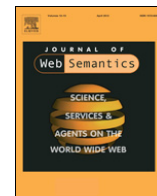




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# Web Semantics: Science, Services and Agents on the World Wide Web

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## Editorial

## The Semantic Web Challenge 2013



The goal of the Semantic Web Challenge is to provide researchers and industry with a forum to showcase the best Semantic Web applications, to demonstrate practical progress towards achieving the vision of the Semantic Web, and to show the value of Semantic Web technologies within various application domains. The Semantic Web Challenge has been organized annually since 2003.

The Semantic Web Challenge 2013 took place at the 13th International Semantic Web Conference held in Sydney, Australia, from 23 to 25 October, 2013. As in previous years, the challenge required that applications had to provide a practical value to web users or domain experts. Systems should also make use of heterogeneous information sources under diverse ownership or control, and the meaning of data should play a central role. The Semantic Web Challenge 2013 received 17 submissions. All submissions were evaluated rigorously by a jury composed of leading scientists and experts from industry in a 3-round knockout competition, according to a comprehensive set of challenge requirements. All 17 submissions were invited to present a poster and demonstration during the ISWC conference. Following this, nine finalists were chosen to give an oral presentation and live demo during a dedicated session, with the winners then being selected.

In 2013, there were five systems selected as winners, four in the Open Track, with a special Big Data Prize being awarded to the best systems making use of large-scale data sets. This special issue presents articles about these five systems.

The winning system was “The BBC World Service Archive Prototype” by Yves Raimond and Tristan Ferne of the BBC. The system used a combination of audio processing, crowdsourcing, analytics and visualization to allow the BBC to link and access archive materials with, and during live broadcasts in real time.

In second place was “Constitute: The World’s Constitutions to Read, Search and Compare” by Zachary Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, James Melton, Robert Shaffer, Juan F. Sequeda and Daniel Miranker from the University of Texas at Austin, The University of Chicago and University College London. Each year, around five nations draft a brand new constitution. Constitute provides a curated solution allowing exploration of relevant aspects of the world’s constitutions, providing a valuable knowledge resource to constitutional drafters.

Joint third place was awarded to “B-hist: Entity-Centric Search over Personal Web Browsing History” by Michele Catasta, Alberto Tonon, Vincent Pasquier, Gianluca Demartini, Philippe Cudré-Mauroux and Karl Aberer of EPFL and University of Fribourg, and

“STAR-CITY: Semantic Traffic Analytics and Reasoning for CITY” from Freddy Lecue, Simone Tallevi-Diotalle, Jer Hayes, Robert Tucker, Veli Bicer, Marco Luca Sbodio and Pierpaolo Tommasi of IBM Research’s Smart Cities Team. B-hist supports entity-centric search of a user’s web browsing history, while STAR-CITY used Semantic Web technologies to enhance analysis and presentation of traffic monitoring.

Finally, the Big Data Prize went to Muhammad Saleem, Maulik R. Kamdar, Aftab Iqbal, Shanmukha Sampath, Helena F. Deus and Axel-Cyrille Ngonga Ngomo of Universität Leipzig, NUI Galway and Foundation Medicine Inc. for “Fostering Serendipity through Big Linked Data”. The system linked publications from PubMed with a significant subset of the Linked Cancer Genome Atlas.

Once again, these papers demonstrate the high quality and diverse nature of the challenge entries. All entries were well-designed and polished and supported clear use cases. In addition, it was pleasing to see entries addressing real problems with potential for significant societal impact. The entries illustrate the use of Semantic Web data, and showcase some of the best applications developed in both academic and industrial research communities.

We would like to thank all the members of the jury for their detailed judgment of the strengths and weaknesses of the submitted applications. Judging the challenge is an intense process that requires significant commitment from the jury, which consisted this year of:

- Dave De Roure (University of Oxford, UK)
- Willem van Hage (SynerScope, The Netherlands)
- Peter Mika (Yahoo!, Spain)
- Enrico Motta (Open University, UK)
- Sweetze Roffel (Elsevier, The Netherlands)
- Hideaki Takeda (National Institute of Informatics, Japan)

Our special thanks also go to the sponsor of the Semantic Web Challenge – Elsevier – for their long-standing support.

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