

## **Ontology management research issues**

### **Ontology lifecycle**

#### **Initial ontology design: from art to science...**

reusability degree...

becomes a challenge since the SW boundaries are open

evaluation criteria

competency questions

expressivity, accuracy, cognitive adequacy....

ontology learning

understanding the nature of interaction between linguistic analysis  
and machine learning

role of a priori ontological constraints in automated learning

learning from heterogenous (multimedia) sources

(purpose of ontology development)

metadata annotation

navigation structures

personalization features

emergent ontologies - incidental ontology acquisition

#### **Conceptual refinement (starts from conceptual structures)**

semi-automatic means for restructuring and enriching data resulting

from an ontology learning process, exploiting

already existing (upper-level) ontologies

formal ontological principles for checking, modifying and enriching  
the conceptual structures...

Different ways of adapt and reuse existing ontologies (different  
commitments about the actual content)

Model re-engineering

legacy conceptual schemas, thesauri...

Tools and methods for consensus building and for comparing different  
conceptual views

Ways of making modularity decisions

optimal size of modules

relationships between modules...

Ways of modeling the interactions between agents engaged in verifying  
potential consensus

degrees of consensus,

ways of delegation, trust and control

minimal consensus necessary for solving a certain task...

Role of inference services in supporting incremental refinement

#### **Inter-ontology linking**

Alignement techniques

Integration and merging

#### **Evaluation**

Ways of formally evaluating an ontology with respect to its  
requirements

On-field evaluation of ontologies with respect to usage

kinds of use

reuse in different applications

psychological adequacy (as a result of experiments)

Experiments for checking ontological agreement

Theoretical ways (metrics) for comparing different ontologies

expressivity

accuracy

domain richness

cognitive adequacy...

#### **Evolution**

Kinds of relationships between different ontology versions

**Recognition of change needs (usage of the ontology, new sources coming in...)**

**Impact of changes on metadata annotation**

**Theoretical issues**

theoretical and practical aspects of relevance

formal ontological principles, foundational ontologies

notion of identity [and unity]

unified conceptual analysis methodology (KR, DB, OO, ...)

**Strategic domains for ontology development**

Ontology of *information and information processing*

Ontology of *social entities*

Ontology of *social co-operation and interaction*

**Requirements for tools**

visualization of complex ontologies

cooperative development environment

managing argumentations and design rationale

easy acquisition of arguments

**Relationships with other topics**

User interfaces, collaborative engineering environments...

Language and inferential services

Computational linguistics (reusing lexical resources for ontology development)

Infrastructure (ontology transformation)

**Links with other communities**

Cognitive science (ontology validation experiments)

Agents (modeling interaction and cooperation...)

**[Introductory comments]**

sloppiness..., engineering methodology

planning for decay... (robust design techniques)