main Menu

Database

List Series [by name, by category, by city, by country, by language, by publisher, with comments]

List People [by name, with biographical notes]

List Items [by name, by subject/tag, by year, with full text, with reviews]

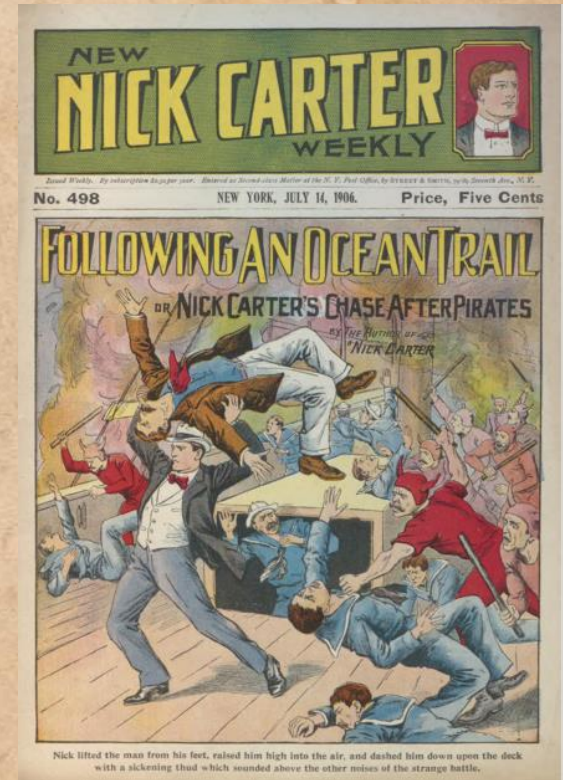
Users

List Registered Users

Browse Recent Reviews

Digital Dime Novels

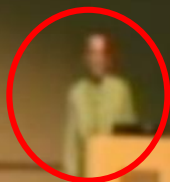
- Dime Novel and Popular Literature (Villanova Digital Library)
- Nickels and Dimes (NIU Digital Library)
- Dime Novel Collection (University of South Florida)
- American Women Dime Novel Project
- Nickel Weeklies (Bowling Green State University)
- Dime Novels and Penny Dreadfuls (Stanford University)



Gamebooks.org
Dewey-Dewby
and the Dewey Dewey Bibliography Project

James H. Dewey
1859-1931

Gamebooks.org
www.gamebooks.org



Dime Novel Ontology

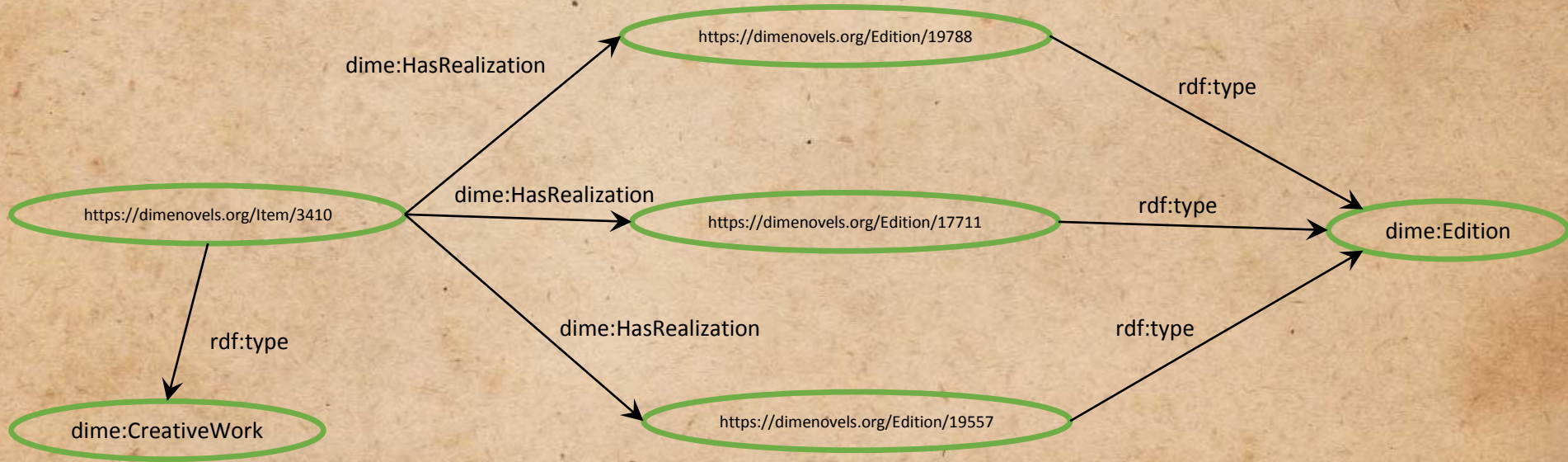
- Local classes and properties, including CreativeWork, Edition, Copy, and Series
- Intended to align with existing dimenovels.org data model
- Majority of properties taken from RDA Unconstrained
- Partial imports of FOAF, SKOS, Dublin Core



