

Metadata Semantics: What Semantic Web technologies can contribute to scientific data and information sharing and discovery

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Distributing scientific information



- Since the rise of the World Wide Web, the role of publishing houses and scientific libraries is changing.
- Scientific publishing houses are redefining their roles and are investigating new revenue models.

- What exactly is the role of libraries?
- What will the role of libraries be in, say, 20 years?



Library discovery issues



- "I'm looking for an easy but introductory text on discrete mathematics suitable for computer scientists, with high quality in the mathematical formalization and notation, and including (besides the usual stuff) at least brief treatments of Russel's paradox and of countable versus uncountable sets, e.g. uncountability of the real numbers."
- "I'm looking for a textbook for a second-year introductory class on logic for computer scientists. Formal treatment of mathematics, tableaux algorithms for propositional and predicate logic, and preferably some coverage of datalog."

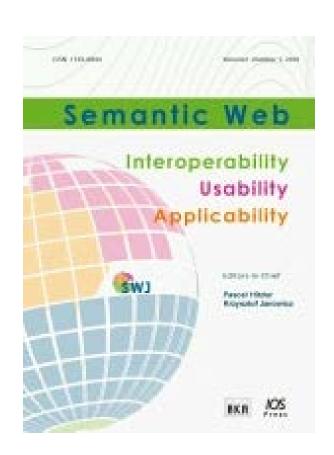


Semantic Web journal



 EiCs: Pascal Hitzler Krzysztof Janowicz

- Established 2010. Going strong.
- We very much welcome contributions at the "rim" of traditional Semantic Web research – e.g., work which is strongly inspired by a different field.
- Non-standard (open & transparent) review process.

