

Understanding Research with Semantic Technologies

Francesco Osborne

SKM³- KMi, The Open University, United Kingdom

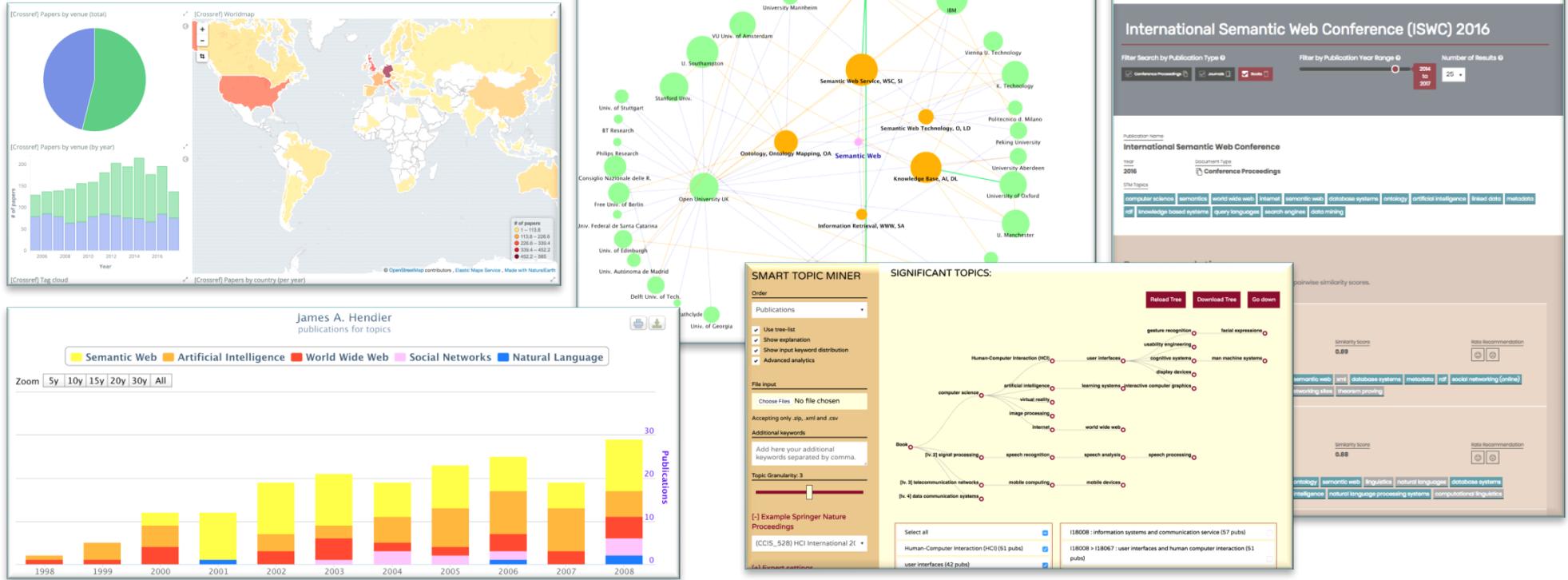
<http://skm.kmi.open.ac.uk/>

<http://people.kmi.open.ac.uk/francesco/>



SKM³ - KMi

The **SKM³** team aims at producing innovative approaches leveraging large-scale data mining, semantic technologies, machine learning, and visual analytics for **making sense of scholarly data and forecasting research dynamics**.



We collaborate with **major publishers, universities, and companies** and produce a variety of services supporting researchers, editors, and research polities makers.

<http://skm.kmi.open.ac.uk/>



The destination

The Semantic Web will likely profoundly change the very nature of how scientific knowledge is produced and shared, in ways that we can now barely imagine.

T. Berners-Lee

*Researchers will benefit from better, faster, cheaper access to data related to publications, enhancing the capacity for *in silico* meta-research.*

D. Shotton

The challenge is to develop an AI system that can make major scientific discoveries in biomedical sciences and that is worthy of a Nobel Prize and far beyond.

H. Kitano

Fostering knowledge transfer with semantic technologies

1. Understanding the space of research fields

What are the main components of a field? How are they linked?

How can we classify research products according to them?

What are the relevant scientific venues and pieces of literature?

