

Discerning the Intellectual Focus of Annotations

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The Problem

One example:

managing annotations during document reformatting and translation

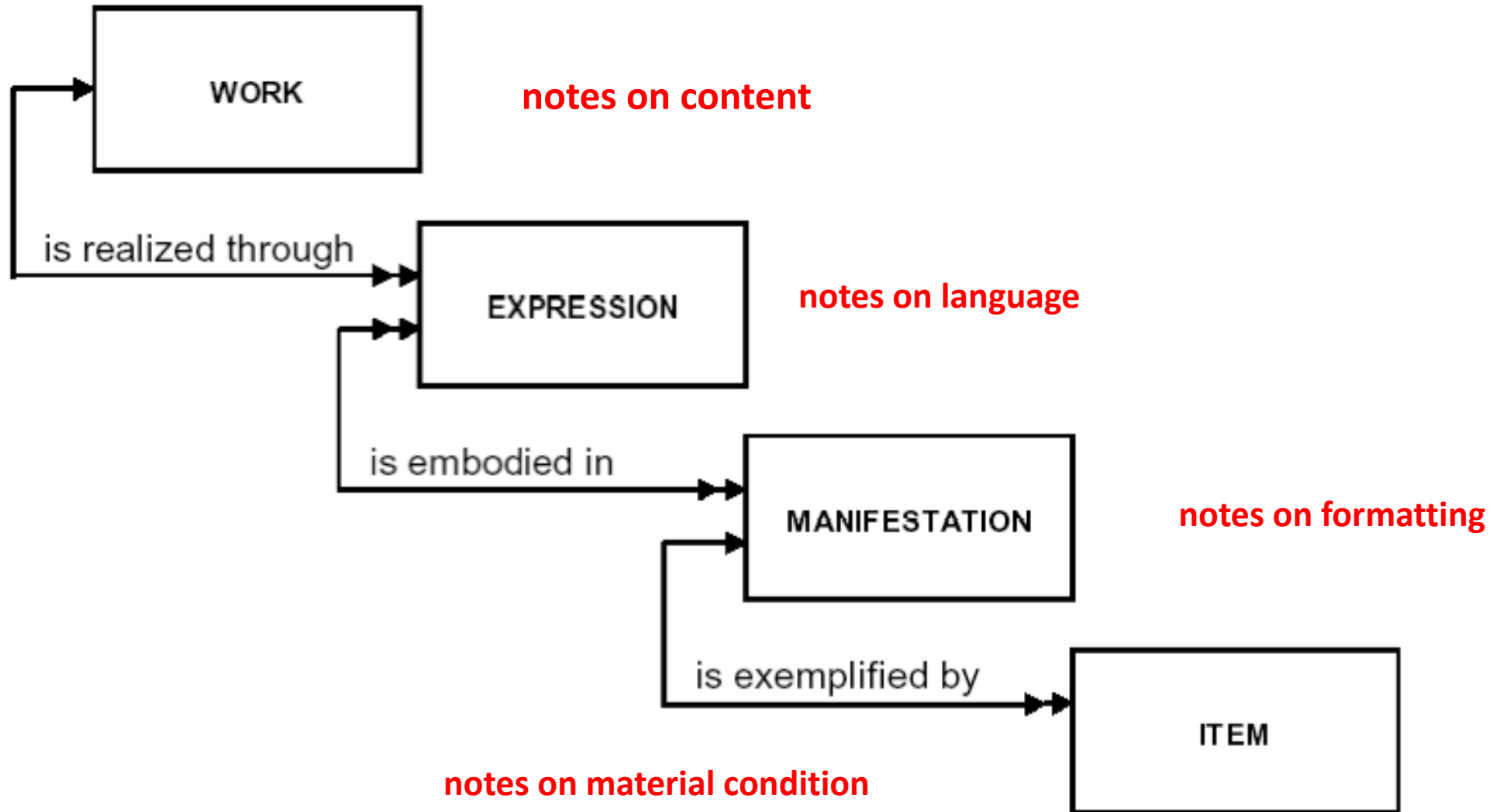
The heart of the problem

The obscure *target* of annotation

what, exactly, is an annotation *about* ???

