Finding a Good Ontology: The Open Ontology Repository Initiative

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These slides: http://ontolog.cim3.net/file/work/OOR/OOR_presentations_publications/OOR-SemTech_Jun2010.pdf

Outline



- Introduction
- Demonstration
- Requirements and Challenges
- Current Efforts
- How to Participate

Open Ontology Repository

- Community effort since January 2008
- Promote global use and sharing of ontologies
 - Modular open source registry/repository software
 - 1 or more public instances
 - Best practices for ontology sharing and management

OOR Software Target



- Allow modular choices among
 - Registry functions (search, etc.)
 - Repository functions (persistence, versioning, etc.)
 - KR languages (OWL, Common Logic, etc.)
 - Gatekeeping policies (open, curated, market, etc.)
 - Intellectual Property Rights policies
 - Federation mechanisms (OOR, RSS, OMV, etc.)
 - Value-added services (alignment, translation, etc.)

OOR Deployment Example



Initial Implementation



- Based on NCBO BioPortal
 - General-purpose ontology repository infrastructure
 - Supports RDFS/OWL, OBO, and LexGrid
 - Active user community
- Deployed in OOR sandbox and several development sites
- Developing Xen-vm and VMware images, as well as installation scripts, for easy deployment

Live Demonstration



• OOR sandbox

– http://oor-01.cim3.net

Selected screenshots included for the archival record

OOR Home Page

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Welcome to the OOR SANDBOX

Use to access and share ontologies. You can create ontology-based annotations for your own text, link your own project that uses ontologies to the description of those ontologies, find and create relations between terms in different ontologies, review and comment on ontologies and their components as you browse them. Sign in to to submit a new ontology or ontology-based project, provide comments on ontologies or add ontology mappings.

Search all ontologies	Find an ontology	Search resources
Enter term, e.g. Melanoma Search	Enter ontology name, e.g. NCI Thesaurus Explore	Enter a term, e.g. Melanoma
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Browsing Ontologies

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Access all ontologies that are available in OOR SANDBOX: You can filter this list by category to display ontologies relevant for a certain domain. You can also filter ontologies that belong to a certain group. Subscribe to the OOR SANDBOX RSS feed to receive alerts for submissions of new ontologies, new versions of ontologies, new notes, and new projects. You can subscribe to feeds for a specific ontology at the individual ontology page. Add a new ontology to OOR SANDBOX using the Submit New Ontology link (you need to sign in to see this link).

SUBMIT ONTOLOGY	Submit New Ontology
FILTER BY CATEGORY	All Categories 🛟
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ONTOLOGY NAME	FORMAT	VERSION	AUTHOR	UPLOADED ON	GROUP	STATUS
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<u>11179-3e3-units</u> (11179-3e3-units)	OWL	0.1	Test load on OOR	04/07/2010		Explore
Amphibian gross anatomy (AAO)	OBO Format	1.8	AmphiAnat list	02/12/2010		Explore
Amphibian taxonomy (ATO)	OBO Format	See Remote Site	AmphiAnat list	02/12/2010		
Animal natural history and life history (ADW)	PROTEGE	See Remote Site	Animal Web	02/12/2010		
Ascomycete phenotype ontology (APO)	OBO Format	1.14	SGD curators	02/12/2010		Explore
Basic RDF Geo Vocabulary (wgs84_pos)	OWL	2006-02-01	Dan Brickley	01/22/2010		Explore
<u>Bilateria anatomy</u> (BILA)	OBO Format	See Remote Site	Thorsten Heinrich	02/12/2010		
<u>Biological imaging methods</u> (FBbi)	OBO Format	1.1	Kathy Matthews	02/12/2010		Explore
BRENDA tissue / enzyme source (BTO)	OBO Format	See Remote Site	BRENDA ontology	02/12/2010		
C. elegans development	OBO Format	1.3	Wen Chen	02/12/2010		Explore

