

**Scientific Communication &
Scientific Writing**

SS 2017



Research Articles

Attempting a Systematic Treatment

Main Categories of Publications According to DBLP



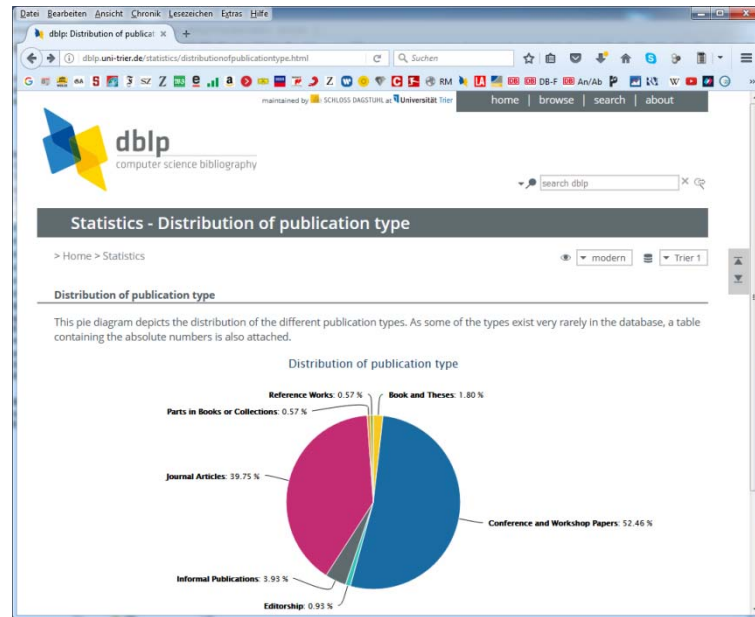
(Beware: This statistics is solely based on DBLP's own contents!)

Journal Articles ~ 40%

Conference and Workshop Papers ~ 52%

(Statistics page of DBLP, 14.5.2017)

Article vs. Paper: Appropriate Types of Documents, and Distinction



- This overview confirms that our claim made in the first SCSW lecture is (rather) well-founded (at least in CS):

More than 90% of all publications referenced in DBLP belongs to the two categories called article or paper!

- Whether these numbers are firmly settled in CS in general (and apply even to other areas of science) remains open, but . . .
- . . . there is a rather high likelihood that this assumption forms a pretty reliable „working hypothesis“ for a lecture such as SCSW.

- Whether the terminology used („Conference and Workshop Paper“ and „Journal Article“) is based on a firmly established distinction made in science in general (or even in CS in particular) or just reflects a choice/decision made by the managing body of dblp-org is open, too – we will have a closer look at this question.
- Important other open questions:
 - Are there any characteristic properties that are specific (or even required) for each of these two types of documents (article/paper)?
 - Are the two notions referring to disjoint sets of objects (No article is a paper, and/or vice-versa?), or are there documents that could be published as either journal article or as a conference paper?
 - Is there any generally accepted ranking? Are journal articles more valuable than conference papers?

Article vs. Paper: „Who is Who?“

Back to the Future – Should SQL Surrender to SPARQL?

Rainer Manthey

Institute of Computer Science III, University of Bonn, Germany
manthey@cs.uni-bonn.de

Abstract. In this paper, we will take a closer look at the essential differences between two of the most prominent database query languages today, SPARQL and SQL, and at their underlying data models, RDF resp. the relational model (RM). There is an enormous “hype” around SPARQL/RDF at the moment claiming all kinds of advantages of these “newcomers” over the long-established SQL/RM setting. We discover that many of these claims are not justified, at least not as far as data representation and querying is concerned. Our conclusion will be that SQL/RM are well able to serve the same purpose as SPARQL/RDF if treated fairly, and if presenting itself properly. We omit all aspects of navigation over distributed or federated data resources, though, as SQL isn’t (yet) made for this task.

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The Entity-Relationship Model—Toward a Unified View of Data

PETER PIN-SHAN CHEN

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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CR Categories: 3.50, 3.70, 4.33, 4.34

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This paper presents the entity-relationship model, which has most of the advantages of the above three models. The entity-relationship model adopts the more natural view that the real world consists of entities and relationships. It

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Which of these two documents is an article? Which is a paper?

