



IAOA
**International Association for
Ontology and its Applications**

First General Assembly, May 13th, 2010

IAOA: a unique combination of key aspects

Interdisciplinarity

Cooperation between academy, industry, and communities of practice
(with an eye on education)

Scientific authoritativeness

Openness

Legal status

Transparent governance

The challenges of *interdisciplinarity*

Working at (and in...) the *interfaces* among

Disciplines

Cultures

Languages

Socio-technical systems

...is **HARD!**

- Anyway, these are the main challenges of modern, global, networked society
- Ontologies are certainly intended to address such challenges, and ultimately can contribute to mutual understanding, social awareness and collaborative participation to the huge socio-technical system which is modern society

A new discipline (or science) is emerging?

See the history of Psychology, Systems Engineering...

See recent proposals for Web Science, Services Science...

Maybe.

For sure, a *humble*, truly interdisciplinary approach is needed, focusing on letting new ideas, approaches, methodologies emerge from the *mutual cross-fertilization* of different disciplines.

That's why we believe that this association is **NEEDED**.

From the Statute

“The Association is a non-profit organization the purpose of which is to promote interdisciplinary research and international collaboration at the ***intersection of philosophical ontology, linguistics, logic, cognitive science, and computer science***, as well as in the applications of ontological analysis to ***conceptual modeling, knowledge engineering, knowledge management, information-systems development, library and information science, scientific research, and semantic technologies*** in general.”

A bit of history - Community building initiatives

- 1993: 1st International workshop on Formal Ontology & Information Systems
- 1998: 1st FOIS conference
- 2002: Ontolog forum
- 2005: Applied Ontology (IOS Press)
- 2005: ECOR, NCOR, JCOR...
- 2006: First public discussion on an ontology association at FOIS (Baltimore, USA)
- 2008: Public assembly at FOIS (Saarbrücken, Germany)
- 2009: The Association was formally constituted in Trento, Italy on April 29th 2009

- In parallel: various *consortia* focusing mainly on Semantic Web

Where we are now

- 116 members
- general mailing list with more than 300 subscribers
- Institutional members:
 - Musil Lab (Werner Kuhn)
 - NCOR (Barry Smith)
 - IBM Italy (Guido Vetere)
 - Laboratoire MIS (Gilles Kassel)
 - NCO/NITRD (George Strawn)
 - (US National Coordination Office for Networking and Information Technology Research and Development)



IAOA

The International Association for Ontology and its Applications

Overview

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Welcome to the homepage of the IAOA. We will be extending this page over the coming weeks and month and welcome your input; meanwhile you will find all the necessary information to see what the association is for, what it might do for you, and how you can join.

Mission Statement:

*The International Association for Ontology and its Applications is a non-profit organization the purpose of which is to promote interdisciplinary research and international collaboration at the intersection of philosophical ontology, linguistics, logic, cognitive science, and computer science, as well as in the applications of ontological analysis to conceptual modeling, knowledge engineering, knowledge management, information-systems development, library and information science, scientific research, and semantic technologies in general.
IAOA is open to all individuals and institutions who share its goals.*

News and Info

[Join the IAOA mailing list here.](#)
[Download the Association info flyer.](#)
[Download the Association statute.](#)
[Please help us find a logo.](#)

FOIS 2010

[Sixth International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems \(CFP\)](#)

The Association is addressed to:

- Philosophers who have an interest in applying their analytical tools to technology advancement;
- cognitive scientists, linguists and terminologists aware of the subtle interplays among ontology, language, and cognition;
- computer scientists and IT professionals aware of the desperate need of a sound interdisciplinary approach for building future generation socio-technical systems.