2. Fostering technology transfer

How to detect technologies?

How to accelerate the knowledge flow and the pace of technology propagation?

3. Describing and assessing research actors and products

Who are the researchers, communities, and organizations that will be impacted by a research policy?

What are the promising research areas that should be nurtured?

4. Anticipating trends

What research topics will emerge in the following years?

How to facilitate the creation of new branches of science?



A variety of semantic solutions

1. Understanding the space of research fields

CSO Portal

Smart Topic Miner

Smart Book Recommender

2. Fostering technology transfer

Topic-technology Framework

3. Describing and assessing research actors and products

Research Map Builder

Rexplore

4. Anticipating trends

Augur



A variety of semantic solutions (hand-on ones)

1. Understanding the space of research fields

CSO Portal

Smart Topic Miner

Smart Book Recommender

2. Fostering technology transfer

Topic-Technology Framework

3. Describing and assessing research actors and products

Research Map Builder

Rexplore

4. Anticipating trends

Augur

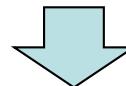


Research 3.0

Semantic Publishing

Information Extraction

Knowledge Graph of
Research Data



Smart Analytics/Visualizations

Trend detection and forecasting

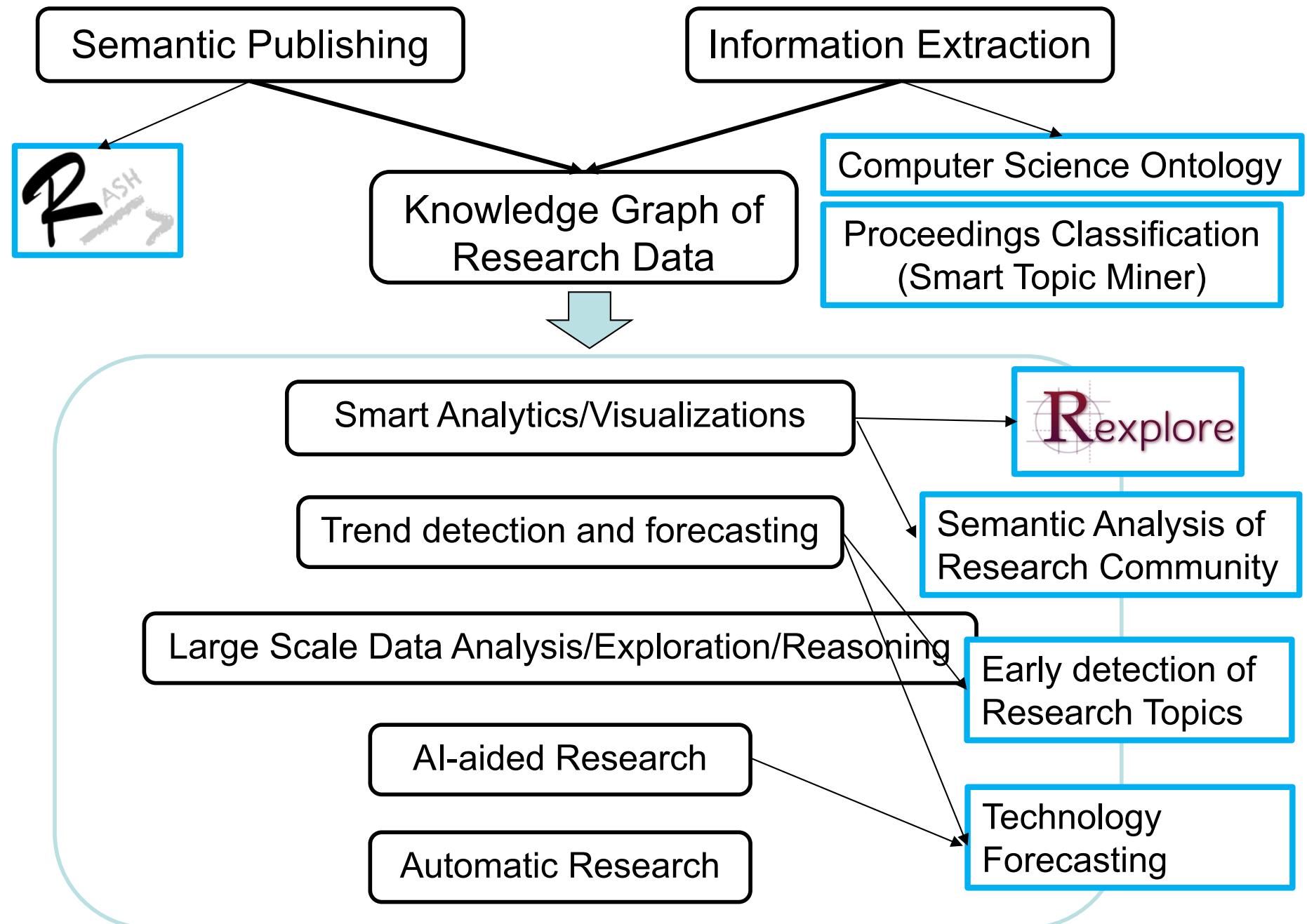
Large Scale Data Analysis/Exploration/Reasoning