Article vs. Paper: Any „Visible“ Difference?

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Consequently, getting good funding for proposals addressing these issues is comparatively easy these days (and increasingly harder for other, “old-fashioned” topics like SQL). Even when discussing curricula for computer science students nowadays, academic teachers have to decide whether to switch from “good old” relational databases and SQL [3] to “cool” RDF databases and SPARQL already in their introductory lectures on information systems. Making such a step at the core of academic education would really mean for the SQL community to “surrender” to the new trend, because you lose the fight if you lose the “youth”. And fight there is, despite the increasing number of SPARQL-to-SQL contributions, e.g. [4,5], seemingly bringing peace back, but in reality attempting to reduce SQL to a kind of “DB assembler”, hidden under the surface, but offering SPARQL as “the” new interface to every database.

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Title

Author
(and Affiliation)

Abstract

Introduction

„Meta-Data“

The Entity-Relationship Model—Toward a Unified View of Data

PETER PIN-SHAN CHEN
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Article vs. Paper: Looking at the „Meta-Data“ Helps

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Article vs. Paper: Conference vs. Journal

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„SOFSEM 2015“ is the name of a conference.
„LNCS 8939“ refers to a proceedings issue.

Thus, this document is a „conference paper“.

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Article vs. Paper: One Document, Two Versions?

Is the „version of“ of the journal article the **same document** as the conference paper?

A version of this **paper** was presented at the International **Conference** on Very Large Data Bases, Framingham, Mass., Sept. 22–24, 1975.

Is this document a „paper“ or an „article“?

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Article Instead of Paper: A „Subjective“ Decision in This Lecture

- Both categories (article and paper) consist of **individual** (scientific) **documents** published as separate parts of a **collective publication unit** (journal or book).
- An agreed naming convention does not seem to exist – both terms (article/paper) are considered **synonymous** in many sources.
- A particular attribution of any of the two names to either journal or proceedings context of collective publication is not observable either.
- Thus: We will treat the two notions as **synonyms** in this lecture –acknowledging that they are distinguished (systematically) in other places (e.g., in DBLP).
- However, we will **prefer** the term „**article**“ (and try to **avoid** the variant „**paper**“ in the following), thus reflecting that such documents are presently made available mainly in digital form.
- Thus, calling them „**paper**“ (referring to the „old“ physical format) appears to be to become more and more inappropriate – even though digital documents, of course, can be printed easily (and printed „papers“ scanned and thus digitized as easily, too).

Journal vs. Conference Article

- Even though we will use the **same term** if referring to individual scientific documents containing scientific results attributed entirely to the/those person(s) named as author(s) of the article . . .
- . . . we will still continue to clearly distinguish the clearly different scientific **context** in which the resp. article has been published:
 - **journal** article
 - **conference** article
- Here the notion „**conference**“ is again treated as a term expressing that the resp. article has been prepared for (and presented at) a **scientific event** (a convention of scientists) and has been published within the collection of all articles of that event (in most cases called a **proceedings** issue).
- Other types of **similarly organized events**, such as symposia, workshops etc., are thus subsumed by the more generic name „conference“.
- Once again, we **don't** report about any generally agreed form of „standardization“.

Libraries vs. Catalogues – Physical vs. Digital



Libraries vs. Catalogues (2)

- There are two types of institutions that have been established in the context of document keeping (in science and/or elsewhere): **Libraries** and **catalogues**.
- **Library** (lat.: liber = book) is the main term, originally only referring to places for keeping (and „using“) written documents:

A **library** is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing.

It provides **physical** or **digital** access to material, and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both.

(Wikipedia, Engl., 14.5.2017)

- **Catalogue** is a secondary concept originally firmly related to every library. Catalogues are both, physical or digital/virtual by now, too. Particularly digital catalogues may exist individually, too.

A library **catalog** or library **catalogue** is a register of all bibliographic items found in a library or group of libraries, . . . A bibliographic item can be any information entity . . . that is considered library material . . .

