This volume of proceedings gathers papers from the 3rd International Workshop on Dataset PROFIlling and fEderated Search for Linked Data (PROFILES ‘16), held on May 30, 2016 during the 13th ESWC Conference in Anissaras, Crete, Greece.

While the Web of Data, and in particular Linked Data, has seen tremendous growth over the past years, take-up, usage and reuse of data is still limited and is often focused on well-known reference datasets. As the Linking Open Data (LOD) Cloud includes data from a variety of domains spread across hundreds of evolving datasets containing billions of entities and facts, manual assessment of dataset features is not feasible or sustainable, leading to brief and often outdated dataset metadata. Given the dynamic nature of the LOD Cloud, particular focus should be on the development of scalable automated approaches which facilitate the frequent assessment and profiling of large-scale datasets to enable the selection of suitable datasets for query federation and, more generally, dataset recommendation for specific applications. The PROFILES’16 workshop is a continuation of the workshop series successfully started as PROFILES’14 @ ESWC 2014 and PROFILES’15 @ ESWC 2015. These workshops aims to gather innovative query and search approaches for large-scale, distributed and heterogeneous linked datasets, along with dedicated approaches to analyse, describe and discover endpoints, as tasks inherent in query distribution and dataset recommendation. The PROFILES’16 workshop has become a highly interactive research forum for researchers and practitioners in the fields of Linked Data and the Semantic Web, Databases, Semantic Search, Text Mining, NLP, as well as Information Retrieval. PROFILES’16 has gathered novel works from the fields of semantic query interpretation and federated search for Linked Data, dataset selection and discovery, as well as automated profiling of datasets using scalable data assessment and profiling techniques. This year we accepted five papers considering both novel scientific methods and techniques for querying, assessment, profiling, and discovery of distributed datasets as well as from the application perspective, such as the innovative use of tools and methods for providing structured knowledge about distributed datasets, their
evolution, and fundamentally, their use as a means to search and query the Web of Data.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the authors for their valuable and inspiring contributions to the workshops. Our sincere thanks are due to the program committee members for reviewing the submissions and ensuring the high quality of the workshop program. We are also very grateful to the organisers of the ESWC 2016 conference for their support with the workshop organisation. Great appreciation of his time and expertise goes to our keynote speaker Keynote Axel-C. Ngonga Ngomo for his excellent talk entitled “Querying the Web: Challenges and Opportunities” summarized in invited paper “Federated Query Processing: Challenges and Opportunities”.

May 2016

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The PROFILES’16 workshop was co-organised by members of the KEYSTONE COST Action IC1302 on semantic KEYword-based Search on sTructured data sOurcEs, and was also supported by H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014 WDAqua (64279) and by Science Foundation Ireland grant number SFI/12/RC/2289 (Insight).

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