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Search Results

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Person	Friend of a Friend	Preferred Name	
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PERSON_	COSMO	Preferred Name	
Natural-person	COSMO	Preferred Name	
Person-SupportingFurniture	COSMO	Preferred Name	
Person_Female	Family Health History Ontology	Preferred Name	
Person_Male_	Family Health History Ontology	Preferred Name	
contact person attribute	Mass spectrometry	Preferred Name	
PersonalCircumstances	COSMO	Preferred Name	
PersonalGrooming	COSMO	Preferred Name	
PersonAttributeValue	COSMO	Preferred Name	
PersonShaped	COSMO	Preferred Name	
PersonalDevice	COSMO	Preferred Name	
PersonalHygieneProduct	COSMO	Preferred Name	
PersonalProfileDocument	Friend of a Friend	Preferred Name	
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Ontology Metadata

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HOME PAGE:													
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DOCUMENTATION PAG		http://www.w3.org/2005/incubator/geo/XGR-geo- 20071023/W3C_XGR_Geo_files/geo_2007.owl											
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Ontology Mappings

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Ontology Submission

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GEO_2007

Submit New Ontology	* fields are required	
ONTOLOGY NAME: *		
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	PREFERED NAME PROPERTY (OWL ONLY) (DEFAULT: <u>RDFS:LABEL</u>)	use default
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	DEFINITION PROPERTY (OWL ONLY) (DEFAULT: <u>Skos:definition</u>)	use default
	AUTHOR PROPERTY (OWL ONLY) (DEFAULT: <u>DC:CREATOR</u>)	use default
ONTOLOGY VERSION: .		
DATE RELEASED: *		
FILE LOCATION .	Upload (choose this option if you want users to be able to explore and search your ontology in OOR SAND Remote (choose this option if you want users to search and view only the *metadata* for your ontology (b)	
FILE: *	Choose File no file selected	
CATEGORIES: (USE CTRL OR CMD TO SELECT MORE THAN ONE)	Anatomy Animal Development Animal Gross Anatomy Arabadopsis Biological Process Biomedical Resources	
CONTACT NAME:		
CONTACT EMAIL: *		
HOME PAGE:		
DOCUMENTATION PAGE:		
PUBLICATIONS PAGE:		
		Submit

NCBO:BioPortal





Welcome to the NCBO Bioportal

Use BioPortal to access and share ontologies that are actively used in biomedical communities. You can search for terms in ontologies (try typing "Melanoma" in the "Search all ontologies" box in the left column), browse a list of ontologies in BioPortal (type "NCI Thesaurus" in the "Find an ontology" box in the middle column), search biomedical resources that we automatically annotated with ontology terms (try typing "Melanoma" in the "Search resources" box in the right column). You can <u>create ontology-based annotations for your own text</u>, link your own project that uses ontologies to the description <u>of those ontologies</u>, find and <u>create relations between terms in different ontologies</u>, review and comment on ontology or ontology -based project, provide comments on ontologies add ontology and project.

