

The SPAR Ontologies

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The 17th International Semantic Web Conference
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DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOLOGIA CLASSICA E ITALIANISTICA

Towards a new model for scholarly publishing

Semantic Publishing: the use of Web and Semantic Web technologies and standards for **enhancing a scholarly work semantically** (by means of plain RDF statements, nano-publications, etc.) so as to improve its **discoverability**, **interactivity**, **openness** and **(re-)usability** for both humans and machines

Shotton D. (2009). Semantic Publishing: the Coming Revolution in Scientific Journal Publishing. *Learned Publishing*, 22(2): 85–94. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1087/2009202>

Who is involved:

- Publishers – e.g. [Springer Nature](#) ([SciGraph](#)) and [Elsevier](#) ([Grand Challenge](#))
- Academic communities – e.g. [FORCE11](#) ([FAIR](#)) and [Linked Research](#)
- Other institutions – e.g. [Wikimedia](#) (in particular [Wikidata](#) / [WikiCite](#))

Our contribution to Semantic Publishing

Our goal (since 2010): development of a **set of complementary and orthogonal ontologies** that can be used for the description of the main areas of this publishing domain, from the metadata of scholarly artefacts to the specification of the workflow processes that result in the publication of a scholarly bibliographic product

SPAR (Semantic Publishing and Referencing) Ontologies

<http://www.sparontologies.net> – @sparontologies



- Available with a Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0
- Short descriptive page on the SPAR website, Graffoo diagrams, examples of usage in Turtle, publication information, HTML documentation
- Included in LOV – <http://lov.okfn.org/dataset/lov/vocabs?tag=SPAR>

Development principles (DPs)

DP1 - Enabling adoption: addressing actors' requirements

Involve authors, editors, publishers, members of academic communities, etc., their needs, and the vocabularies they use in their day-to-day work for referring to publishing things

DP2 - Enabling reuse: interoperable ontological modules

Complementary ontological blocks, each describing a particular aspect of the publishing domain, which could be combined easily or used alone to meet the actual description needs

DP3 - Enabling application in different contexts: minimal logical constraints

Use only a very limited number of strictly necessary constraints that allow a respectable level of formal verification of data, while enabling their easy learning and re-use in different contexts

DP4 - Enabling interoperability: reusing existing vocabularies

Include of concepts from existing vocabularies / design patterns, since they can provide an initial more general stub and can speed the adopters' learning curve for understanding the new model

Main tools developed

DP5 - Enabling human understandability: supporting people with examples and tools

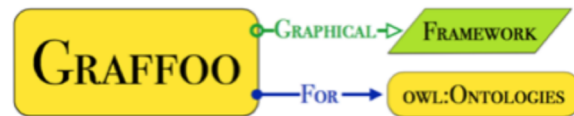
Provide mechanisms for understanding and accessing the ontology by people who may not necessarily be experts in Knowledge Representation



<http://www.essepuntato.it/lode>

SAMOD

<http://www.essepuntato.it/samod>



<http://www.essepuntato.it/graffoo>

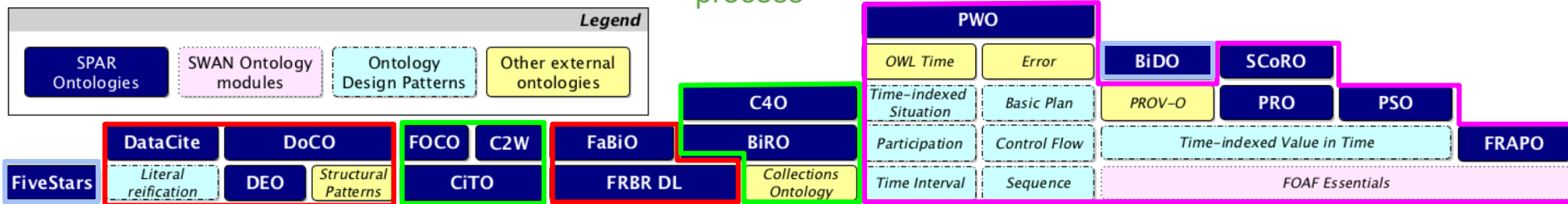
SPAR Ontologies: a diagram

17 OWL 2 DL ontologies

Reuse of several existing models and design patterns

components involved in the citation process

specification of qualitative and quantitative evaluations of a bibliographic resource or an agent (impact factor, h-index, e-index, etc.) and for the encoding of a Five Stars rating for articles