AI-aided Research

Automatic Research



Research 3.0 – some contributions of SKM3



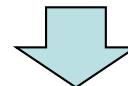


Research 3.0

Semantic Publishing

Information Extraction

Knowledge Graph of
Research Data



Smart Analytics/Visualizations

Trend detection and forecasting

Large Scale Data Analysis/Exploration/Reasoning

AI-aided Research

Automatic Research



Research 3.0

Semantic Publishing

Information Extraction

Knowledge Graph of
Research Data

*A formal machine-readable
logic-based representation of
scientific and humanistic
knowledge.*

Trend detection and forecasting

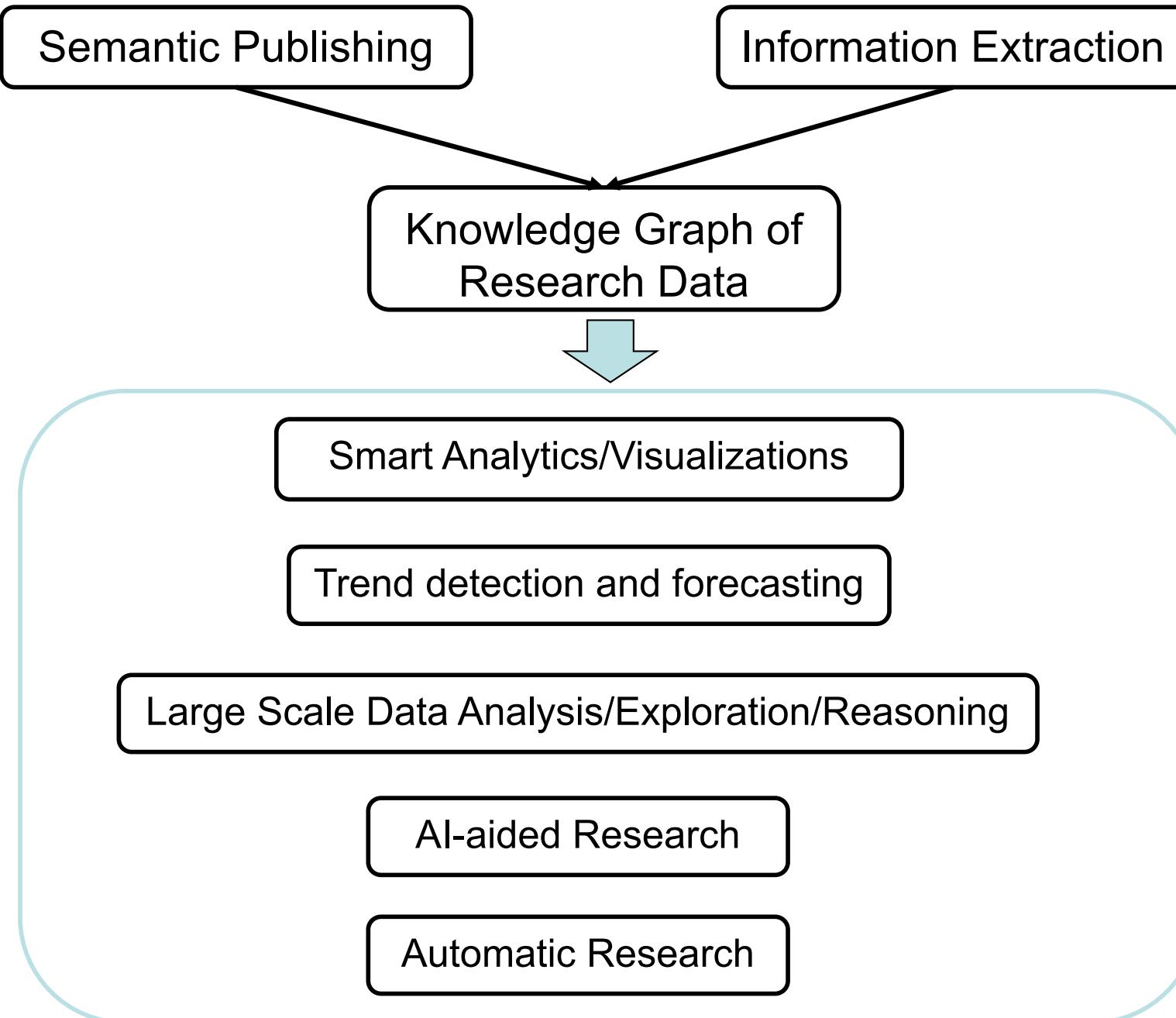
Large Scale Data Analysis/Exploration/Reasoning

