Perspectives on Ontology Summit 2013

Michael Grüninger and Matthew West

Symposium

May 2, 2013

Why Are We Here?

- Currently, there is no agreed methodology for development of ontologies, and there are no universally agreed metrics for ontology evaluation.
- At the same time, everybody agrees that there are a lot of badly engineered ontologies out there, so people are using (at least implicitly) some criteria for the evaluation of ontologies.

Thoughts for the Ontology Community

- As a community, we need to agree upon a common set of conditions for evaluating ontologies.
- What are our expectations for ontology evaluation?
  - What does it mean when someone says "I have evaluated my ontology"?
- Do we have any community consensus on ontology quality?
- Can we identify current best practices for ontology evaluation?

What Have We Learned?

The Role of Requirements

- A comprehensive notion of requirements is critical for ontology evaluation.
- Requirements need to be specific enough to be testable
- Verification and validation

Ontology Lifecycle

- Evaluation is needed as the ontology is being designed, developed, implemented, deployed, and maintained.

Concrete Outcomes of the Summit

- Communique
- Community Library (bibliography)
- Survey of software environments and tools to assess or promote the quality and fitness of ontologies.
- Hackathons

Through these resources, we will continue to identify

- evaluation criteria
- best practices
- methodologies