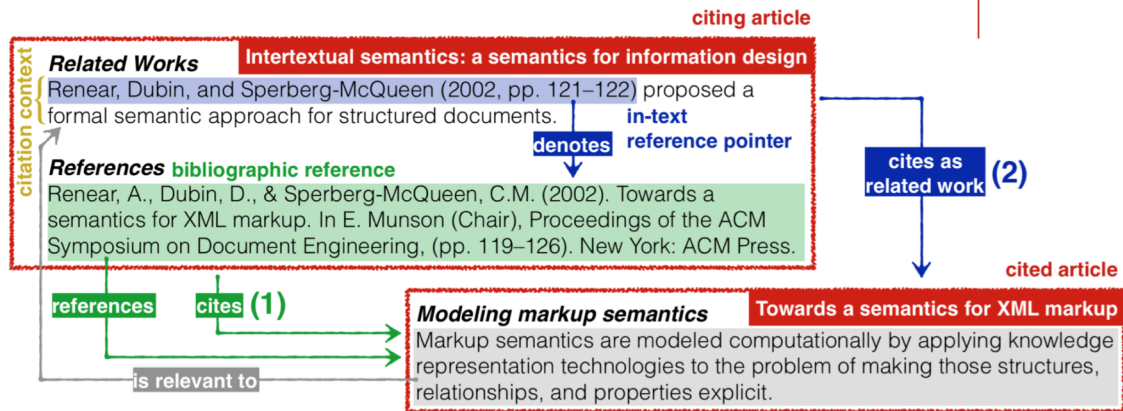


bibliographic resources, their identifiers, and their internal components (paragraphs, sections, results, methods, etc.)

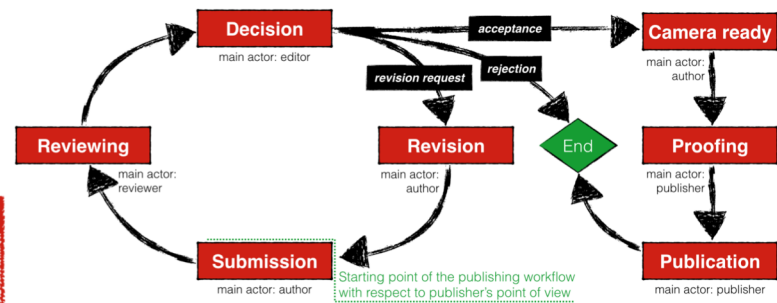
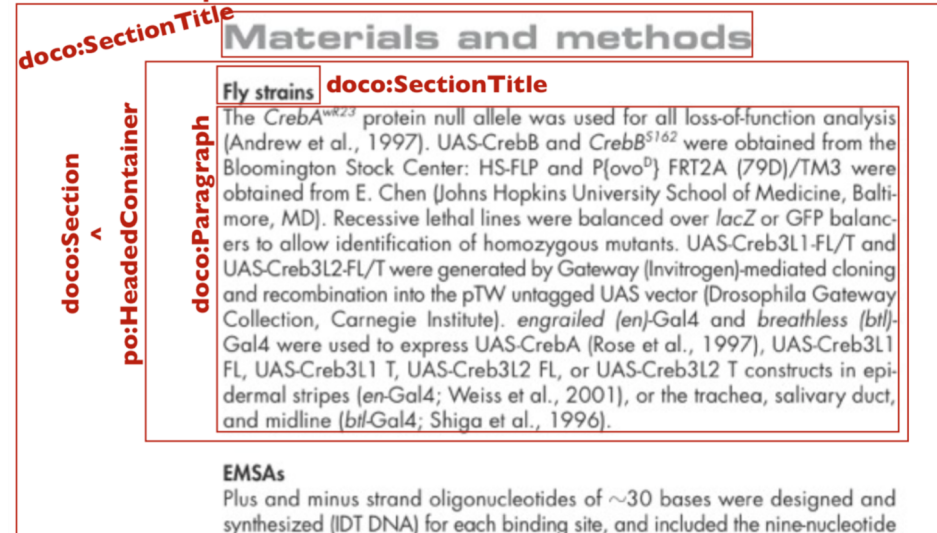
contextual aspects of a publication, namely agents' roles, document statuses, steps in the publishing workflow, contributors' roles, and related academic administrative information

