Preface

A picture is worth a thousand words, we often say, yet many areas are in demand of sophisticated visualization techniques, and the Semantic Web is not an exception. The size and complexity of ontologies and Linked Data in the Semantic Web constantly grows and the diverse backgrounds of the users and application areas multiply at the same time. Providing users with visual representations and intuitive interaction techniques can significantly aid the exploration and understanding of the domains and knowledge represented by ontologies and Linked Data.

Ontology visualization is not a new topic and a number of approaches have become available in recent years, with some being already well-established, particularly in the field of ontology modeling. In other areas of ontology engineering, such as ontology alignment and debugging, although several tools have recently been developed, few provide a graphical user interface, not to mention navigational aids or comprehensive visualization and interaction techniques.

In the presence of a huge network of interconnected resources, one of the challenges faced by the Linked Data community is the visualization of multidimensional datasets to provide for efficient overview, exploration and querying tasks, to mention just a few. With the focus shifting from a Web of Documents to a Web of Data, changes in the interaction paradigms are in demand as well. Novel approaches also need to take into consideration the technological challenges and opportunities given by new interaction contexts, ranging from mobile, touch, and gesture interaction to visualizations on large displays, and encompassing highly responsive web applications.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution but different use cases demand different visualization and interaction techniques. Ultimately, providing better user interfaces, visual representations and interaction techniques will foster user engagement and likely lead to higher quality results in different applications employing ontologies and proliferate the consumption of Linked Data.

These and related issues are addressed by the VOILA! workshop series concerned with Visualization and Interaction for Ontologies and Linked Data. The second edition of VOILA! is co-located with the 15th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC 2016) and will take place as a full day event on October 17, 2016 in Kobe, Japan. It will be organized around scientific paper presentations and discussions, and will be accompanied by interactive software demonstrations, giving developers a chance to gather feedback from the community.

The call for papers for VOILA! 2016 attracted 22 submission in different paper categories. Three reviewers were assigned to each submission. Based on the reviews, we selected 15 contributions for presentation at the workshop in the following categories: full papers (7), system papers (2), short papers (2), demo papers (4).
We thank all authors for their submissions and all members of the VOILA! program committee for their useful reviews and comments. We are also grateful to Chiara Ghidini and Heiner Stuckenschmidt, the workshop chairs of ISWC 2016, for their continuous support during the workshop organization.

October 2016

Valentina Ivanova,
Patrick Lambrix,
Steffen Lohmann,
Catia Pesquita

VOILA! 2016
http://voila2016.visualdataweb.org
Organizing Committee

Valentina Ivanova, Linköping University, Sweden
Patrick Lambrix, Linköping University, Sweden
Steffen Lohmann, Fraunhofer IAIS, Germany
Catia Pesquita, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Program Committee

Benjamin Bach, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
Isabel F. Cruz, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA
Aba-Sah Dadzie, Knowledge Media Institute, The Open University, UK
Roberto García, Universitat de Lleida, Spain
Anika Gross, University of Leipzig, Germany
Willem Robert van Hage, Netherlands eScience Center, The Netherlands
Ali Hasnain, The Insight Centre for Data Analytics, Ireland
Eero Hyvönen, Aalto University & University of Helsinki, Finland
Hanmin Jung, Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, Korea
Tomi Kauppinen, Aalto University School of Science, Finland
Ali Khalili, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Suvodeep Mazumdar, University of Sheffield, UK
Paul Mulholland, Knowledge Media Institute, The Open University, UK
Stefan Negru, MSD IT Global Innovation Center, Czech Republic
Francesco Osborne, Knowledge Media Institute, The Open University, UK
Heiko Paulheim, University of Mannheim, Germany
Silvio Peroni, University of Bologna & CNR-ISTC, Italy
Emmanuel Pietriga, INRIA Saclay, France
Harald Sack, Hasso Plattner Institute, University of Potsdam, Germany
Daniel Schwabe, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Gem Stapleton, University of Brighton, UK
Vojtěch Svátek, University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic

Additional Reviewers

Victor Christen
Aidan Delaney
Magnus Knuth
Peter Chapman
Tabea Tietz