(Wikipedia, Engl., 14.5.2017)

Libraries vs. Catalogues (3)

- A few „trivial“ consequences of the terminology settings on the last slide:

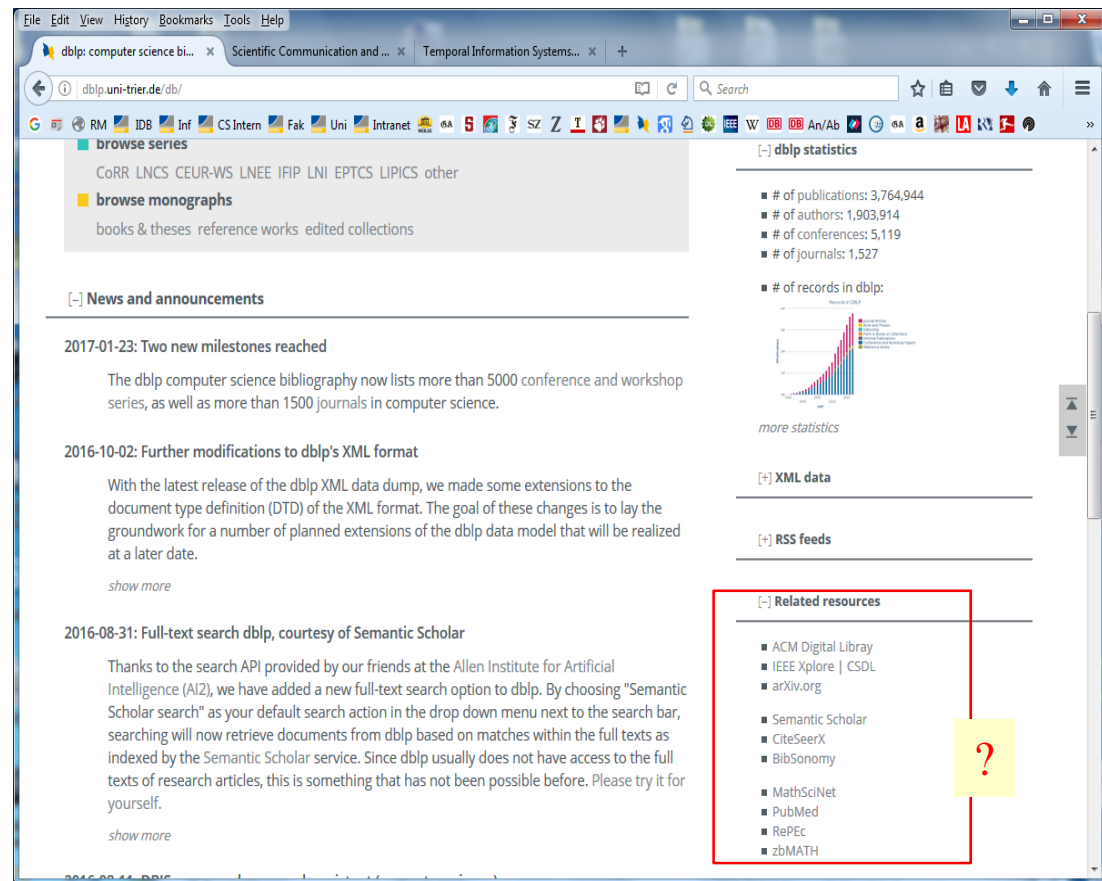
There are **no** books (or articles) in a catalogue!

There are **no** data (about books or articles) in a library!

