

# Package ‘rdflib’

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**Title** Tools to Manipulate and Query Semantic Data

**Version** 0.2.9

**Description** The Resource Description Framework, or 'RDF' is a widely used data representation model that forms the cornerstone of the Semantic Web. 'RDF' represents data as a graph rather than the familiar data table or rectangle of relational databases. The 'rdflib' package provides a friendly and concise user interface for performing common tasks on 'RDF' data, such as reading, writing and converting between the various serializations of 'RDF' data, including 'rdxml', 'turtle', 'nquads', 'ntriples', and 'json-ld'; creating new 'RDF' graphs, and performing graph queries using 'SPARQL'. This package wraps the low level 'redland' R package which provides direct bindings to the 'redland' C library. Additionally, the package supports the newer and more developer friendly 'JSON-LD' format through the 'jsonld' package. The package interface takes inspiration from the Python 'rdflib' library.

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**URL** <https://docs.ropensci.org/rdflib/>,  
<https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib/issues>

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rdflib-package	<i>rdflib: Tools to Manipulate and Query Semantic Data</i>
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## Description

The Resource Description Framework, or RDF is a widely used data representation model that forms the cornerstone of the Semantic Web. 'RDF' represents data as a graph rather than the familiar data table or rectangle of relational databases.

## Details

It has three main goals:

- Easily read, write, and convert between all major RDF serialization formats
- Support SPARQL queries to extract data from an RDF graph into a data.frame
- Support JSON-LD format as a first-class citizen in RDF manipulations

For more information, see the Wikipedia pages for RDF, SPARQL, and JSON-LD:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource\\_Description\\_Framework](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource_Description_Framework)

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SPARQL>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSON-LD>

To learn more about rdflib, start with the vignettes: `browseVignettes(package = "rdflib")`

Configurations via `options()`

`rdf_print_format`:

- NULL or "nquads" (default)
- any valid serializer name: e.g. "rdxml", "jsonld", "turtle", "ntriples"

`rdf_base_uri`:

- Default base URI to use (when serializing JSON-LD only at this time) default is "localhost://"

`rdf_max_print`:

- maximum number of lines to print from rdf, default 10

### Author(s)

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### See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib/issues>

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as\_rdf

*Coerce an object into RDF*

---

### Description

Coerce an object into RDF

### Usage

```
as_rdf(  
  x,  
  rdf = NULL,  
  prefix = NULL,  
  base = getOption("rdf_base_uri", "localhost://"),  
  context = NULL,  
  key_column = NULL  
)
```

**Arguments**

x	an object to coerce into RDF (list, list-like, or data.frame)
rdf	An existing rdf object, (by default a new object will be initialized)
prefix	A default vocabulary (URI prefix) to assume for all predicates
base	A base URI to assume for blank subject nodes
context	a named list mapping any string to a URI
key_column	name of a column which should be treated as the primary key in a table. must be unique

**Examples**

```
as_rdf(mtcars)
as_rdf(list(repo = "rdflib", owner = list("id", "ropensci")))
```

---

c.rdf	<i>Concatenate rdf Objects.</i>
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**Description**

All subsequent rdf objects will be appended to the first rdf object Note: this does not free memory from any of the individual rdf objects Note: It is generally better to avoid the use of this function by passing an existing rdf object to and rdf\_parse or rdf\_add objects. Multiple active rdf objects can cause problems when using disk-based storage backends.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'rdf'
c(...)
```

**Arguments**

... objects to be concatenated

---

rdf	<i>Initialize an rdf Object</i>
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---

**Description**

Initialize an rdf Object

**Usage**

```

rdf(
  storage = c("memory", "BDB", "sqlite", "postgres", "mysql", "virtuoso"),
  host = NULL,
  port = NULL,
  user = NULL,
  password = NULL,
  database = NULL,
  charset = NULL,
  dir = NULL,
  dsn = "Local Virtuoso",
  name = "rdflib",
  new_db = FALSE,
  fallback = TRUE
)

```

**Arguments**

storage	Storage backend to use; see details
host	host address for mysql, postgres, or virtuoso storage
port	port for mysql (mysql storage defaults to mysql standard port, 3306) or postgres (postgres storage defaults to postgres standard port, 4321)
user	user name for postgres, mysql, or virtuoso
password	password for postgres, mysql, or virtuoso
database	name of the database to be created/used
charset	charset for virtuoso database, if desired
dir	directory of where to write sqlite or berkeley database.
dsn	Virtuoso dsn, either "Local Virtuoso" or "Remote Virtuoso"
name	name for the storage object created. Default is usually fine.
new_db	logical, default FALSE. Create new database or connect to existing?
fallback	logical, default TRUE. If requested storage system cannot initialize, should rdf() fall back on memory (default) or throw an error (fallback=FALSE)?

**Details**

an rdf Object is a list of class 'rdf', consisting of three pointers to external C objects managed by the redland library. These are the world object: basically a top-level pointer for all RDF models, and a model object: a collection of RDF statements, and a storage object, indicating how these statements are stored.

rdflib defaults to an in-memory hash-based storage structure. which should be best for most use cases. For very large triplestores, disk-based storage will be necessary. Enabling external storage devices will require additional libraries and custom compiling. See the storage vignette for details.

**Value**

an rdf object

**Examples**