Search all ontologies		Find an ontology —	Search resources			
Enter term, e.g. Melanoma Search		Enter ontology name, e.g. NCI Thesaurus Explore	Enter a term, e.g. Melanoma			
Advanced Search	-	Browse Ontologies >	Advanced Resource Search			
Most Viewed Ontologies (January, 2010) —		Latest Notes	Latest Mappings			
Ontology	Views	RE:Add Image to Data_Resource branch Image (Biomedical Resource Ontology)	data_measurement_protocol_execution (Neural ElectroMagnetic Ontologies) => Recording			
NCI Thesaurus	1503	05/25/10 whetzel Leave in current location since Data Resource	(Cardiac Electrophysiology Ontology) 05/05/10 gfrishkoff			
Foundational Model of Anatomy	774	branch changed.	Recording (Cardiac Electrophysiology Ontology) => data_measurement_protocol_execution			
RadLex	691	Deprecate Symbolic and Analytic Model (Biomedical	(Neural ElectroMagnetic Ontologies) 05/05/10 afrishkoff			
Mouse adult gross anatomy 627		Resource Ontology) 05/25/10 whetzel Deprecate this term, but leave child term for	voltage_amplifier (Neural ElectroMagnetic			
Ontology for Biomedical Investigations	534	only child of Modeling and Simulation.	Ontologies) => Amplifier (Cardiac Electrophysiology Ontology)			
Statistics		RE:Deprecate or re-locate term	05/05/10 gfrishkoff			
Ontologies 206		Document Retrieval (Biomedical Resource Ontology) 05/25/10 whetzel Decided to leave this term at current location in	Amplifier (Cardiac Electrophysiology Ontology) => voltage_amplifier (Neural ElectroMagnetic Ontologies)			
Terms 1,438,7	92	hierarchy based on BRO TCon discussion.	05/05/10 gfrishkoff			
Resources Indexed 22		<u>re-activate this term</u> Web Service (Biomedical Resource Ontology)	experiment_instruction (Neural ElectroMagnetic Ontologies) => Instructions to subject (NIFSTD) 05/05/10 gfrishkoff			
		05/25/10 whetzel Re-activate this term.				
		RE:Move in hierarchy? Data Service (Blomedical Resource Ontology) 05/25/10 whetzel Add as direct child of software.				

The National Center for Biomedical Ontology is one of the <u>National Centers for Biomedical Computing</u> supported by the <u>NIH Roadmap</u>. Copyright © 2005-2009, The Board of Trustees of Leland Stanford Junior University. All rights reserved. <u>NCBO Website</u> Release Notes <u>Terms of Use Privacy Policy</u>

Release 2.3.3 (released April 7, 2010)

Ref. NCBO - http://bioontology.org



Why OOR?

Desirable Properties

- Find ontologies easily
- Reliably available ontologies
- Persistent and sustainable source
- Quality and value gauged by recognized criteria
- Supports services
 - Configuration Management
 - Mappings connect ontologies
 - Alignment align with mid and upper level ontologies
 - Search find and be found
 - Review/rank



Desirable Properties (con't)

- Confidence when committing to use
 - Ontologies are registered with metadata
 - Metadata provides
 - Subject Domain
 - Purpose Current Uses/Users
 - KR language
 - Originating organization
- Information about ontology changes
 - When
 - Why
 - How
 - Usability



Is It Good?



- How to assess an ontology as 'Good'?
- Different needs require a range of goodness
- Machines are the primary consumers of ontologies
- 'Imports' create a strong transitive dependency between ontologies
- Changes in imported ontologies (directly or nested) can cause resulting import closures to be:
 - inconsistent
 - change meanings/interpretations
 - change computational characteristics
- Careful selection and precise reference is critical

Provenance



- Need provenance to support 'Goodness' and trust
 - Metadata can provide some
 - More is needed
 - Documentation Natural Language descriptions and source references
 - Expressiveness, Granularity
 - Intended Uses
 - Ontology Alignments
 - Current users/uses
 - Development Methodology
 - Development/Change History
- Assurance that best practices used
 - Policies and procedures enforced

'Goodness' - Formal Ontology?



- Ontologies that allow the most extension require the most rigor (e.g., Upper Ontologies)
- More objective representation of a domain (i.e., minimize domain/SME biases)
- Allow appropriate levels of granularity
- Simplify ontological assumptions
- Ease development by deferring to well founded distinctions/classifications

OOR Goals



- A well-maintained persistent store (with high availability and performance) where ontological work can be stored, shared and accessed consistently;
- Mechanisms for registering and "governing" ontologies, with provenance and versioning, made available (logically) in one place so that they can be browsed, discovered, queried, analyzed, validated and reused;
- Services across disparate ontological artifacts supporting cross-domain interoperability, mapping, application and inferencing; and
- Registration of semantic services to support peer OORs

