

Preface to WikiKGQA 2026 Proceedings

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1. Introduction

KGQA has a long tradition in the Semantic Web community, particularly under the Question Answering over Linked Data (QALD) moniker and challenge series. With the rise of LLMs, the performance of state-of-the-art systems has improved dramatically. However, benchmark datasets in the space exhibit well-known limitations, primarily due to the manual cost of creating parallel corpora of natural language questions and structured queries. To address these issues, QAWiki¹ proposes a collaboratively-edited community resource of hand-crafted question-query pairs, focusing currently on English and Spanish questions answered over Wikidata's SPARQL query service. The motivation is two-fold: (1) to evaluate KGQA systems over a hand-crafted collection of multilingual question-query pairs over Wikidata, and (2) to build a community centered around QAWiki, to expand and improve it, and thus expand and improve the resources available for training and benchmarking of KGQA systems.

The challenge was co-located with the 25th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC 2026), Bari, Italy, October 25–29, 2026.

2. Call for Papers

The call for papers was publicly distributed via the challenge website², social media, as well as multiple mailing lists including Semantic Web and Connectionists. The focus of this challenge was on Knowledge Graph Question Answering systems, generating answer sets from an input question based on the Wikidata knowledge graph.

3. Challenge Task Description

Knowledge Graph Question Answering (KGQA) offers a promising alternative to end-to-end QA systems by obtaining truthful answers from trusted and well-maintained knowledge sources, such as Wikidata, without losing the flexibility of natural language input. Nevertheless, the creation of large high-quality KGQA benchmarks remains a challenge, with many benchmarks being small, containing errors or repetitive questions that are rarely fixed. Therefore, building on QAWiki, this challenge aims to make

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¹<https://qawiki.org>

²<https://wikikgqa.org>

the creation of KGQA benchmarks a collaborative effort, just like Wikidata itself. For evaluation, a private test dataset consisting of 150 questions was created as well as their corresponding SPARQL queries and answers, which will be integrated with QAWiki after the challenge. Over the years, we aim to build an evolving high-quality KGQA dataset of increasing size. English and Spanish queries are ranked separately, each participant could choose to participate only for one or for both languages. The task itself consisted of two sub-tasks for each language:

1. KGQA using only the input question
2. KGQA using the input question together with metadata, i.e., entity and property annotations

In both sub-tasks, the goal was to generate an answer set for that question based on the version of Wikidata accessible via the WikiKGQA SPARQL endpoint or using the available Wikidata dump. As an evaluation metric, Macro QALD F1³ scores was be used to evaluate the result sets.

4. Deadlines

The final submission and acceptance deadlines of the challenge were the following:

- Challenge solution submission: July 15, 2026 (11:59pm, AoE)
- Challenge results: July 17, 2026
- Paper submissions: July 24, 2026 (11:59pm, AoE)
- Paper acceptance notification: August 21, 2026
- Workshop day: October 25, 2026

5. Organizers

The organizing committee consisted of:

- David Maria Schmidt (Semantic Computing Group, Bielefeld University, Germany)
- Shakeeb Arzoo (Crisil Ltd., S&P Global Ratings)
- Debayan Banerjee (AI & Explainability, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany)
- Alberto Moya Loustaunau (DCC, Universidad de Chile, Chile)
- Ricardo Usbeck (AI & Explainability, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany)
- Philipp Cimiano (Semantic Computing Group, Bielefeld University, Germany)
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6. Challenge and Workshop Summary

The challenge received submissions from five different teams via the Codabench platform⁴. Each of these participating teams also submitted a paper detailing their approach to solving the task. Following a peer-review process where every submission was evaluated by three independent reviewers, all five contributions were ultimately accepted for publication in these proceedings. Thereby, this volume comprises those five submissions by the challenge participants and an introductory paper by the organizers. That paper serves as an introduction to the overall theme of the workshop by providing a thorough look at the nature of the task, key results, associated challenges, and future directions.

7. Acknowledgements

The editors extend their sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this challenge and workshop. We especially thank the authors for sharing their research, the attendees for fostering engaging discussions, and everyone who helped promote the event within the community.

³<https://www.nliwod.org/challenge#evaluation-metric>

⁴<https://www.codabench.org/competitions/15358>