Towards Ontology Certification: Meeting the Need for Trained Ontologists

Barry Smith

on behalf of Nicola Guarino, Fabian Neuhaus

Towards Quality Assurance

- University/course accreditation
- Graduate-level courses, reflecting essential multidisciplinary nature of ontology
- All students should have base-level expertise
- But students will derive from multiple backgrounds:
  - philosophy/logic
  - computer science
  - biology …
  - Hence modularity (alternate tracks)

10-Day Ontologist Certification Program

- 5 weekends (possibly including distance learning)
- Exams for each module (possibly allowing testing out of a limited number of modules)
- Need for common baseline of expertise, common body of accepted content
- Holders of certificates allowed to contribute in Ontolog Forum email exchanges

University-based MA/MS Program

2 years-in-residence, course-work plus thesis

Course-structure can be used for 1-year certificate programs, associate programs …

Possibility of industrial internship component

We have journals, we have organizations, we have conferences, we do not have an established body of steadily accumulating knowledge

Goal is to approximate as closely as possible to existing university departments (physics, …)