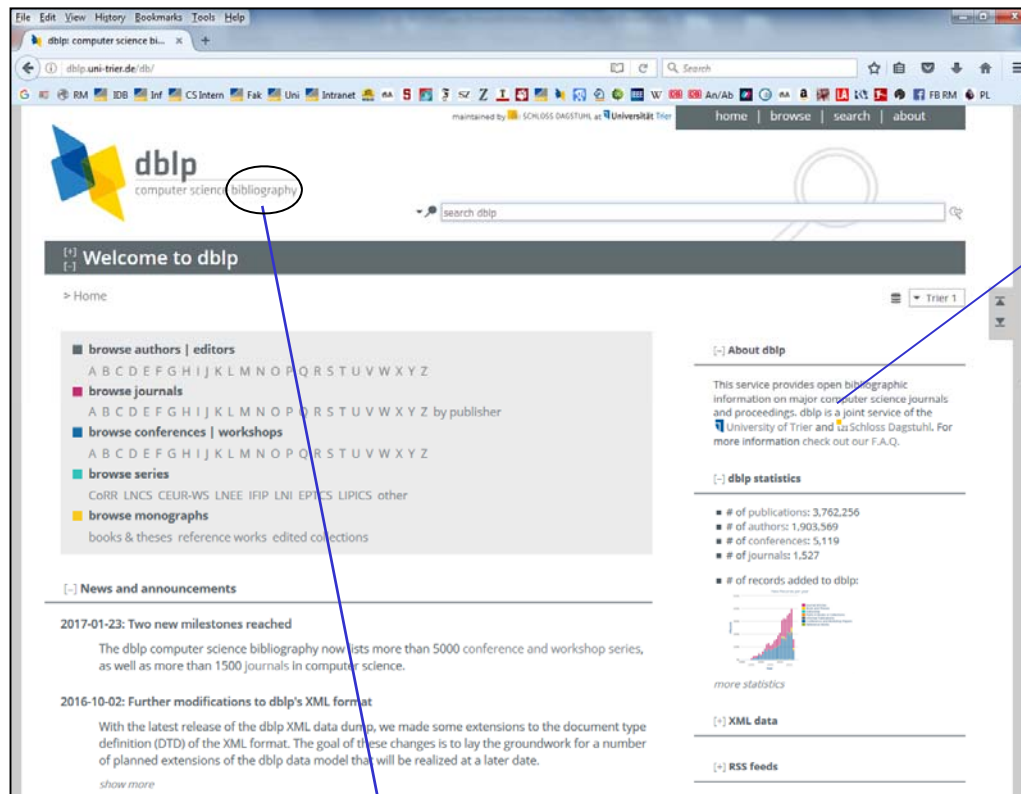
- The „bibliographic data“ in a **catalogue** refer to the „bibliographic items“ in one (or several) libraries. These library items are the **primary** objects of interest in connection with scientific literature in particular.
- (Almost) every **library** has its own catalogue registering all (?) the items it contains in terms of data entries. The data in a catalogue are the **secondary** „objects“ of interest in connection with literature. They **reference** the primary objects, not vice versa.
- It is important to keep the **distinction** between these two concepts very clearly in mind. In the digital „era“, catalogues gain a more and more important (and independent) role, often „de-coupling“ them from a particular library. More and more, catalogues start referencing „objects“ from the context of keeping „bibliographic items“ (which are no such „bibliographic items“ anymore, e.g. authors, events, publishing organisations etc.) .

Digital Systems in the Context of Scientific Documents

- It is getting increasingly **difficult** (at least non-obvious) to classify **web-based services** in connection with keeping (information about) scientific literature with respect to the established distinction library/catalogue.
- **Google Scholar** and **DBPL** (the systems used in this lecture up till now) don't call themselves **library** or **catalogue**. Do these systems belong into these categories?
- What „is“ DBPL?
What „is“ Google Scholar?
- How to classify the „**Related resources**“ which DBLP references?
- Is it more appropriate to call them „**search engines**“?



Classifying Digital Systems: DBLP



An enumerative **bibliography** is a systematic list of books and other works such as journal articles. . . .
A library catalog, while not referred to as a "bibliography," is bibliographic in nature.