AI-aided Research

Automatic Research



Research 3.0





Research 3.0 – some contributions of KMi RA Team

Semantic Publishing

Technical challenges:
Creating user-friendly
formats/tools/vocabularies

Political challenge:
Convincing publishers,
authors and other
stakeholders to use them

Information Extraction

Technical challenges:
Entity linking, ontology
mapping/learning and so
on...

Political challenge:
Open Access



Trend detection and forecasting

Large Scale Data Analysis/Exploration/Reasoning

AI-aided Research

Automatic Research



An Exciting Environment...

Scientific Workshops

- SAVE-SD - Semantics, Analytics, Visualisation: Enhancing Scholarly Data (WWW)
- Scientometrics Workshop (ESWC)
- Semantic Web Publishing Challenge (ESWC)
- SemSci: Enabling Open Semantic Science (ISWC)
- WORSP: International Workshop of Mining Scientific Publication (JCDL)
- Emc^{Sci} - Extracting and Modelling Scientific Knowledge from Texts (IC)

Initiatives

- FORCE11, Research Data Alliance (RDA), ORCID

Companies

- Publishers: Springer Nature, Elsevier ,Thomson Reuters
- Services based on research data: Google, Microsoft, Idex Lab, Altmetric

Online Repositories

- Scholarly.org, Figshare, Zootero, OpenCitation.net, CORE ...

Fostering knowledge transfer with semantic technologies

1. Understanding the space of research fields

What are the main components of a field? How are they linked?

How can we classify research products according to them?

What are the relevant scientific venues and pieces of literature?

2. Fostering technology transfer

How to detect technologies?

How to accelerate the knowledge flow and the pace of technology propagation?

3. Describing and assessing research actors and products

Who are the researchers, communities, and organizations that will be impacted by a research policy?

What are the promising research areas that should be nurtured?

4. Anticipating trends

What research topics will emerge in the following years?

How to facilitate the creation of new branches of science?

1. Understanding the space of research fields



SMART TOPIC MINER

Order

Publications

- Use tree-list
- Show explanation
- Show input keyword distribution
- Advanced analytics

File input

Choose Files No file chosen

Accepting only .zip, .xml and .csv

Additional keywords

Add here your additional keywords separated by comma.

Topic Granularity:

[+] Example Springer Nature Proceedings
(CCIS_528) HCI International 2018

[+] Expert settings

SIGNIFICANT TOPICS:

Reload Tree Download Tree Go down

Topics listed in the sidebar:

- Select all
- Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) (51 pubs)
- user interfaces (42 pubs)
- I18008 : information systems and communication service (57 pubs)
- I18008 > I18067 : user interfaces and human computer interaction (51 pubs)

<http://skm.kmi.open.ac.uk/cso>

<http://skm.kmi.open.ac.uk/stm>



Research Topics - a complex issue to solve

Standard research areas taxonomies/classifications/ontologies such as ACM are not apt to the task.