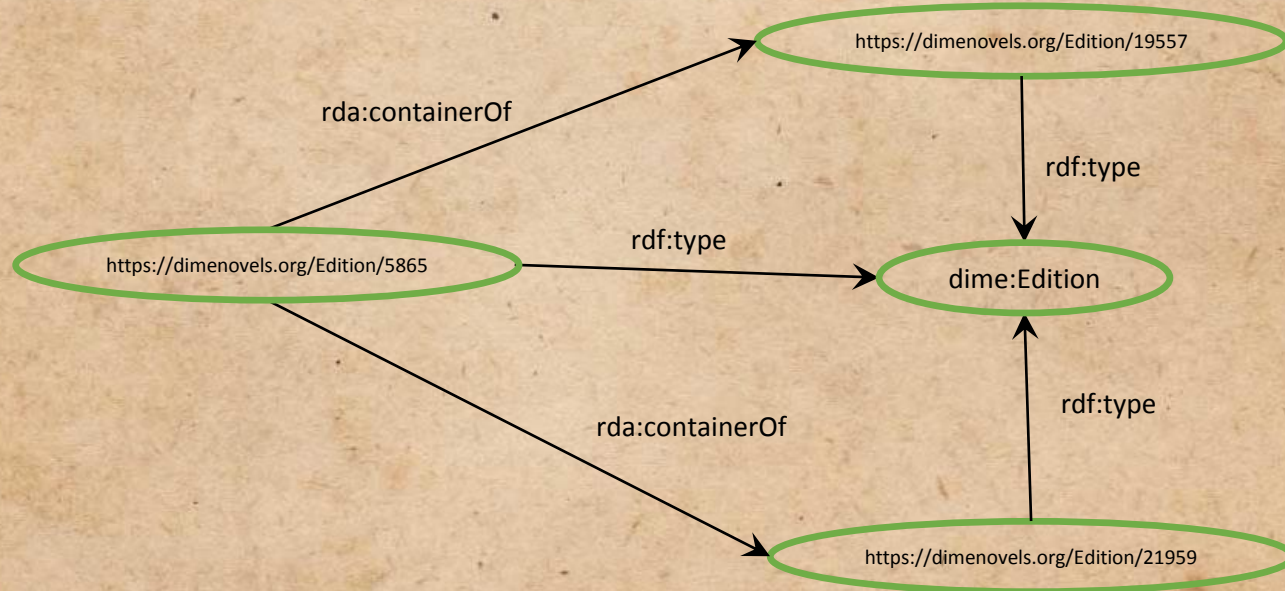
Copyright 1908-1909, by Beadle & Adams. Entered at Post Office, New York, N. Y., as second class matter, Mar. 13, 1909.
No. 15. *Janus Weekly.* June 21, 1909. **M. J. IVEHS & CO., Publishers,** James Sullivan, Proprietor, 379 Pearl Street, New York. *Price 5 Cents.* \$2.50 a Year. Vol. II.