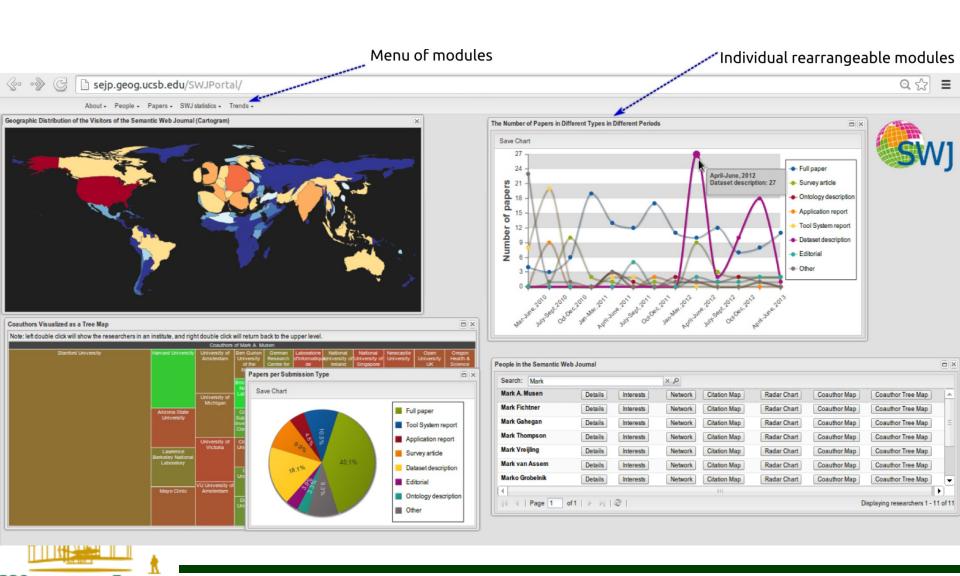


http://www.semantic-web-journal.net/



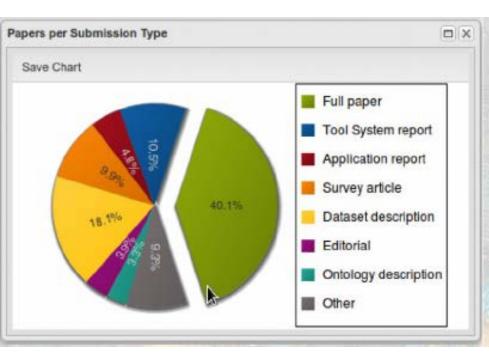
Semantic Web journal

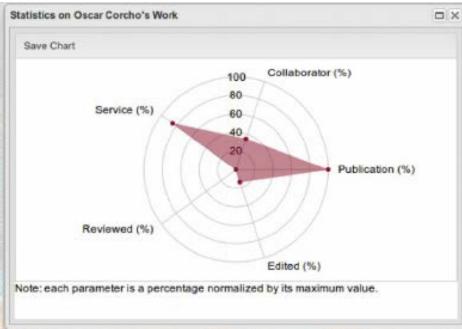




Summary Statistics



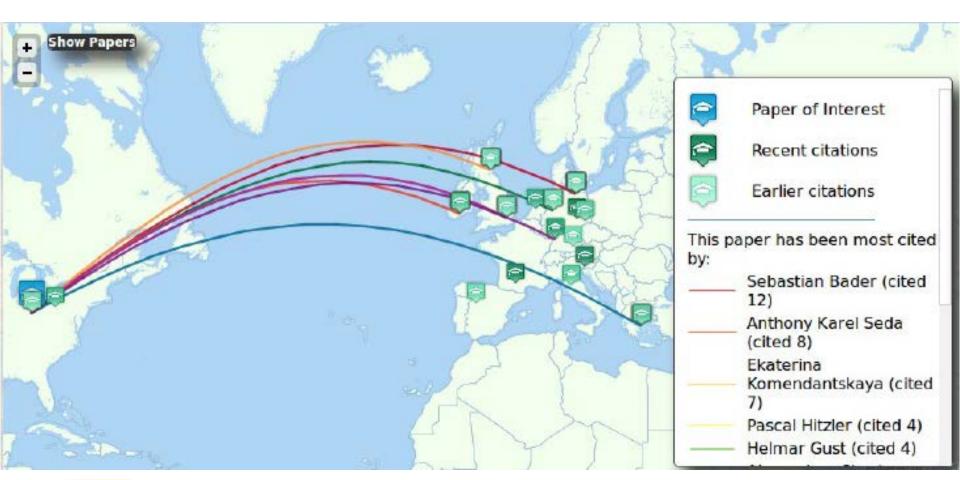






Citation Maps

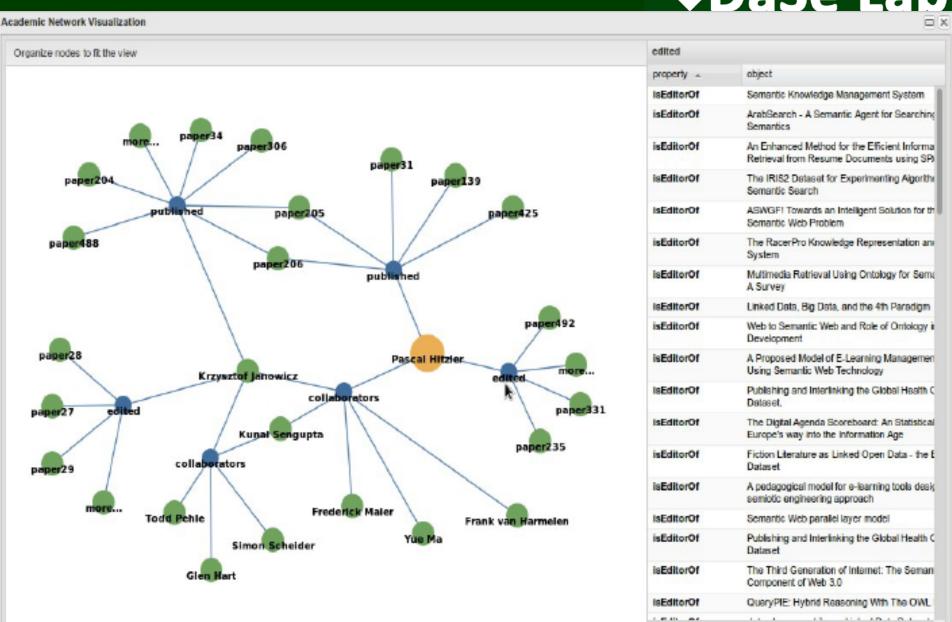






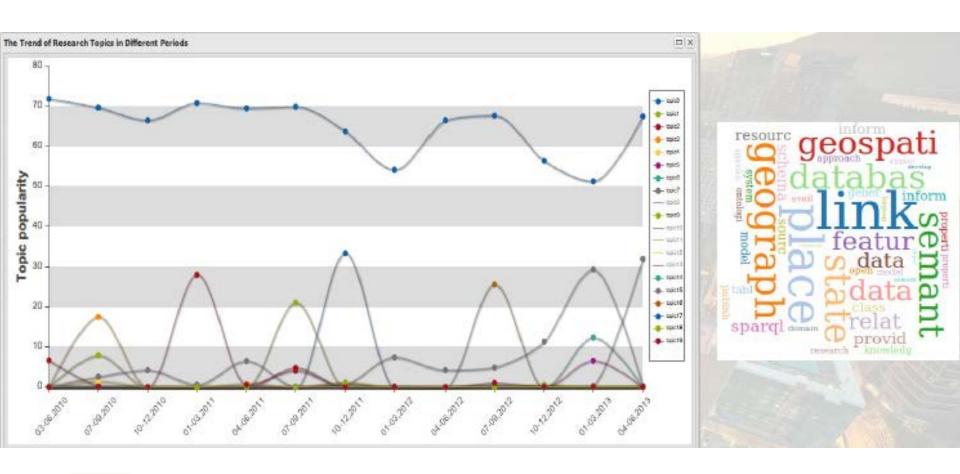
Collaboration Networks





Topic Trends







Publications analysis

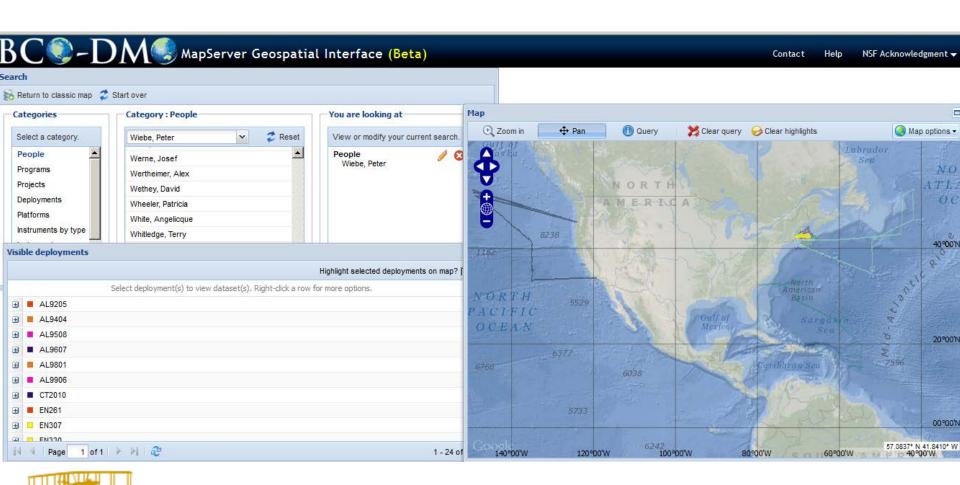


- Provide analysis of citations, topic trends, research networks, etc., which can be obtained from (suitable!) metadata.
- Establish the social, economical and computational infrastructure to provide such data: open access, legal reusability of text and data, rich metadata (citations and beyond)



Data Discovery





Scenario



Determine if a GMRT grid contains high-resolution data from a ship's multibeam sonar in the proximity of a specified physiographic feature.

Return the list of ship expeditions that contributed high-resolution data to those grid cells.

For these expeditions, determine which, if any, are found in the R2R catalog and contain quality-controlled geophysical (gravity/ magnetics) profiles along the same ship track.

Further determine which investigators are linked to those expeditions; which expeditions and investigators are linked to journal publications and/or meeting abstracts that contain thematic keywords pertaining to the physiographic feature; and what other data are available from the same expeditions in other repositories such as BCO-DMO.



