

Preface

“Many years ago, I dreamed that people were talking seriously about the potential of harnessing a technological and social nervous system to improve the IQ of our various organizations. What if, suddenly, in an evolutionary sense, we evolved a super new nervous system to upgrade our collective social organisms? Then I dreamed that we got strategic and began to form cooperative alliances of organizations, employing advanced networked computer tools and methods to develop and apply new collective knowledge.”

Douglas Engelbart

While seeking for a suitable leitmotif to introduce *knowledge federation*, we felt fortunate to come upon the above paragraph by Doug Engelbart, which rather accurately describes it. Engelbart dared to dream this dream already in early 1950s, when the few computers that existed were tube-based number crunchers. Since then the enabling technology has been developed, and the conditions are now ripe to make his dream come true.

And we did get strategic. Our knowledge federation community is envisioned as a ‘cooperative alliance of organizations,’ and of researchers from a variety of fields, who will bring a multiplicity of skills and points of view to the shared task of evolving this new way of working together. A purpose for our first workshop was to begin that evolution.

The First International Workshop on Knowledge Federation was a meeting of technical researchers. Our idea was to begin evolving the *knowledge federation* research bottom-up, by first mapping various technical approaches, along with the corresponding tools and theory.

On the last day of the workshop we took up the challenge of combining, reconciling and organizing or in a word *federating* our ideas. The results are outlined in the first article, Knowledge Federation Patterns.

The Second International Workshop on Knowledge Federation will take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, October 3-6, 2010. After that we expect it to be a regular, yearly event.

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