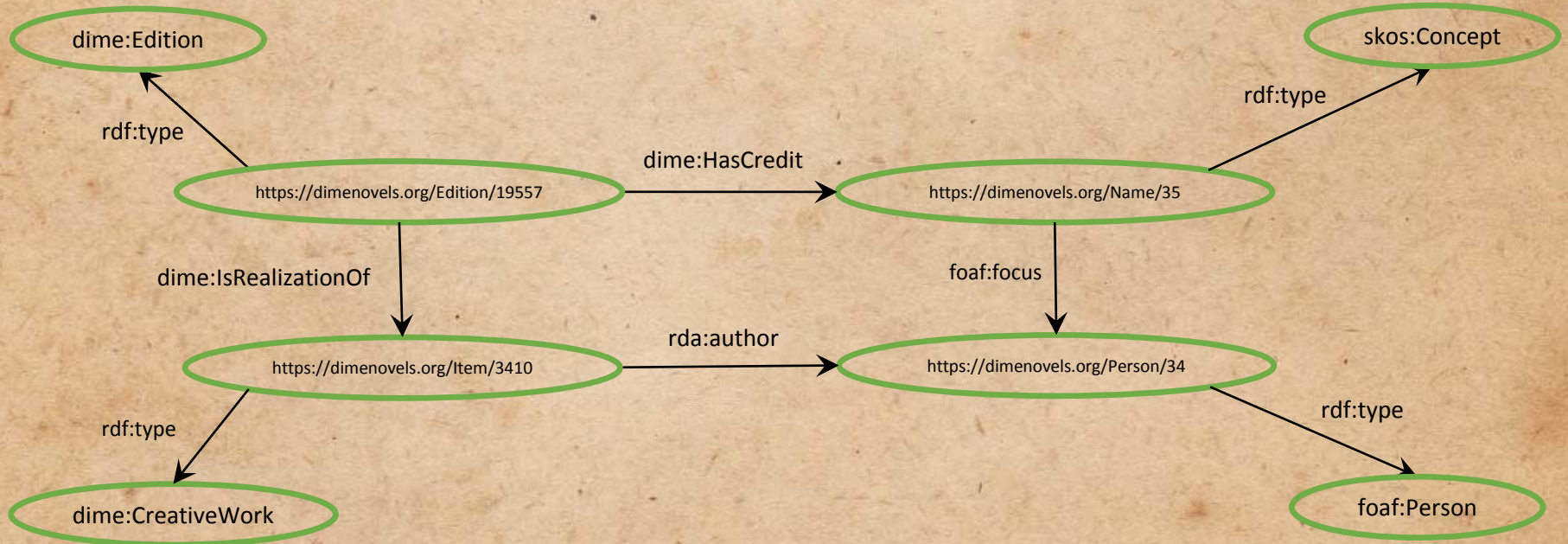
Complex Editions



Complex Containers

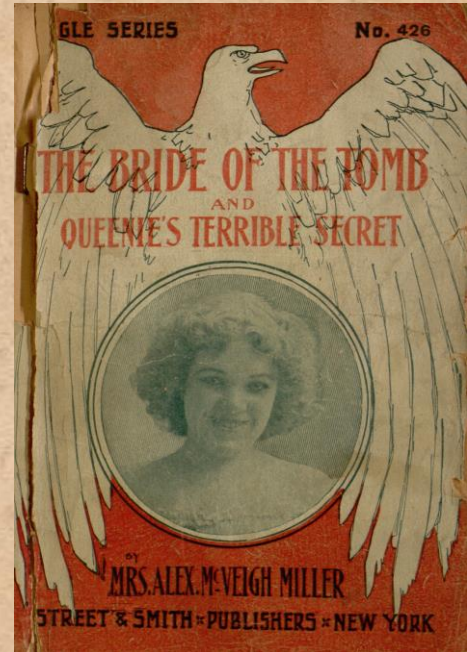


Complex Attributions



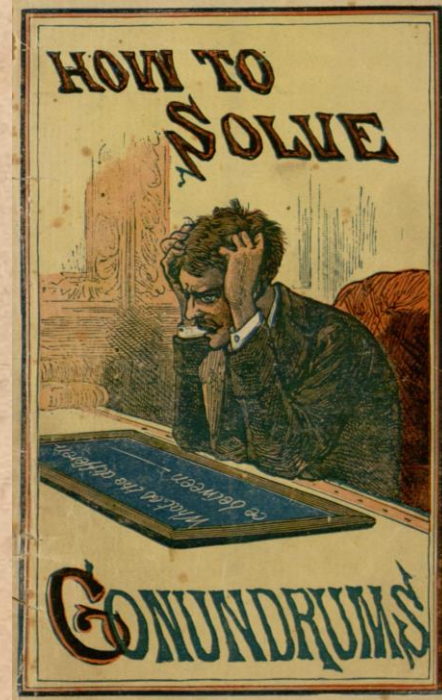
dimenovels.org Infrastructure

- Built on Geeby-Deeby (PHP/MySQL/Zend Framework 2 application)
<https://github.com/demiankatz/Geeby-Deeby>
- Already structured in an RDF-friendly way, with “pretty” URLs (e.g. <https://dimenovels.org/Item/505>)
- Underlying database schema conceptually similar to the desired RDF representation



Incorporating RDF into Geeby-Deeby

- Introduce content negotiation (using `\Zend\Http\Header\Accept`)
- Create alternate views to render RDF for content (using EasyRDF library)
- Adjust database schema / data entry UI to allow external RDF associations