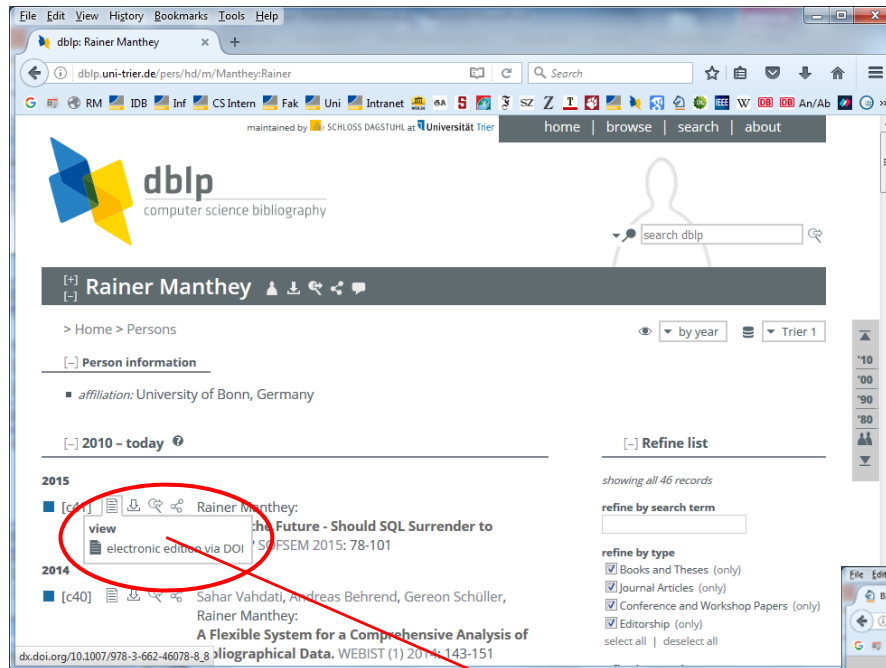
What they say about themselves:

This service provides open bibliographic information on major computer science journals and proceedings.

- DBLP clearly is an example of a digital **catalogue**.
- The **bibliographic items** it references are belonging to those categories mentioned in the statistics graph at the beginning of this lecture.
- DBLP references items from **other** categories (related to bibliographic entries), too (e.g., authors/editors, conferences).

(Wikipedia, Engl., 14.5.2017)

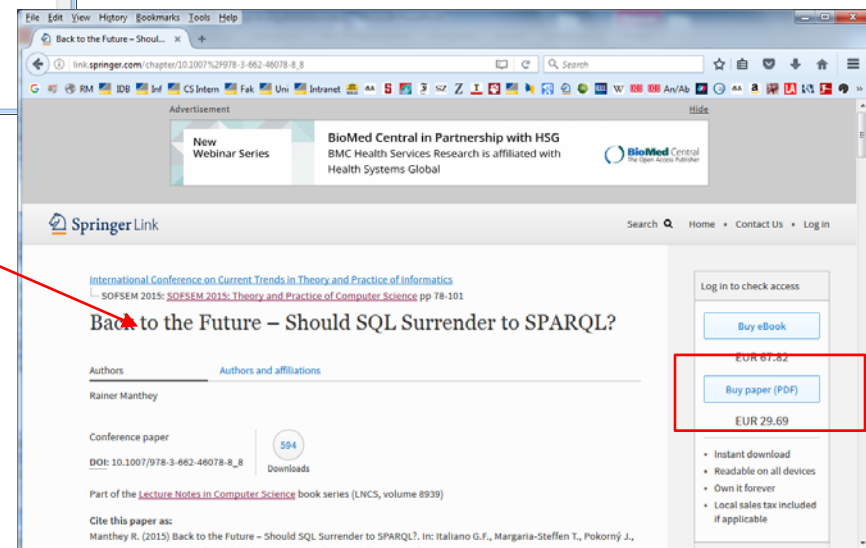
Classifying Digital Systems: DBLP (2)



DBLP is a catalogue, not a library – it is connected with other catalogues („belonging to“ libraries).