Web data description languages

ACM 2012

Semantic web description languages

Resource Description Framework (RDF)

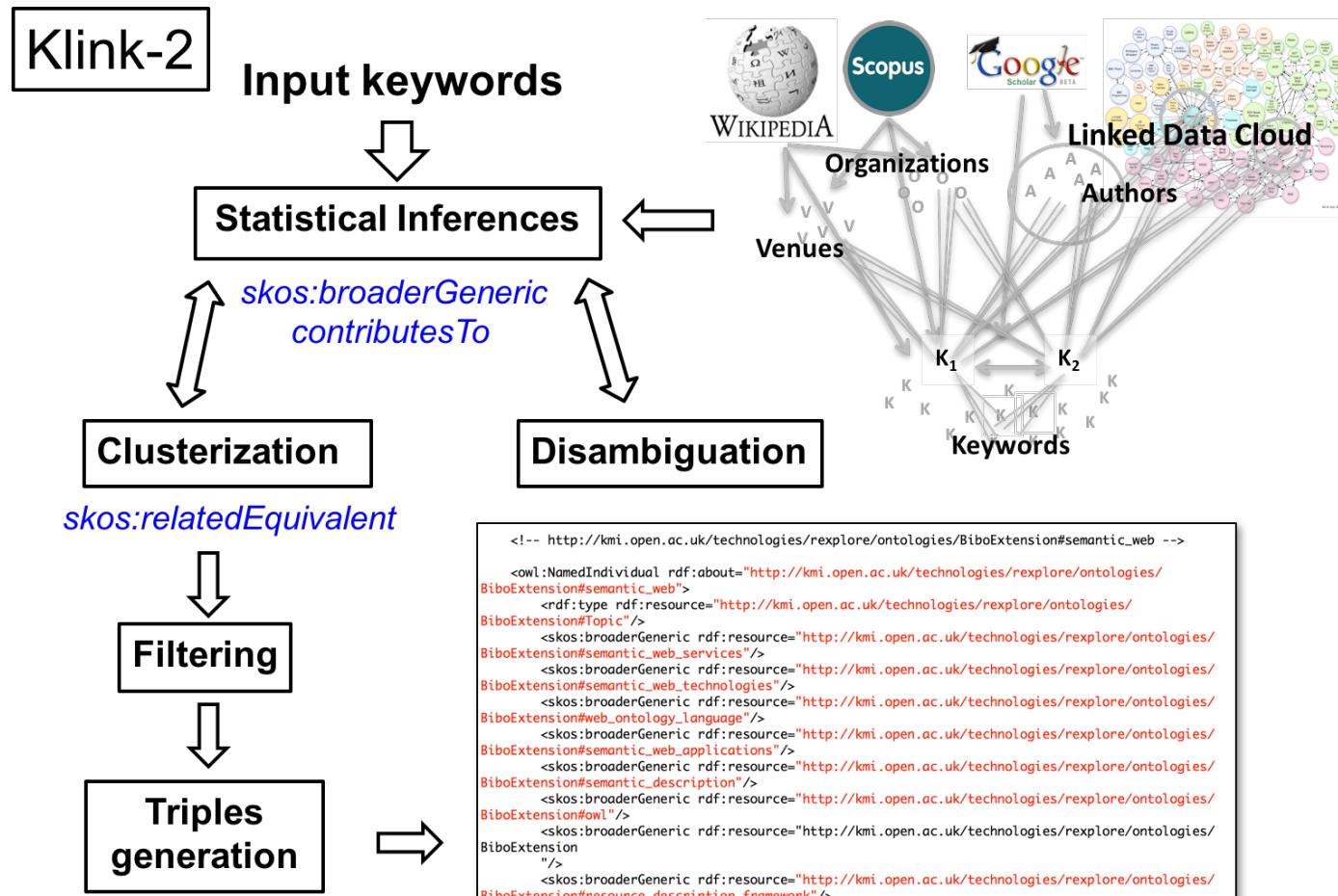
Web Ontology Language (OWL)

- Not fine-grained enough.
 - E.g., only 2 topics are classified under Semantic Web
- Static, manually defined, hence prone to get obsolete very quickly.
- The relations between entries are unclear.
 - They are meant to be sub-areas, even if it can be argued that many of them are not really sub-areas.