OOR Charter



Promote the global use and sharing of ontologies by:

- Establishing a hosted registry-repository;
- Enabling and facilitating open, federated, collaborative ontology repositories, and
- Establishing best practices for expressing interoperable ontology and taxonomy work in registry-repositories.

http://OpenOntologyRepository.org

OOR Initiative



- Started in January 2008 by Peter Yim, Leo Obrst, and Mike Dean
- OOR is an independent initiative, emerged from and incubated in the Ontolog Forum's collaborative work environment.
- ONTOLOG (a.k.a. "Ontolog Forum")
 - An open, international, virtual community of practice devoted to advancing the field of ontology, ontological architecture and engineering and semantic technologies, and advocating their adoption into mainstream applications and international standards
 - http://ontolog.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?WikiHomePage

OOR Requirements



- The repository architecture shall be scalable.
- The repository shall be distributed.
- The specification of the repository shall be sufficiently detailed and platform independent to allow multiple implementations.
- The repository shall be capable of supporting ontologies in languages that have reasoners [supporting inferencing].
- The repository architecture shall support distributed repositories.
- The repository architecture shall not require a hierarchical structure.

http://ontolog.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?OpenOntologyRepository_Requirement

OOR Architecture



- OOR requires an open and well documented architecture to
 - Allow multiple communities and organizations to participate in the OOR
 - Produce standard OOR functionalities and behaviors.
- OOR Architectural Principles
 - Decoupling of responsibilities To support multiple knowledge representations/languages repository will not be there tightly coupled with the content.
 - Implementation/Platform independence To support acceptance, multiple instances, and evolution, no particular implementation or platform dependence can be allowed.
 - Ontologically driven To allow for evolution of the OOR and reduce overall development costs, the use of an ontologically based development environment is sought.

Current Participation



- Mailing list with 100+ subscribers worldwide
- Between Jan 2008 and now: more than 60 meetings and virtual events (team meetings, invited talks, panel discussions in the form of augmented conference calls)
- Featured at major events: OntologySummit2008, ISWC 2009, CENDI/NKOS 2008 & 2009, SOCoP 2009, ESWC 2010, SemTech 2010, ISWC 2010

Current Participation (con't)



- Technology contributions from — NCBO / Stanford-BMIR
 - -CIM Engineering (CIM3)
 - -Raytheon BBN
 - -Northeastern University
 - -University of Toronto
 - -University of Bremen
 - … (more Your Organization?)

Current Participation (con't)



 Contributing to the discourse: communities and projects like BioPortal, ORATE, COLORE, NEU-Courses, SIO, XMDR, MMI, NeOn, SOCoP, ... and dozens of individuals from the ontology, semantic web, data modeling, enterprise architecture and software engineering communities

Organizing the Effort



- Design, architecture Virtual panels sessions on Requirements, Use Cases; bi-weekly team conf calls; email list
- Technology Open source project (in the style of Apache)
- Content Looking for "content" down two tracks:
 - The more "traditional" ontologies (in RDF, SKOS, OWL, KIF, CLIF, etc.)
 - From the communities developing KOS/NKOS, classification schema, taxonomies, XML vocabulary & schema, database schema, etc.
- Discourse on Issues e.g. IPR for ontologies and ontology repositories and registries

Ongoing Efforts



- Standing up an OOR-sandbox instance (Stanford/CIM3/NEU) http://oor-01.cim3.net/ontologies
- Standing up an OOR code-repository (BBN/NEU) - http://oor.semwebcentral.org/
- Positioning to stand up an OOR-production instance, which requires to be in place
 - Gatekeeping mechanisms
 - Proper policies



- OOR-development instances
 - NCBO: BioPortal Stanford U. / Mark Musen, Natasha Noy, et al. - whose technology we are running, as our code-base
 - NEU: gatekeeping and policy dev Northeastern
 U. / Ken Baclawski, et al. via a Use Case
 Description Ontology (UCDO)
 - Raytheon BBN: federation BBN / Mike Dean, Jim Chatigny, Dan Cerys
 - others: Bremen, MMI, Ryerson, MetHet, ORNL, ...