(Much attention is given to strategies for identifying *anchors*,
but very little to identifying *targets*)

Is it this simple?



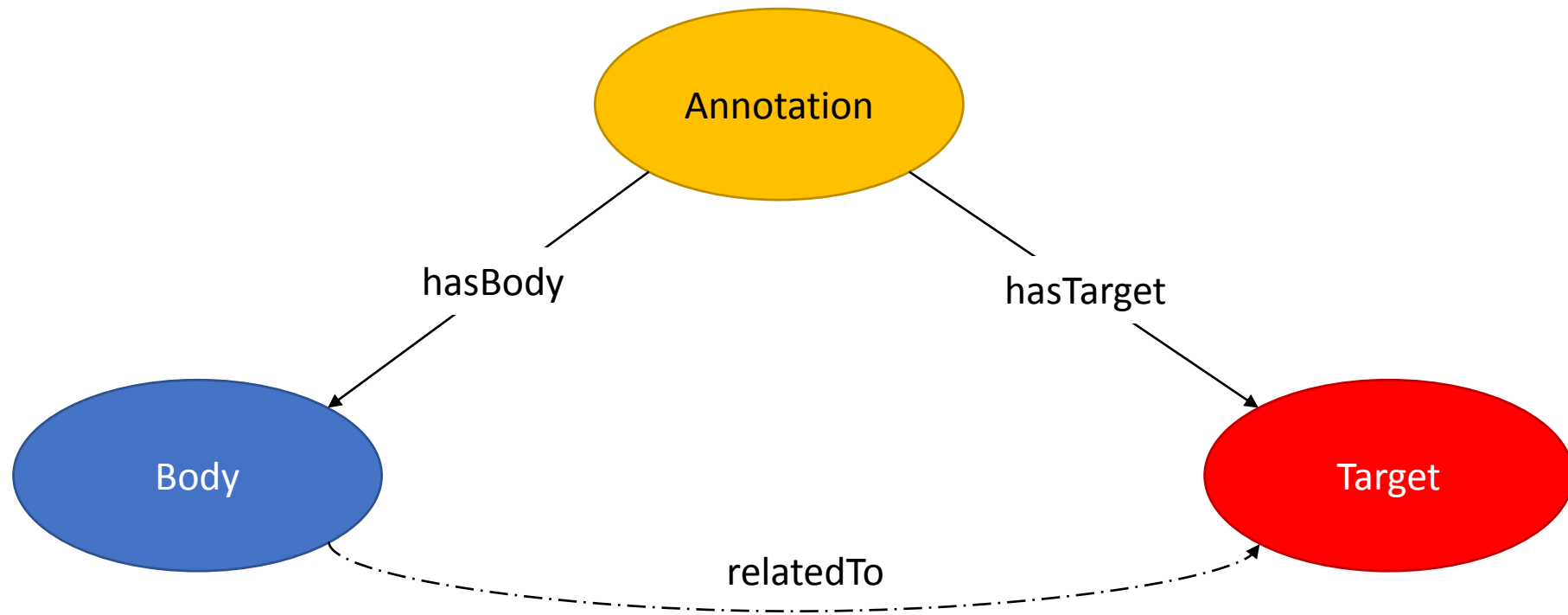
Annotations the Web Annotation way

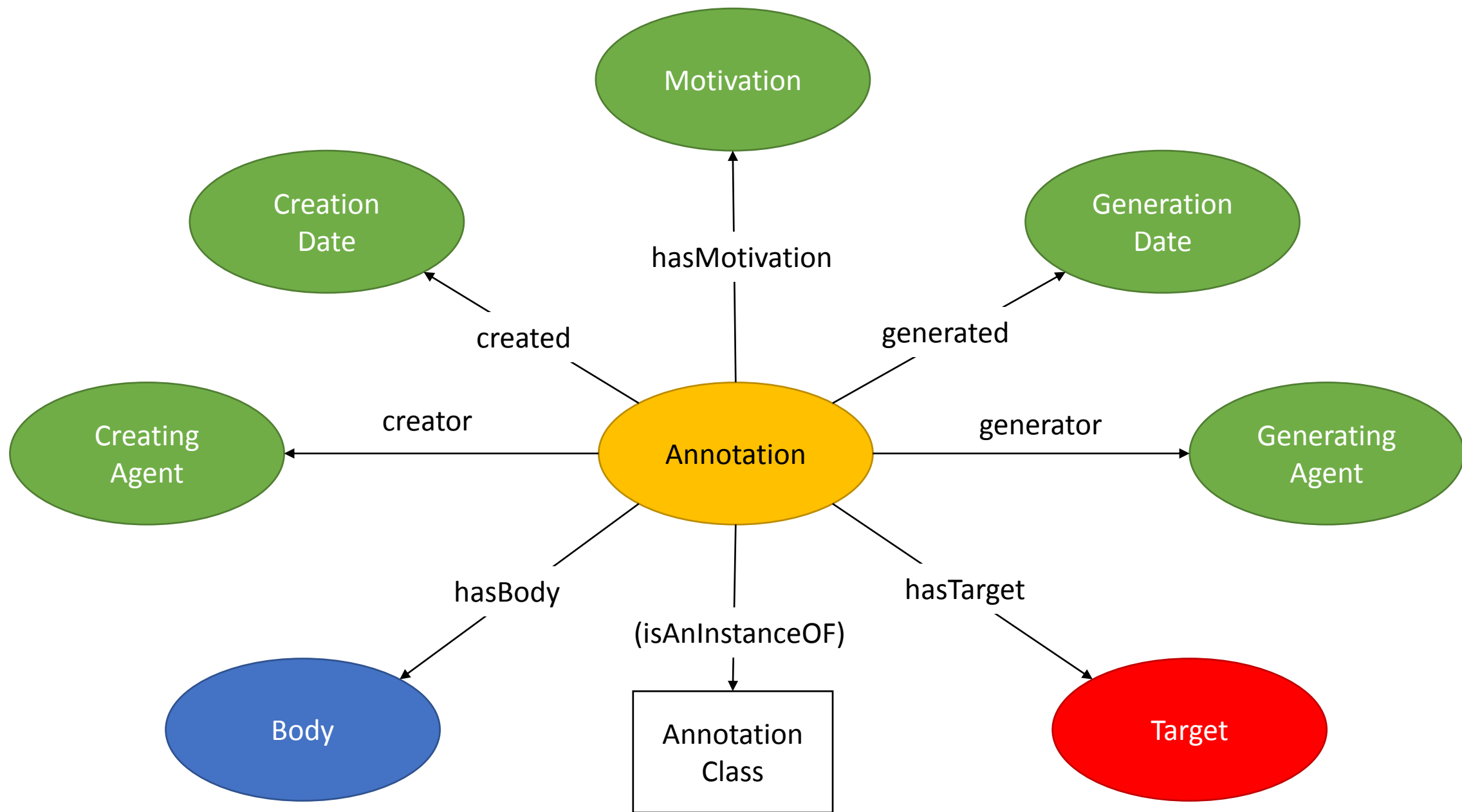
- Intention of the Web Annotation Working Group
 - Provide a standard, interoperable method for describing & sharing annotations
 - Supports an important scholarly primitive – annotation
 - Accomplished through class semantics
 - Satisfies a broad range of use cases: Tagging, Highlighting, etc.