The Computer Science Ontology I

The Computer Science Ontology consist of about **15,000 topics** linked by about **70,000 semantic relationships**. It was automatically created and is regularly updated using the **Klink-2 algorithm**.





The Computer Science Ontology II

- It included **very granular** and low level research areas, e.g., Linked open data, Probabilistic packet marking, Synthetic aperture radar imaging
- It can be **regularly updated** by running Klink-2 on a new set of publications.
- It allows for a **research topic to have multiple super-areas** – i.e., the taxonomic structure is a graph rather than a tree, e.g., Inductive Logic Programming is a sub-area of both Machine Learning and Logic Programming.
- This knowledge base is used to **enhance semantically** a variety of information extraction method and data analytics



Computer Science Ontology - Portal

Search across 15.000 topics and 70.000 relationships.

Not sure where to start? Try searching for 'computer science', or 'semantic web'.

About

The **Computer Science Ontology (CSO)** is a large-scale ontology of research areas that was automatically generated using the Klink-2 algorithm on the Rexplore dataset, which consists of about 16 million publications, mainly in the field of Computer Science. The Klink-2 algorithm combines semantic technologies, machine learning, and knowledge from external sources to automatically generate a fully populated ontology of research areas. Some relationships were also revised manually by experts during the preparation of two ontology-assisted surveys in the field of Semantic Web and Software Architecture. The main root of CSO is Computer Science, however, the ontology includes also a few secondary roots, such as Linguistics, Geometry, Semantics, and so on.



topics:semantic web

Explore the topic **semantic web** using the following visualisations.

Overview

Compact

Detailed

Subject	Predicate	Object
semantic web	parent of	domain ontologies
"	parent of	linked datum
"	parent of	ontology engineering
"	parent of	ontology matching
"	parent of	owl
"	parent of	rdf
"	parent of	semantic annotations
"	parent of	semantic descriptions
"	parent of	semantic interoperability
"	parent of	semantic search
"	parent of	semantic technologies
"	parent of	

semantic web

The Semantic Web is an extension of the Web through standards by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The standards promote common data formats and exchange protocols on the Web, most fundamentally the Resource Description Framework (RDF). According to the W3C, "The Semantic Web provides a common framework that allows data to be shared and reused across application, enterprise, and community boundaries". The term was coined by Tim Berners-Lee for a web of data that can be processed by machines. While its critics have questioned its feasibility, proponents argue that applications in industry, biology and human sciences research have already proven the validity of the original concept.

<http://cso.kmi.open.ac.uk/topics/semantic%20web>



Research Topics and Springer Nature

The Open University and Springer Nature have been collaborating since 2015 in the development of an array of semantically-enhanced solutions for:

- Automatic classification of **proceedings** and other editorial products.
- Automatic selection of the most appropriate **books, journals, and proceedings** to market at a scientific event.





Proceedings classification in a nutshell

[ISWC: International Semantic Web Conference](#)

The Semantic Web – ISWC 2016

15th International Semantic Web Conference, Kobe, Japan, October 17–21, 2016, Proceedings, Part I

Editors ([view affiliations](#))
Paul Groth, Elena Simperl, Alasdair Gray, Marta Sabou, Markus Krötzsch, Freddy Lecue, Fabian Flöck, Yolanda Gil

Conference proceedings
ISWC 2016

36 Citations 23 Mentions 360 Readers 37k Downloads

Part of the [Lecture Notes in Computer Science](#) book series (LNCS, volume 9981)

[Table of contents \(39 papers\)](#) [Other volumes](#) [About these proceedings](#)

Introduction

The two-volume set LNCS 9981 and 9982 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 15th International Semantic Web Conference, ISWC 2016, which was held in Kobe, Japan, in October 2016. The 75 full papers presented in these proceedings were carefully reviewed and selected from 326 submissions.

