Preface of the SWODCH 2026 Proceedings

Luca Biccheri[1], Antonis Bikakis[2], Roberta Ferrario[3], Béatrice Markhoff[4], Alessandro Mosca[3] and Marianna Nicolosi-Asmundo[5]

[1]*University of Geneva, Switzerland*
[2]*University College London, U.K.*
[3]*ISTC, National Research Council, Italy*
[4]*University of Tours, France*
[5]*University of Catania, Italy*

Abstract
This preface presents the sixth edition of SWODCH, held at ISWC 2026 in Bari, and its two aims: advancing the foundations of ontology design and Semantic Web technologies for Cultural Heritage and the Digital Humanities, and connecting stakeholders from Computer Science and the Humanities who develop and deploy FAIR-compliant Semantic Web solutions. It summarises the review process (12 of 19 submissions accepted) and introduces the accepted papers by theme.

Keywords
Semantic Web, Ontology Design, Cultural Heritage, Digital Humanities.

1. Workshop scope and aims

SWODCH 2026 is the sixth edition of the International Workshop on Semantic Web and Ontology Design for Cultural Heritage. It takes place on October 26 in Bari, Italy, as part of the 25th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC 2026).

As in all previous SWODCH workshops, the purpose of this edition is twofold: first, it aims to gather original research on foundational issues arising from the design of conceptual models, ontologies, and Semantic Web (SW) technologies for Cultural Heritage (CH) and the Digital Humanities (DH). The heterogeneous and multi-format data available in these domains call for principled methodologies and technologies to semantically characterise, integrate, and reason over data, as well as to support its retrieval, management, analysis, and visualisation. The workshop also welcomes studies addressing the philosophical and social analysis of CH and DH data and knowledge representation models, as ontologies in these domains often need to account for the historical and social dimensions of data.

Second, it aims to bring together stakeholders from various fields of Computer Science and the Humanities involved in the development and deployment of concrete SW solutions for CH, efficiently building, managing, exploring, visualising or mining CH knowledge graphs. More than two decades into the twenty-first century, any SW solution should be designed according to the FAIR principles, and the workshop supports the creation of datasets and applications that embrace and are compliant with these very principles.

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Luca.Biccheri@unige.ch (L. Biccheri); a.bikakis@ucl.ac.uk (A. Bikakis); roberta.ferrario@cnr.it (R. Ferrario); beatrice.markhoff@univ-tours.fr (B. Markhoff); alessandro.mosca@cnr.it (A. Mosca); marianna.nicolosiasmundo@unict.it (M. Nicolosi-Asmundo)
0000-0001-8002-7550 (L. Biccheri); 0000-0003-4162-1818 (A. Bikakis); 0000-0002-9175-3096 (R. Ferrario); 0000-0002-5171-8499 (B. Markhoff); 0000-0003-2323-3344 (A. Mosca); 0000-0003-4456-5110 (M. Nicolosi-Asmundo)
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2. Overview of Papers

The workshop received 19 submissions. Each paper was peer-reviewed by at least three experts in the field based on five criteria: relevance to the workshop topics, originality, quality of presentation, technical quality, and reusability. Twelve of the submitted papers were selected for presentation at the workshop and are included in these proceedings, resulting in an acceptance rate of 60%.

The accepted papers covered four main topics:

1. Methodological aspects of ontology development for the Digital Humanities
    - *"Computational onto-morphology for Modern Greek derivation: from Ontolex-Morph to ell_schema model"* by N. Vasilogamvrakis and M. Sfakakis
    - *"Modelling Spatial Iconography. An Ontology Design Pattern to model visual representations on three-dimensional cultural heritage objects"* by P. Schneider
2. Domain ontologies for different fields of the Humanities
    - *"Experiences and Emotions in Intangible Cultural Heritage"* by R. Vieira *et al.*
    - *"Semantic Modelling for Historical Library Reconstruction: Designing the Fürstinnenbibliotheken Ontology"* by S. Wagner and J. Weis
    - *"Exploring Medieval Religious Material Culture Using the ARCH-ON Ontology"* by H. Rantala *et al.*
    - *"HHT-Forest: A module based on HHT for representing temporally-evolving forests"* by T. Gautheron *et al.*
3. Semantic Web technologies for Cultural Heritage content creation, enrichment and retrieval
    - *"CorZoo: An Open TEI Corpus and Knowledge Graph for Semantic Analysis of Ancient Zoological Texts"* by H. Akid *et al.*
    - *"Unlocking the Polysemy of Museum Objects: Documenting and Enriching Information Through Semantic Technologies"* by J. Li *et al.*
    - *"Measuring Object-Level Retrieval with Index Layers in Cultural Heritage Conservation Records"* by A. Gulli *et al.*
    - *"Towards Semantic Retrieval over Conferences Recordings: Automatic Speech Recognition Results Analysis"* by S. Tual *et al.*
4. Context and provenance in Cultural Heritage Knowledge Graphs
    - *"Preserving contextual information in cultural heritage metadata through multidimensional knowledge graphs"* by L. Nixon *et al.*
    - *"Knowledge database for historical demography"* by A. Bouju *et al.*

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