A new journal: *Applied Ontology*



Editors in chief:

Nicola Guarino
ISTC-CNR

Mark Musen
Stanford University

IOS Press

Amsterdam, Berlin, Washington,
Tokyo, Beijing

www.applied-ontology.org

The Elected Executive Council

- John Bateman, University of Bremen, Germany (*Vice President*)
- Stefano Borgo, ISTC-CNR, Italy
- Michael Gruninger, University of Toronto, Canada
- Nicola Guarino, ISTC-CNR, Italy (*President*)
- Giancarlo Guizzardi, Federal University of Espirito Santo, Vitoria, Brazil
- Riichiro Mizoguchi, University of Osaka, Japan
- Leo Obrst, MITRE, USA
- Laure Vieu, IRIT-CNRS, France (*Treasurer*)
- Peter Yim, Ontolog, USA (*Secretary*)
- Stepping out:
 - Antony Galton, University of Essex, UK
 - Paul Buitelaar, DERI, Ireland
 - Mark Musen, Stanford University, USA
- Advisory board to be established (suggestions?)

Report from last year

- Establishing the infrastructure:
 - Web site
 - Payment mechanism, legal aspects...
 - Election process
 - Statute adjustments, bylaws
- Advertizing the Association (Ontolog seminar, talks in conferences...)
- New structure of FOIS
- ESF proposal for an international network promoting ontology research
- Co-organization of Ontology Summit devoted to education
- LOT OF VOLUNTARY EFFORT from many people (thanks, thanks to all of them)!

Future initiatives: education

- Common understanding of our field
- Summer school
- Official agreement among a network of universities on a core curriculum
- PhD Colloquium
- Repository of education material
- Registry on ontology-centered education and training activities
- Ontological engineering guidelines
- Textbook or handbook
- Exposure of students to all facets of the relevant activities

Future activities: outreach activities

- Liasons with other associations
 - Information systems
 - Contacts with ontology-related events
 - ...
- Liasons with institutions/initiatives
- Liasons with standardization initiatives
- Building bridges between communities
- Other ways to get new members

- Involvement of institutional members

Future activities: strengthening and synchronizing funding applications

- getting more money flowing into advanced ontology development
- we'll need targetted use cases, educational measures, and reliable ontology publicity that unites different groups and approaches.
- In all these respects IAOA should adopt a leading and guiding position, bringing together the diversity of participants required to make it work

Future activities: structuring and shaping the community

- Thematic interest groups
 - Biomedicine
 - Geospace
 - eGovernment and services
 - Engineering
 - Cultural heritage
 -
- Local chapters (Somehow necessary if ESF proposal passes)
 - Brazil
 - Japan/far East
 - Request from Cuba
 - ...
- Ad hoc task forces (e.g., outreach specific communities...)
 - Semantic Web, Information Systems, Terminology.....
- Note: no groups on specific methodologies or disciplines!

Future activities: common body of knowledge

- Use cases showing how the additional effort of well-founded ontologies pays off
- Best practices
- Hyperontology portal, Open Ontology Repository, ...
- Links with initiatives like Ontogenesis, Ontology Design Patterns,
- Tools
- Methodologies and benchmarks for empirical evaluation of ontologies

Future activities: ways to circulate information among members

- Bulletin/Newsletter
- Mailing list
- Forum
- Wiki
- ...

Future activities: public positions on relevant issues

- Ontology summit Communiqué on *ontologists for the future*
- White paper on what applied ontology is
- White paper on role of (foundational) ontologies for the Semantic Web
- ...

Budget status: a few figures

December 31st 2009: 56 members

- memberships+donations: +€ 2,876.82
- costs (software, taxes, recurrent): -€ 1,478.29
- Balance: +€ 1,398.53

May 3rd 2010: 116 members

- memberships+donations: +€ 2,865.29
- costs (domain, recurrent): -€ 184,39

End of 2010:

- expected memberships: +€ 1,200 (?)
- expected costs (FOIS, taxes, recurrent): -€ 1,250
- expected balance: about +€ 4,000

Possible use of Funds in the future

- Support for meetings, workshops, conferences
- Support for summer schools and other educational activities
- Organization of open events
- Grants for students and disadvantaged people
- Fellowships and awards
- Cooperation with other institutions and contribution to joint activities

Your active contribution is welcome!

Suggestions?
Recommendations?
Questions?
Concerns?