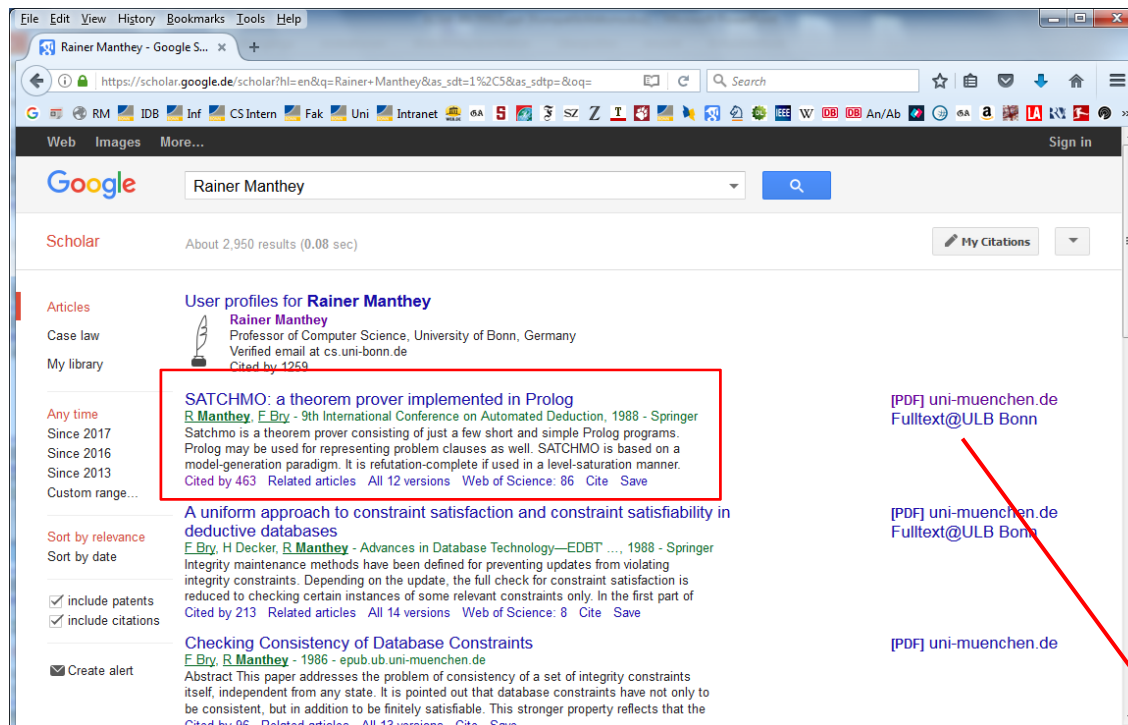
Even though DBLP is not just providing data about bibliographic items (such as articles), it does not offer access to these items themselves!

Instead it provides **references** (links) to catalogue pages of, e.g., publishers (here: Springer), which in turn reference their own digital library that gives access to the **article** itself (by payment).