Ingesting Data with Help from RDF

- NIU includes linked data identifiers in MODS
- These identifiers can be used to match up data between systems
- A custom import tool was written to load NIU data; result: hundreds of new dimenovels.org records, plus numerous errors discovered and corrected on both sides



Sharing Connections with NIU

- The dimenovels.org RDF data contains information about relationships (alternate editions, other full text copies) not expressed in NIU's MODS
- With the help of dimenovels.org Edition URIs stored in Fedora and a SPARQL query, NIU could display additional links in their user interface



The screenshot shows a digital library record for the book "A young gold king, or, The treasure of the secret caves". The record includes fields for Title, Author, Publisher, Date of Publication, Copyright Date, Series, Genre, Subject, Pages, Note(s), Location, and Rights. A "Download" section offers PDF and cover files. A "Share" section includes links for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and Reddit. A "Browse related editions" section is circled in red and lists three related editions: "A Young Gold King, or, The Treasure of the Secret Caves", "Turned out West, or, The boy who found a gold mine", and "On top, or, The boy who got there".

Title	A young gold king, or, The treasure of the secret caves
Author	Self-made man, 1853-1915
Publisher	Frank Tousey, 168 West 23d Street
Date of Publication	1916-11-10
Copyright Date	1916
Series	Fame and fortune weekly ; no. 580
Genre	Bildungsromans Sea stories
Subject	Treasure troves--Fiction Kings and rulers--Fiction Caves--Fiction
Pages	31 pages
Note(s)	Title from caption. Illustrated paper cover in colors. "November 16, 1916." "Stories of boys who make money." Printed in double columns. Includes chapters XVII-XVIII of: Turned out West, or, The boy who found a gold mine / by Gaston Garne. Includes chapter II of: On top, or, The boy who got there / by Ed King. Includes some short articles and a short story: No duel / by D. W. Stevens.
Location	Edward T. LeBlanc Collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, Northern Illinois University.
Rights	Use of this public-domain resource is unrestricted.

Download

- [PDF \(23.16M\)](#)
- [Cover \(1.38M\)](#)

Share

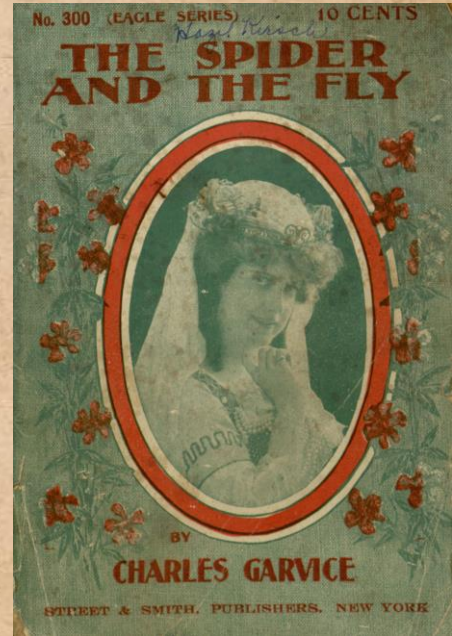
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Google+](#)
- [Reddit](#)

Browse related editions:

- [A Young Gold King, or, The Treasure of the Secret Caves](#)
- [Turned out West, or, The boy who found a gold mine](#)
- [On top, or, The boy who got there](#)

Attempt 1: Hosted at dimenovels.org

- Wrote Murpoint to harvest all RDF to a single n-triples file:
<https://github.com/FalveyLibraryTechnology/Murpoint>
- Loaded Murpoint output into Fuseki for SPARQL query support
- This allowed a successful implementation.
- Problem: Makes NIU interface dependent on dimenovels.org infrastructure



Attempt 2: Hosted at NIU

- Problem: limited available infrastructure at NIU
- Solution: ARC2, a PHP/MySQL-based library and triplestore
- With a simple change of SPARQL endpoint address, the existing solution continues working
- Key takeaway: RDF is very portable!



Useful Links

Nickels and Dimes: <http://dimenovels.lib.niu.edu/>

Edward T. LeBlanc Memorial Bibliography: <https://dimenovels.org/>

Dime Novel Ontology: <https://dimenovels.org/ontology>

Villanova Dime Novel Collection: <http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Collection/vudl:24093>

Geeby-Deeby: <https://github.com/demiankatz/Geeby-Deeby>

Murpoint: <https://github.com/FalveyLibraryTechnology/Murpoint>