COLORE – Common Logic Ontology Repsitory

- –U of Toronto / Michael Gruninger
- -First order logic support for OOR

-Modularization

```
http://stl.mie.utoronto.ca/colore/ordering/partial-ordering.clif
(cl-module partial-ordering.clif
(forall (x)
(leq x x))
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                    (and
                    (= x y)
(forall (x y z)
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                   (leq x y)
(not (leq y x)))))
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semantic technologies laboratory

Ontologies

The ontologies in the repository are informally divided into the following clusters:

Foundational Ontologies

These ontologies axiomatize the general mathematical structures that serve as the basis for the representation theorems of other ontologies in the repository.

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Generic Ontologies

The concepts axiomatized in these ontologies cover the range often associated with ``upper ontologies".

Domain Ontologies

These are ontologies that extend one or more generic ontologies, and which are associated with particular application domains.

Foundational Ontologies

- Graphs
- Incidence Structures
- Linear and Partial Orderings
 Lettices
- Lattices
 Contact/
- <u>ContactAlgebras</u>
 <u>Algebra</u>
- <u>Algebra</u>

Generic Ontologies

•	Time
i.	Duration

- <u>Duration</u>
 Process
- <u>Process</u>
 Mereotopology
- <u>iviereotopolog</u>
 Geometry
- Geometry
 Shape

HeTS – the Heterogeneous Tool Set

- Bremen U (Germany) John Bateman, Till Mossakowski, et al.
- -- formal support for modularity, language translation, mapping, etc.

HeTS: Continuing extension of the treated logics





Next Steps:

- integration of HeTS 'behind the scenes'
 - access to reasoners
 - move beyond OWL
 - extension to our full complement of alignment shapes
- semantic versioning

SIO – Sharing and Integrating Ontologies

- John Sowa and numerous contributors from the Ontolog Forum
- Applying the "Lattice of Theories" to resolving the classical challenges of interrelating disparate ontologies

Lattice of Theories

For any given logic, the set of all possible theories expressible in that logic forms a lattice.



The ordering is defined by specialization and generalization. Adding axioms to a theory creates a more specialized theory. Deleting axioms creates a more generalized theory.

The SIO Players:

(the usual suspects: custodians from the UpperOntologySummit, ... etc.)

Pat Cassidy – COSMO, CDV, PIFO Aldo Gangemi - DOLCE - Description & Situation extensions Michael Gruninger - PSL / ISO 18629 Nicola Guarino - DOLCE Barry Smith – BFO Matthew West - ISO 15926 Adam Pease - SUMO Doug Lenat - OpenCyc John Bateman - Spatial Cognition, GUM, CASL, HeTS John Sowa – Lattice of Theories etc. and YOU! 34



Current OOR Priorities



- Continue to push OOR development and get more contributors
- Set up policies and process policies for contributing to OOR work
 - Clear and easy policies and process to engage developers and have them contribute code
 - Build out "gatekeeping" and move from just having an OOR-sandbox to having available instances of an OOR-sandbox and an OOR-production
 - Clear and easy policies and process to engage content stewards and have them contribute ontologies to our public instance of OOR
- Get funding to continue and extend the work
- Systematically solicit content contribution
- Regularly review requirements and existing standards to make sure we are on track
- Continue efforts in publicity and outreach

Join the Fun !



- Join the [oor-forum] mailing list mailto: oor-forum-join@ontolog.cim3.net
- Come to our OOR-team conference calls -Fridays (noon Eastern Time), every other week
- See: http://OpenOntologyRepository.org
- E-mail any one one of us if you have a question (our email addresses are on the cover slide)