"Inside" and beyond the publications

aSe Lab

- Make paper contents available through rich metadata.
- Combine papers with data and datasets, and with information from "outside" the publishing process proper, such as funding awards, geographical information, affiliations, etc.
- More importantly, help in providing a social, economical and technological infrastructure where such information is provided to scientists and students.



EarthCube



EarthCube:

Developing a Community-Driven Data and Knowledge Environment for the Geosciences

"concepts and approaches to create integrated data management infrastructures across the Geosciences."

"EarthCube aims to create a well-connected and facile environment to share data and knowledge in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner, thus accelerating our ability to understand and predict the Earth system."



OceanLink



- An EarthCube Building Block
- Integrating ocean science respositories BCO-DMO and R2R, as well as datasets from the WHOI Library, AGU abstracts, NSF projects.
- Demonstrable added value (faceted integrated search).
- Key: extensible architecture that has the potential to grow to EarthCube size



Integration approach



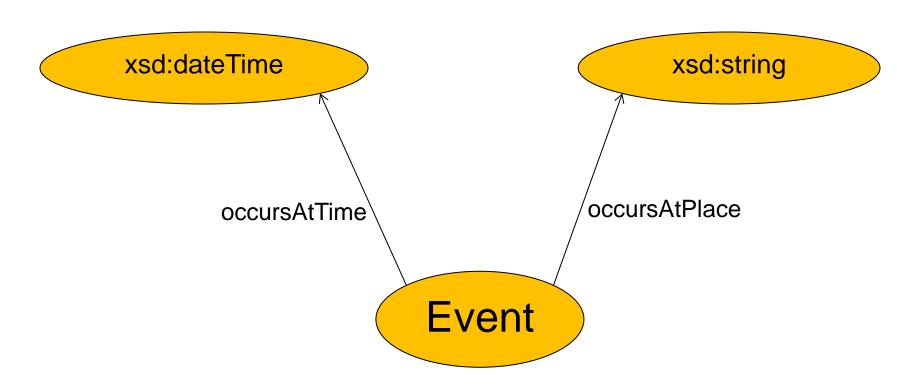
- Well-established:
 - using controlled vocabularies
 - which are standardized through a social process

- How many vocabularies do you need to
 - answer circumstantial queries?
 - cover all scientific paper contents?
 - even just to cover the earth sciences?
- What do you do if scientific notions or perspectives change?



E.g., "Event"

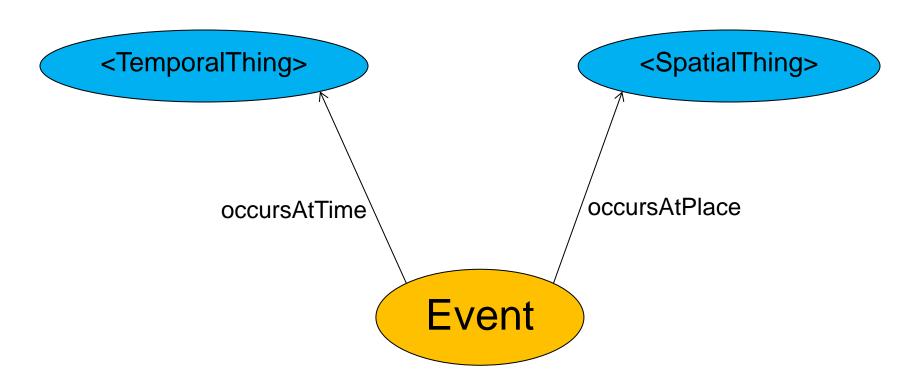






Better Event (more general)