```
x <- rdf()
```

---

 rdf\_add

 Add RDF Triples
 

---

**Description**

add a triple (subject, predicate, object) to the RDF graph

**Usage**

```
rdf_add(
  rdf,
  subject,
  predicate,
  object,
  subjectType = as.character(NA),
  objectType = as.character(NA),
  datatype_uri = as.character(NA)
)
```

**Arguments**

rdf	an rdf object
subject	character string containing the subject
predicate	character string containing the predicate
object	character string containing the object
subjectType	the Node type of the subject, i.e. "uri", "blank"
objectType	the Node type of the object, i.e. "literal", "uri", "blank"
datatype_uri	the datatype URI to associate with a object literal value

**Details**

rdf\_add() will automatically 'duck type' nodes (if looks like a duck...). That is, strings that look like URIs will be declared as URIs. (See [URI](#)). Predicate should always be a URI (e.g. URL or a prefix:string), cannot be blank or literal. Subjects that look like strings will be treated as **Blank Nodes** (i.e. will be prefixed with \_:). An empty subject, "", will create a blank node with random name. Objects that look like URIs will be typed as resource nodes, otherwise as literals. An empty object "" will be treated as blank node. Set subjectType or objectType explicitly to override this behavior, e.g. to treat an object URI as a literal string. NAs are also treated as blank nodes in subject or object See examples for details.

## Value

Silently returns the updated RDF graph (rdf object). Since the rdf object simply contains external pointers to the model object in C code, note that the input object is modified directly, so you need not assign the output of `rdf_add()` to anything.

## References

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform\\_Resource\\_Identifier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Resource_Identifier)

## Examples

```
rdf <- rdf()
rdf_add(rdf,
  subject="http://www.dajobe.org/",
  predicate="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/language",
  object="en")

## non-URI string in subject indicates a blank subject
## (prefixes to "_:b0")
rdf_add(rdf, "b0", "http://schema.org/jobTitle", "Professor")

## identically a blank subject.
## Note rdf is unchanged when we add the same triple twice.
rdf_add(rdf, "b0", "http://schema.org/jobTitle", "Professor",
  subjectType = "blank")

## blank node with empty string creates a default blank node id
rdf_add(rdf, "", "http://schema.org/jobTitle", "Professor")

## Subject and Object both recognized as URI resources:
rdf_add(rdf,
  "https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1642-628X",
  "http://schema.org/homepage",
  "http://carlboettiger.info")

## Force object to be literal, not URI resource
rdf_add(rdf,
  "https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1642-628X",
  "http://schema.org/homepage",
  "http://carlboettiger.info",
  objectType = "literal")
```

**Description**

Free Memory Associated with RDF object

**Usage**

```
rdf_free(rdf, rm = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

rdf	an rdf object
rm	logical, default TRUE. Remove pointer from parent.frame()? Usually a good idea since referring to a pointer after it has been removed can crash R.

**Details**

Free all pointers associated with an rdf object. Frees memory associated with the storage, world, and model objects.

**Examples**

```
rdf <- rdf()
rdf_free(rdf)
rm(rdf)
```

---

rdf\_has\_bdb

*Check for BDB support*

---

**Description**

Detect whether Berkeley Database for disk-based storage of RDF graphs is available. Disk-based storage requires redland package to be installed from source with support for the Berkeley DB (libdb-dev on Ubuntu, berkeley-db on homebrew), otherwise `rdf()` will fall back to in-memory storage with a warning.

