

OnToContent 2012 PC Co-chairs Message

Semantics play an increasingly crucial role in large and complex networked information systems. Ontologies and semantic data all represent information sources valuable to end users and are fundamental resources that support a variety of applications in several domains, e.g., data integration, document management, information retrieval, web engineering, and so on. For this reason OnToContent 2012 focuses on issues related to the creation and evaluation of content for ontologies and semantic data.

We have two tracks in the workshop. The first track focuses on ontology methodology and engineering. We are happy to have a first paper addressing the problem of negotiating ontology content in order to reach conceptual agreements. The other four papers address the application of ontologies for solving problems in specific domains, two of which propose ontologies that manage information related to information artifacts, and other two use ontologies in applications for supporting decisions in the digital libraries and risk management domains. This panel reflects an increasing acknowledgment of the usefulness of ontologies to solve problems in the field.

The second track acknowledges the increasing need for the automation and semi-automation of tasks that develop and evaluate ontology content, since manually developing and evaluating the content of ontologies is notoriously a time consuming task. The main topics investigated in the second part of this workshop are therefore related to the generation of content using semi-automated methods, by learning ontology modules from existing Web sources, by semi-automatic mapping ontologies and enriching their content, and by providing an end-to-end data and knowledge acquisition architecture with reference to a specific use case in the agrifood domain.

Finally, publishing public content under the form of high-quality governmental linked data will become an important driver for supporting applications implementing the vision of the Open Data initiative. An invited talk about strategies that can be undertaken to optimize the design of government linked data will be given by Aldo Gangemi (Head of Semantic Technology Lab, ISTC-CNR), who conducted outstanding research in fields such as pattern-based ontology design, semantic social networks, and collaborative modeling, with applications in several domains from Medicine to eGovernment.

The organization of this workshop is supported by the 7FP-INCO-295006 project SIERA: Integrating Sina Institute into the European Research Area. We are also grateful to all the reviewers, who carefully evaluated the submitted papers and provided authors with valuable comments to improve their work.

July 2012

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