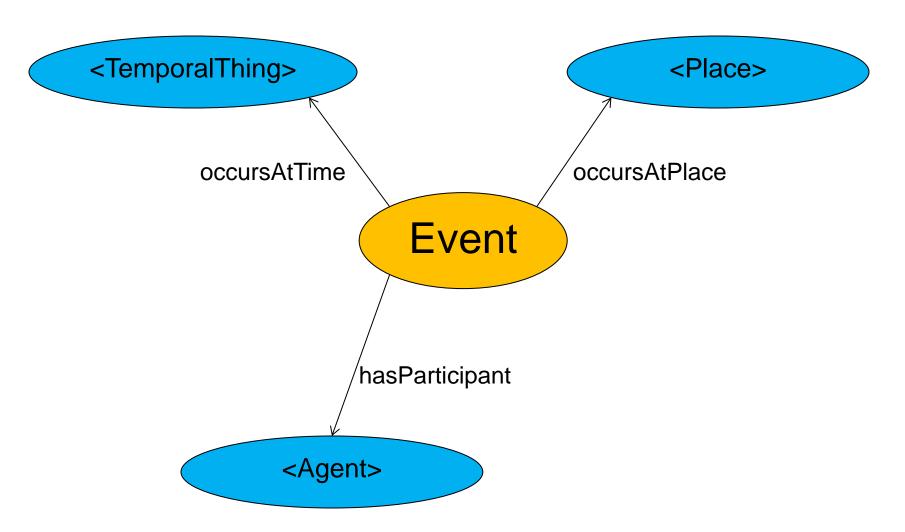


But what about events taking place in Second Life?



Perhaps even ...

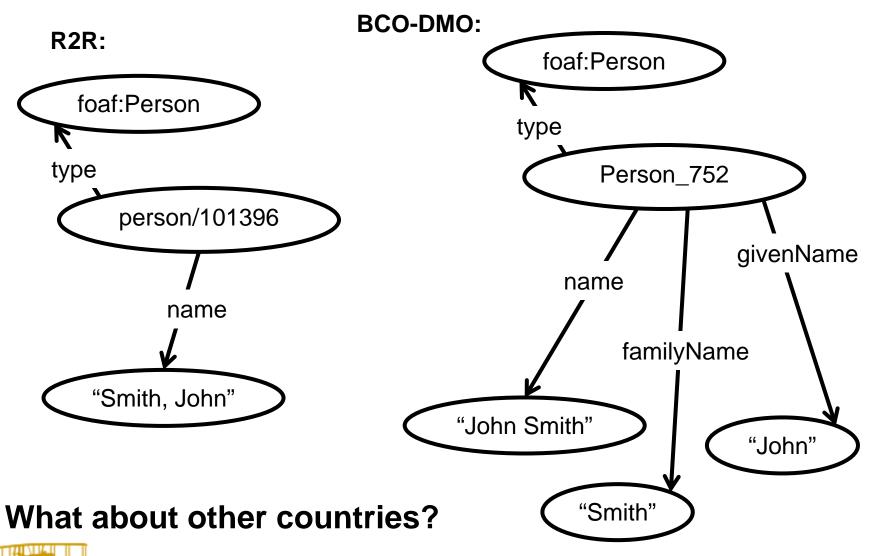






Different representations







Semantic Web



- Research field in computer science.
- Took off in ca. the year 2000.
- Significant funding, initially DARPA, then large-scale in the EU.
- In the meantime, large international effort, with significant investment by funding agencies and companies.
- The Semantic Web vision is about seamless integration of data, knowledge, and services. It is not restricted to the WWW.
- The Semantic Web approach has (whatever type of) formal knowledge representation as a key ingredient.



Knowledge Representation



- Vocabularies on steroids.
 - Complex relationships between notions are part of the formal and machine-processable vocabulary definitions,
 e.g. "Every cruise must have a chief scientist who is PI on one of the research awards which pays for the expenses of the cruise."
- Standardization of languages for defining vocabularies.
 E.g., the Web Ontology Language OWL.
 - Rather than standardizing vocabularies themselves.
 - Requires establishing best practices for defining and sharing vocabularies.



Libraries?



- Libraries could again be at the forefront of being providers for scientific information.
- Trends go towards integrated information spaces with a plethora of differing and heterogeneous information sources.
- How to organize this information space conceptually, technologically, and socially, is a key quest in the Big Data age.





Thanks!



OceanLink Collaborators



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