Giving names to things

Disambiguating words (e.g. “reference”) by providing specific terms to each part of an article (“citing entity”, “cited entity”, “citation”, “reference”, “bibliographic reference”, ...)



doco:Section ^ po:HeadedContainer ^ deo:Methods ^ deo:Materials



An example (in Turtle)

```
<https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/br/1>
  a fabio:Expression, fabio:JournalArticle ;
  prism:publicationDate "2016"^^xsd:gYear ;
  dcterms:title "ESMO-ESGO-ESTRO Consensus Conference on Endometrial Cancer" ;
  fabio:hasSubtitle "Diagnosis, Treatment and Follow-up" ;
  cito:cites
    <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/br/10>,
    <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/br/100>,
    ... ;
  datacite:hasIdentifier
    <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/id/1>,
    ... ;
  pro:isDocumentContextFor
    <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/ar/1>,
    ... ;
  frbr:partOf <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/br/2> ;
  frbr:embodiment <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/re/1> .


<https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/re/1> a fabio:Manifestation ;
  prism:endingPage "30" ;
  prism:startingPage "2" .

<https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/id/1> a datacite:Identifier ;
  datacite:usesIdentifierScheme datacite:doi ;
  literal:hasLiteralValue "10.1097/igc.0000000000000609" .

<https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/ar/1> a pro:RoleInTime ;
  pro:isHeldBy <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/ra/1> ;
  pro:withRole pro:author ;
  oco:hasNext <https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/ar/2> .

<https://w3id.org/oc/corpus/ra/1> a foaf:Agent ;
  foaf:familyName "Colombo" ;
  foaf:givenName "Nicoletta" .
```


Who is using SPAR

 UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CEB

Chief Executives Board
for Coordination

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT (HLCM)

Working Group on Document Standards



The United Nations System
Document Ontology

A framework for the description of United Nations system documents' entities and their relationships



dokieli



Global Change Information System

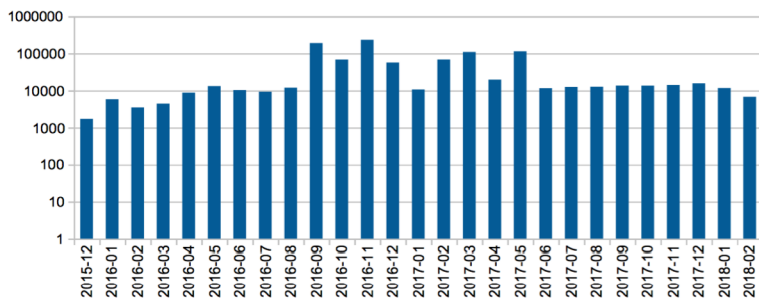
Complete list at <http://www.sparontologies.net/uptake>

Statistics

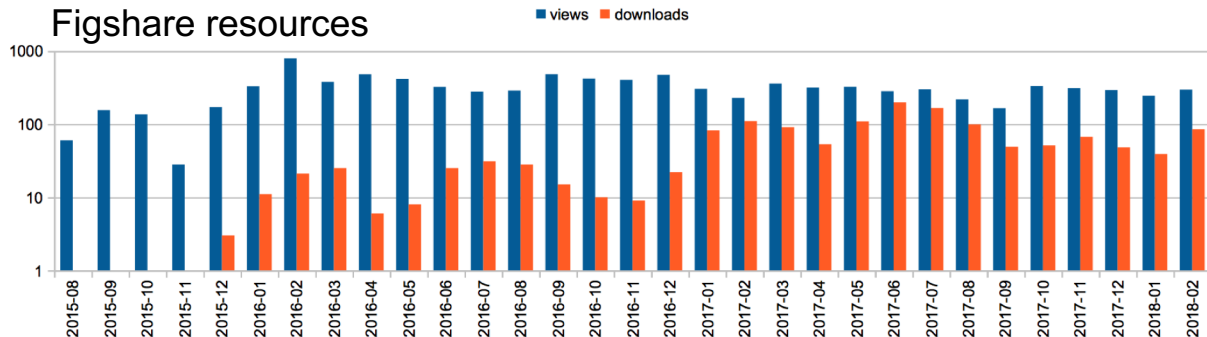
677 articles (source Google Scholar, 20 March 2018) refer to SPAR Ontologies – complete list at