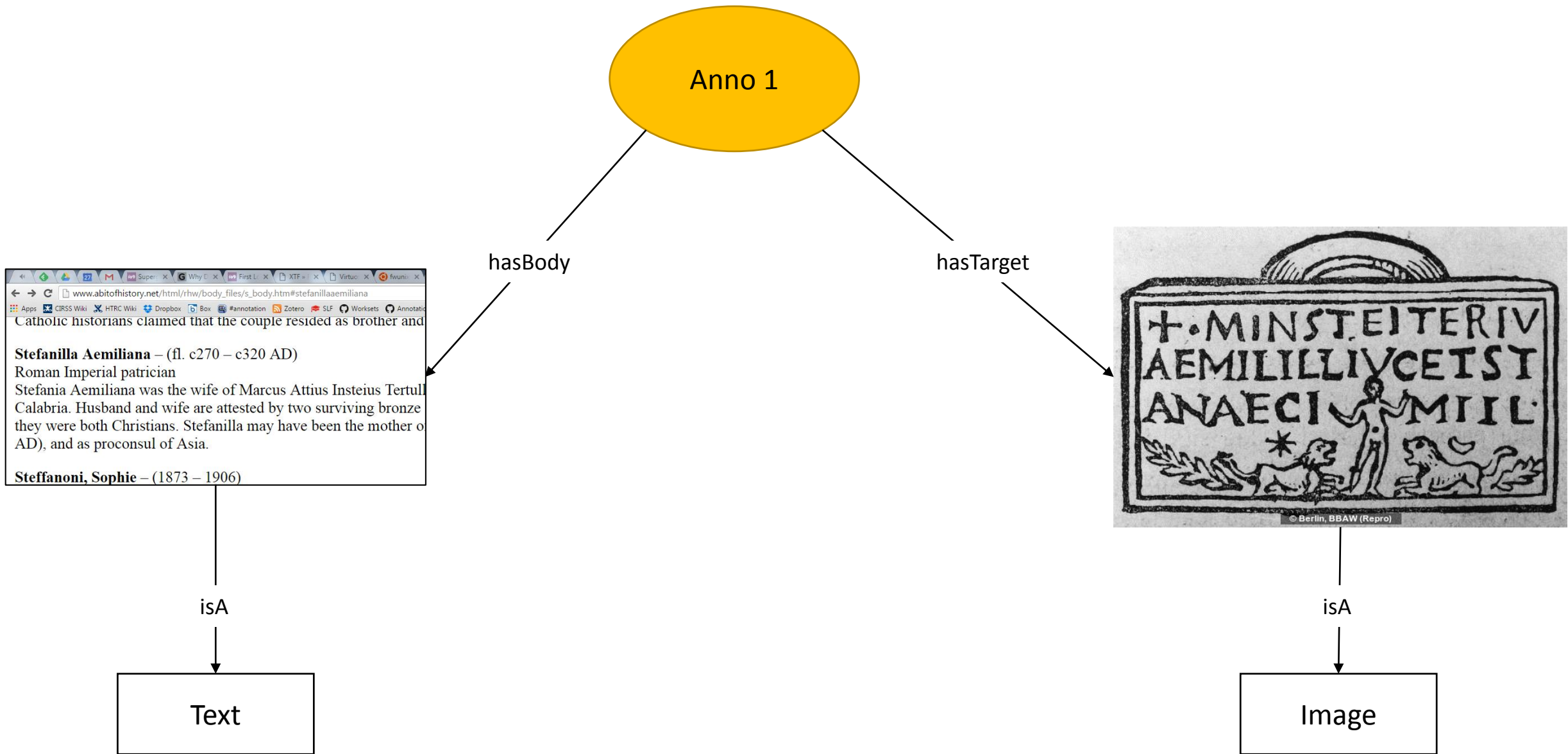
Annotations the Web Annotation way

- WG has released 3 Candidate Recommendations (model, vocabulary, protocol)
 - Provide a standard model for describing linkages between Web resources
 - Candidate vocabulary provides only some of what's needed to fully describe annotations
 - Semantics for describing nature of linkages are imprecise (require human interpretation)
 - Semantics for capturing intent of annotator are insufficient
 - Agnostic with regards to what can be an annotation body or target

Web Annotation WG Model – the Basics







Anno 2

hasBody

hasTarget



isA

Image

Catholic historians claimed that the couple resided as brother and

Stefanilla Aemiliana – (fl. c270 – c320 AD)
Roman Imperial patrician
Stefania Aemiliana was the wife of Marcus Attius Insteius Tertull
Calabria. Husband and wife are attested by two surviving bronze
they were both Christians. Stefanilla may have been the mother o
AD), and as proconsul of Asia.