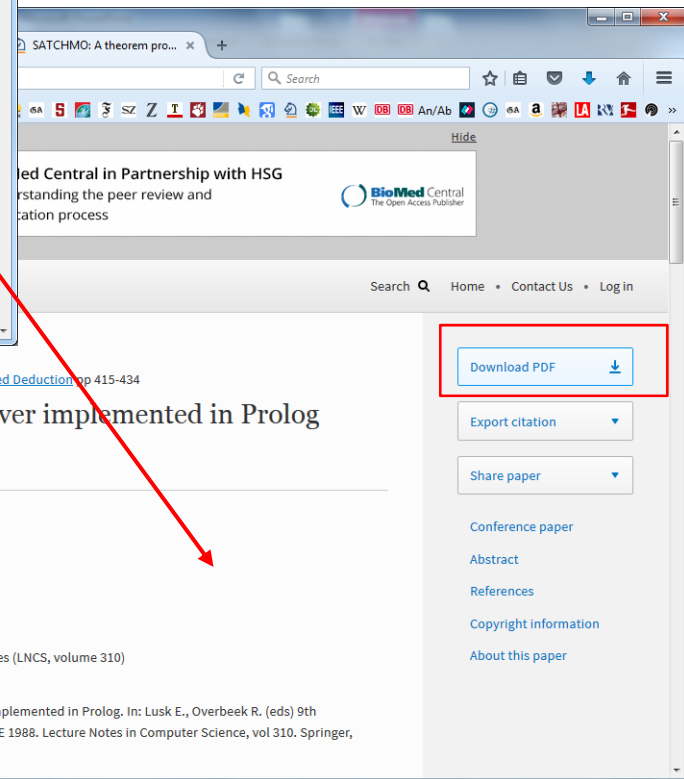


Classifying Digital Systems: Google Scholar

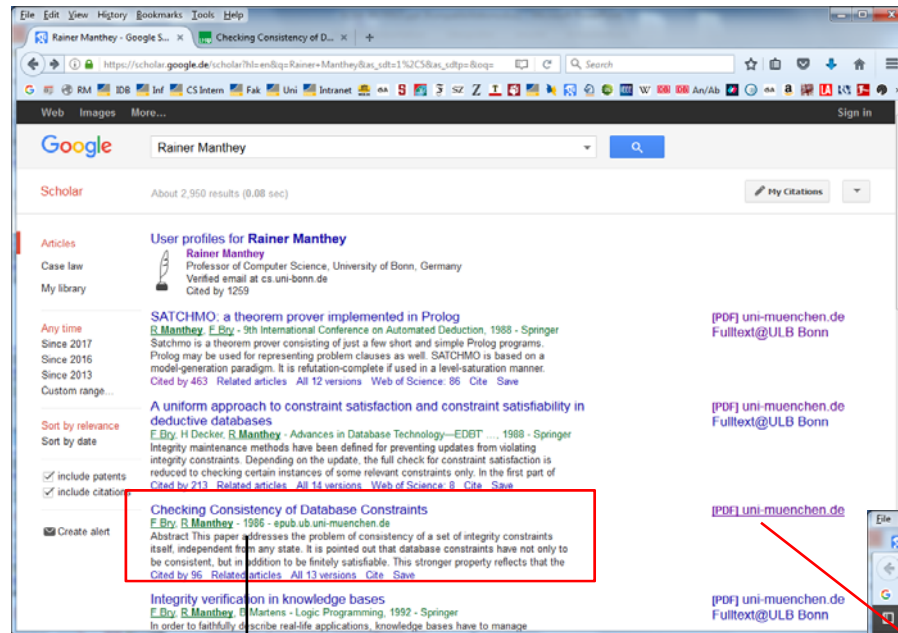
Google Scholar is a digital catalogue,
too – not a library!



The main purpose of this system is to provide you with „bibliographical data“. **Links** (sometimes) given at the right-hand side just connect you with catalogues of libraries . . . , and occasionally with items outside libraries!

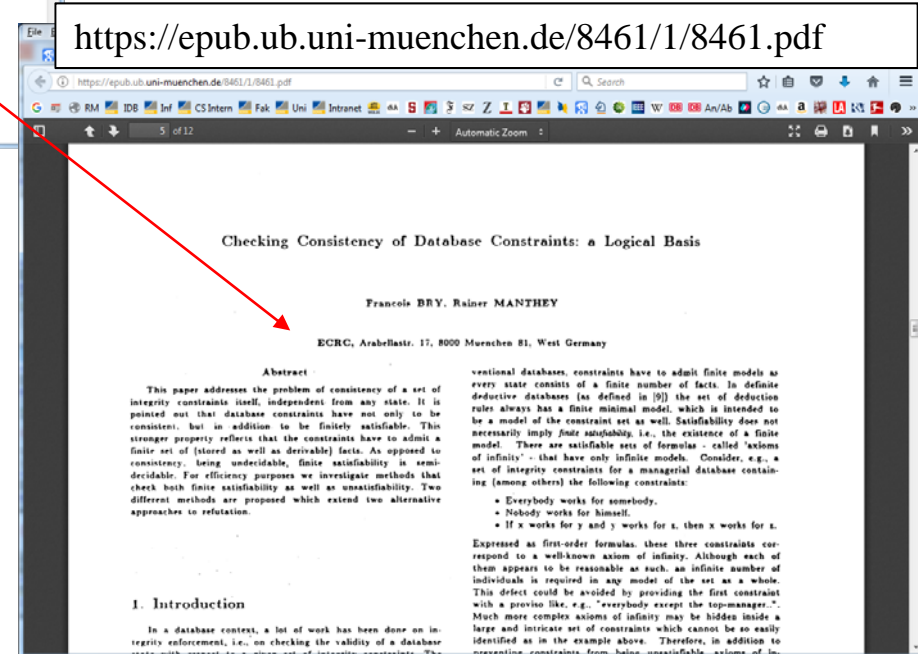


Classifying Digital Systems: Google Scholar (2)