<http://www.sparontologies.net/publications>

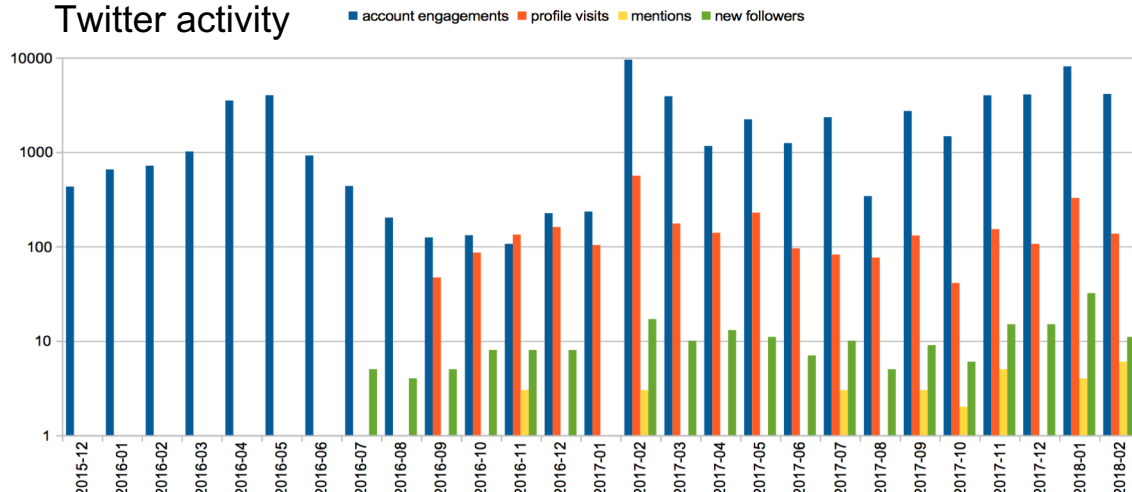
Website accesses



Figshare resources



Twitter activity



Sustainability in the long term: OpenCitations

OpenCitations (<http://opencitations.net>) is a scholarly infrastructure organization

- dedicated to **open scholarship** and the **publication of open bibliographic and citation data** by the use of Semantic Web technologies
- engaged in advocacy for **open citations**

It sustains and uses SPAR Ontologies for describing the bibliographic and citation datasets it releases to the public (i.e. the [OpenCitations Corpus](#) and [COCI](#))

SPAR Ontologies were one of the main outcomes – full details [in the official blog](#) – of an original JISC-funded project (2010) which aimed at publishing open bibliographic citation information in RDF and making citation links as easy to traverse as Web links (i.e. the JISC Open Citations Project)

One more thing

SPAR Ontologies resources have recently been migrated from Sourceforge to GitHub – <https://github.com/sparontologies>

New contribution guidelines, available at <https://sparontologies.github.io>, permit members of the community to propose new ontologies to be added to the SPAR ontologies suite

Newest member of
the SPAR suite...



<http://purl.org/spar/fr>

Conclusions

The SPAR Ontologies are set of complementary and orthogonal ontologies that can be used for the description of the main areas of this publishing domain

Used in different projects and by different institutions

Possibility to extend the suite by accepting proposals of new ontologies from the community

Future works: to develop tools that authors and publishers can use for the (semi-)automatic production of SPAR-based metadata

Thank you for your attention

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