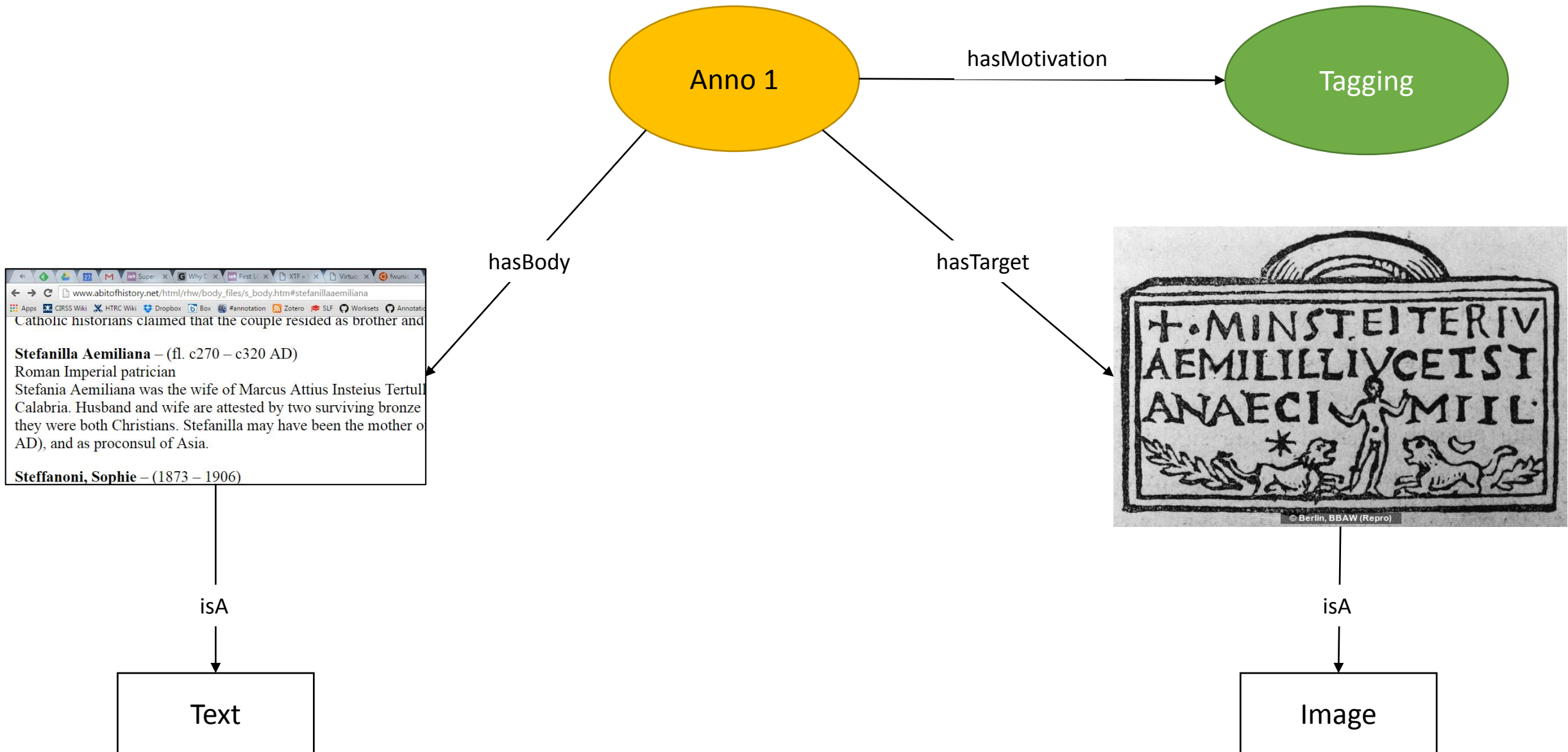
Steffanoni, Sophie – (1873 – 1906)