For the 3rd entry in this Google Scholar list direct access to the respective paper seems to exist, however, suggesting that Google Scholar might indeed be a library (rather than „just“ a catalogue).

<https://epub.ub.uni-muenchen.de/8461/1/8461.pdf>



However, if you follow the link in the list itself (rather than the PDF-link in the „side list“) you will discover . . .

Classifying Digital Systems: Google Scholar (3)

. . . that a university library is providing digital access to an article published by a publisher not providing a digital library entry itself!

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Bry, François; Manthey, Rainer (1986): Checking Consistency of Database Constraints. A Logical Basis. 12th International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB), 25. - 28. August 1986, Kyoto, Japan.

PDF 1MB

Abstract

This paper addresses the problem of consistency of a set of integrity constraints itself, independent from any state. It is pointed out that database constraints have not only to be consistent, but in addition to be finitely satisfiable. This stronger property reflects that the constraints have to admit a finite set of (stored as well as derivable) facts. As opposed to consistency, being undecidable, finite satisfiability is semidecidable. For efficiency purposes we investigate methods that check both finite satisfiability as well as unsatisfiability. Two different methods are proposed which extend two alternative approaches to refutation.

Item Type: Conference or Workshop Item (Other)

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AUTOR(EN) RECHERCHIEREN

- BASE
- Google Scholar

Google Scholar still is „just a“ digital catalogue!

(But it becomes ever more difficult to decide what kind of system it really „is“!)

Consistency of Database Constraints: a Logical Basis

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ventional databases, constraints have to admit finite models as every state consists of a finite number of facts. In definite deductive databases (as defined in [9]) the set of deduction rules always has a finite minimal model, which is intended to be a model of the constraint set as well. Satisfiability does not necessarily imply finite satisfiability, i.e., the existence of a finite model. There are satisfiable sets of formulas - called 'axioms of infinity' - that have only infinite models. Consider, e.g., a set of integrity constraints for a managerial database containing (among others) the following constraints:

- Everybody works for somebody.
- Nobody works for himself.
- If x works for y and y works for z, then x works for z.

Expressed as first-order formulas, these three constraints correspond to a well-known axiom of infinity. Although each of them appears to be reasonable as such, an infinite number of individuals is required in any model of the set as a whole. This defect could be avoided by providing the first constraint with a proviso like, e.g., "everybody except the top-manager.". Much more complex axioms of infinity may be hidden inside a large and intricate set of constraints which cannot be so easily identified as in the example above. Therefore, in addition to preventing constraints from being unsatisfiable, axioms of in-

1. Introduction

In a database context, a lot of work has been done on integrity enforcement, i.e., on checking the validity of a database state with respect to a finite set of database constraints. The

A Problematic, as „Uncontrolled“ (Non-Standardized) Topic

- The most basic concepts in the context of „scientific communication“ in general, and „scholarly publication“ in particular have **not** (yet) **been settled**, but are under quite rapid development (especially due to the „digitalization movement“).
- There are **no standards** around, and the scientific community **doesn't** (yet) **agree** on widely accepted terms and „rules“, even though it sometimes seems that agreement would exist.
- The **range** of documents, organisations and individuals involved in this movement has been **growing** with almost „explosive“ speed due to web-based services „shaking“ the scene.
- Therefore, it is most important that you . . .
 - . . . **don't be misled** by premature assumptions about the meaning of terms and about accepting impressions that are just not settled yet, but look different, if viewed from a different point of view.
 - . . . **don't despair** about an apparently „rule-less“ context and community.
 - . . . accept that we **attempt** to generate some partial **clarity** in this unclear „world“.