**Usage**

```
rdf_has_bdb()
```

**Value**

TRUE if BDB support is detected, false otherwise

**Examples**

```
rdf_has_bdb()
```

---

rdf_parse	<i>Parse RDF Files</i>
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---

## Description

Parse RDF Files

## Usage

```
rdf_parse(  
  doc,  
  format = c("guess", "rdxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle", "jsonld"),  
  rdf = NULL,  
  base = getOption("rdf_base_uri", "localhost://"),  
  ...  
)
```

## Arguments

doc	path, URL, or literal string of the rdf document to parse
format	rdf serialization format of the doc, one of "rdxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle" or "jsonld". If not provided, will try to guess based on file extension and fall back on rdxml.
rdf	an existing rdf triplestore to extend with triples from the parsed file. Default will create a new rdf object.
base	the base URI to assume for any relative URIs (blank nodes)
...	additional parameters (not implemented)

## Value

an rdf object, containing the redland world and model objects

## Examples

```
doc <- system.file("extdata", "dc.rdf", package="redland")  
rdf <- rdf_parse(doc)
```

---

rdf_query	<i>Perform a SPARQL Query</i>
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---

### Description

Perform a SPARQL Query

### Usage

```
rdf_query(rdf, query, data.frame = TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

rdf	an rdf object (e.g. from <a href="#">rdf_parse</a> )
query	a SPARQL query, as text string
data.frame	logical, should the results be returned as a data.frame?
...	additional arguments to a redland initialize-Query

### Value

a data.frame of all query results (default.) Columns will be named according to variable names in the SPARQL query. Returned object values will be coerced to match the corresponding R type to any associated datatype URI, if provided. If a column would result in mixed classes (e.g. strings and numerics), all types in the column will be coerced to character strings. If data.frame is false, results will be returned as a list with each element typed by its data URI.

### Examples

```
doc <- system.file("extdata", "dc.rdf", package="redland")

sparql <-
'PREFIX dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>
SELECT ?a ?c
WHERE { ?a dc:creator ?c . }'

rdf <- rdf_parse(doc)
rdf_query(rdf, sparql)
```

---

rdf\_serialize                      *Serialize an RDF Document*

---

## Description

Serialize an RDF Document

## Usage

```
rdf_serialize(
  rdf,
  doc = NULL,
  format = c("guess", "rdfxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle", "jsonld"),
  namespace = NULL,
  prefix = names(namespace),
  base = getOption("rdf_base_uri", "localhost://"),
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

rdf	an existing rdf triplestore to extend with triples from the parsed file. Default will create a new rdf object.
doc	file path to write out to. If null, will write to character.
format	rdf serialization format of the doc, one of "rdfxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle" or "jsonld". If not provided, will try to guess based on file extension and fall back on rdfxml.
namespace	a named character containing the prefix to namespace bindings. names(namespace) are the prefixes, whereas namespace are the namespaces
prefix	(optional) for backward compatibility. See namespace. It contains the matching prefixes to the namespaces in namespace and is set automatically if you provide namespace as a named character vector.
base	the base URI to assume for any relative URIs (blank nodes)
...	additional arguments to redland::serializeToFile

## Value

rdf\_serialize returns the output file path doc invisibly. This makes it easier to use rdf\_serialize in pipe chains with [rdf\\_parse](#).

## Examples

```
infile <- system.file("extdata", "dc.rdf", package="redland")
out <- tempfile("file", fileext = ".rdf")

some_rdf <- rdf_parse(infile)
```

```
rdf_add(some_rdf,
  subject = "http://www.dajobe.org/dave-beckett",
  predicate = "http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#type",
  object = "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person")
rdf_serialize(some_rdf, out)

## With a namespace
rdf_serialize(some_rdf,
  out,
  format = "turtle",
  namespace = c(dc = "http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/",
  foaf = "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/")
)

readLines(out)
```

---

read_nquads	<i>read an nquads file</i>
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---

## Description

read an nquads file

## Usage

```
read_nquads(file, ...)
```

## Arguments

file	path to nquads file
...	additional arguments to <a href="#">rdf_parse()</a>

## Value

an rdf object. See [rdf\\_parse\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".nq")
library(datasets)
write_nquads(iris, tmp)
read_nquads(tmp)
```

---

write_nquads	<i>write object out as nquads</i>
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---

**Description**

write object out as nquads

**Usage**

```
write_nquads(x, file, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	an object that can be represented as nquads
file	output filename
...	additional parameters, see examples

**Examples**

```
tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".nq")
library(datasets)

## convert data.frame to nquads
write_nquads(iris, tmp)
rdf <- read_nquads(tmp)

## or starting a native rdf object
write_nquads(rdf, tempfile(fileext = ".nq"))
```

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