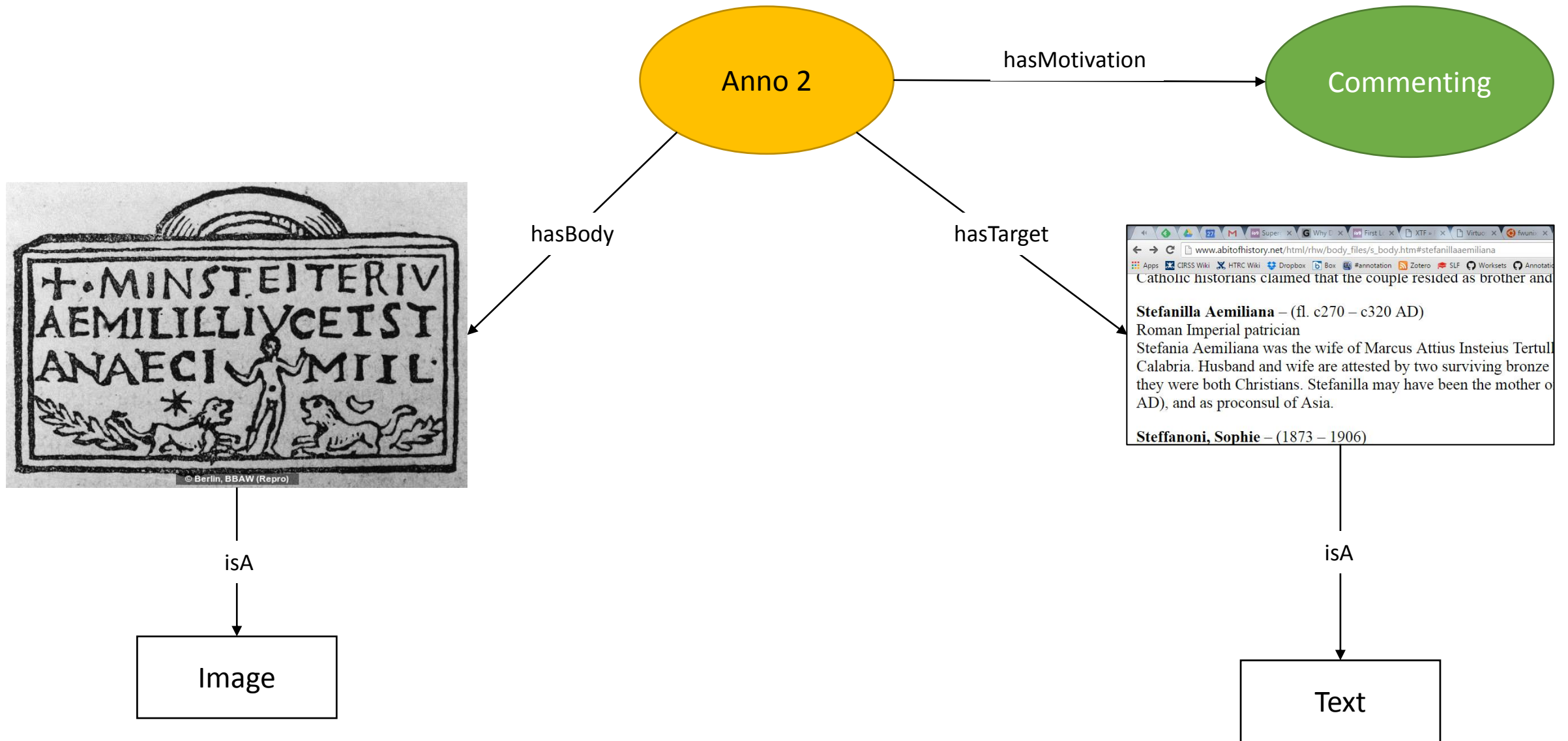
isA

Text

Expressing Annotator Intentions

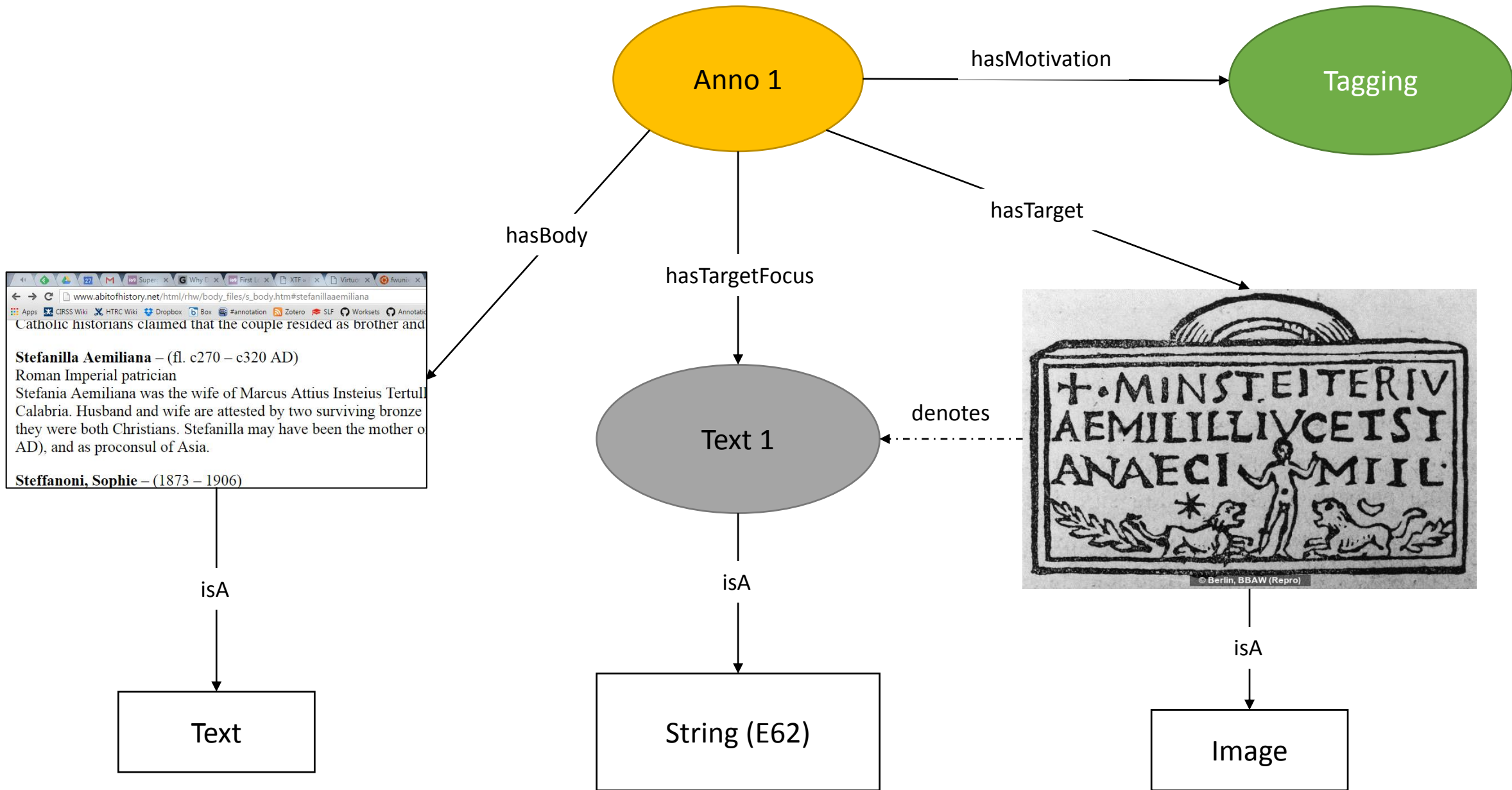
- Web Annotation approach
 - Motivation = how the body relates to the target
 - Purpose = how each body in a set of bodies relate to one another
- Relies on assumptions about the meaning of notions like:
 - Editing
 - Suggesting
 - Tagging
 - Etc.
- Does not directly remark on the body's or target's content





Expressing Annotator Focus

- Highlighting regions no help
- Need method to express level of intellectual abstraction
 - What is the target about?
 - Span of characters?
 - Sentence?
 - Assertion?
 - Asserted Proposition?
 - Entity in the World?
- Motivation & Purpose are insufficient by themselves





Image

Anno 2

Commenting

Person 1

Person (E21)

www.abitofhistory.net/html/rhw/body_files/s_body.htm#stefanillaaemiliana
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Text

hasMotivation

hasBody

hasTargetFocus

hasTarget

describes

isA

isA

isA

In conclusion...

- Targets are obscure
- Theoretical framework would help in the long run
- Identifying relevant ontological categories helps now

Questions?