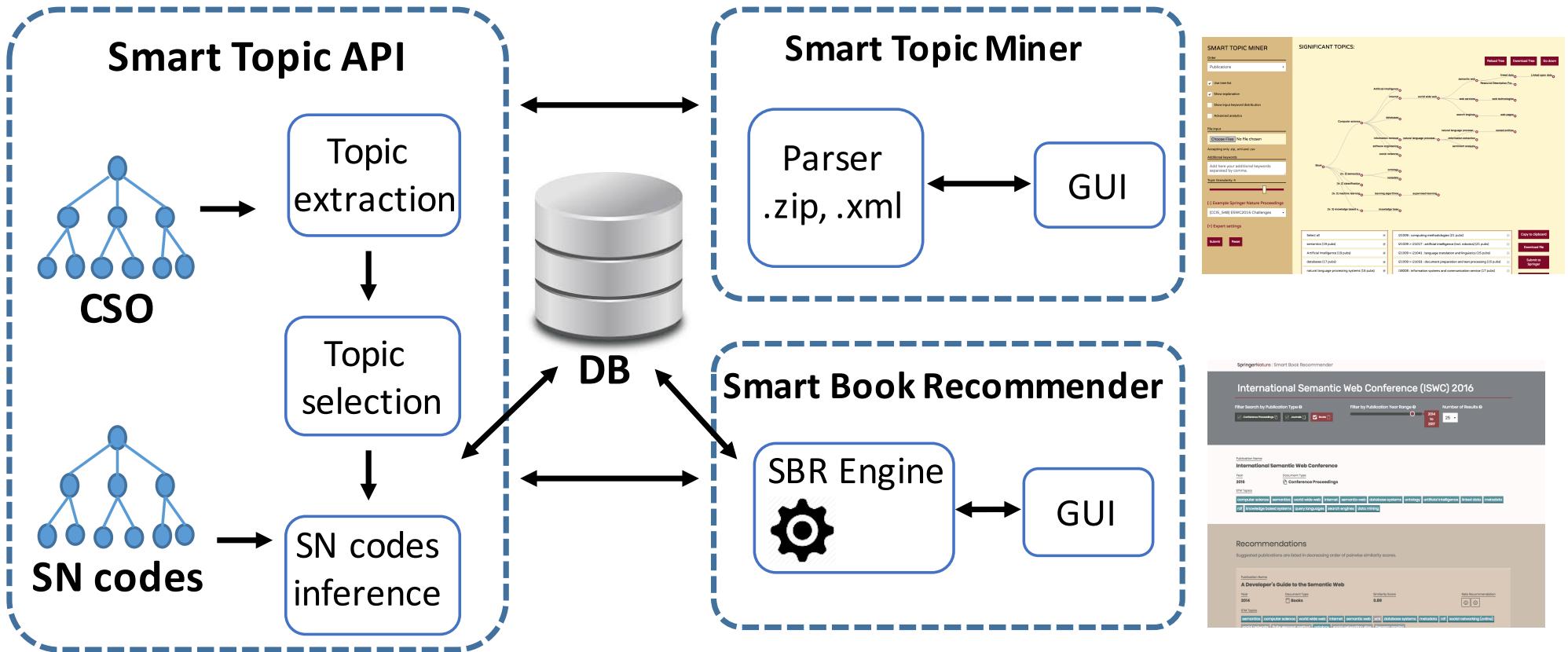
The International Semantic Web Conference is the premier forum for Semantic Web research...

Keywords

artificial intelligence entity resolution information retrieval instance matching
knowledge based systems knowledge management linked data Linked Open Data (LOD)
Natural Language Processing (NLP) ontologies ontology alignment query processing
reasoning Resource Description Framework (RDF) semantic web semantics social media
SPARQL Web Ontology Language (OWL) World Wide Web



Smart Semantic Solutions For Springer Nature



Input: Publication metadata

Output: - Topic Taxonomy
- SN codes
- Analytics



Smart Topic Miner

Smart Topic Miner (STM) is a semantic application designed to support the **Springer Nature Computer Science editorial team** in classifying scholarly publications.

SMART TOPIC MINER

Order

Publications

Use tree-list

Show explanation

Show input keyword distribution

Advanced analytics

File input

Choose Files No file chosen

Accepting only .zip, .xml and .csv

Additional keywords

Add here your additional keywords separated by comma.

Topic Granularity: 4

[-] Example Springer Nature Proceedings
(CCIS_548) ESWC2015 Challenges

[+] Expert settings

Submit Reset

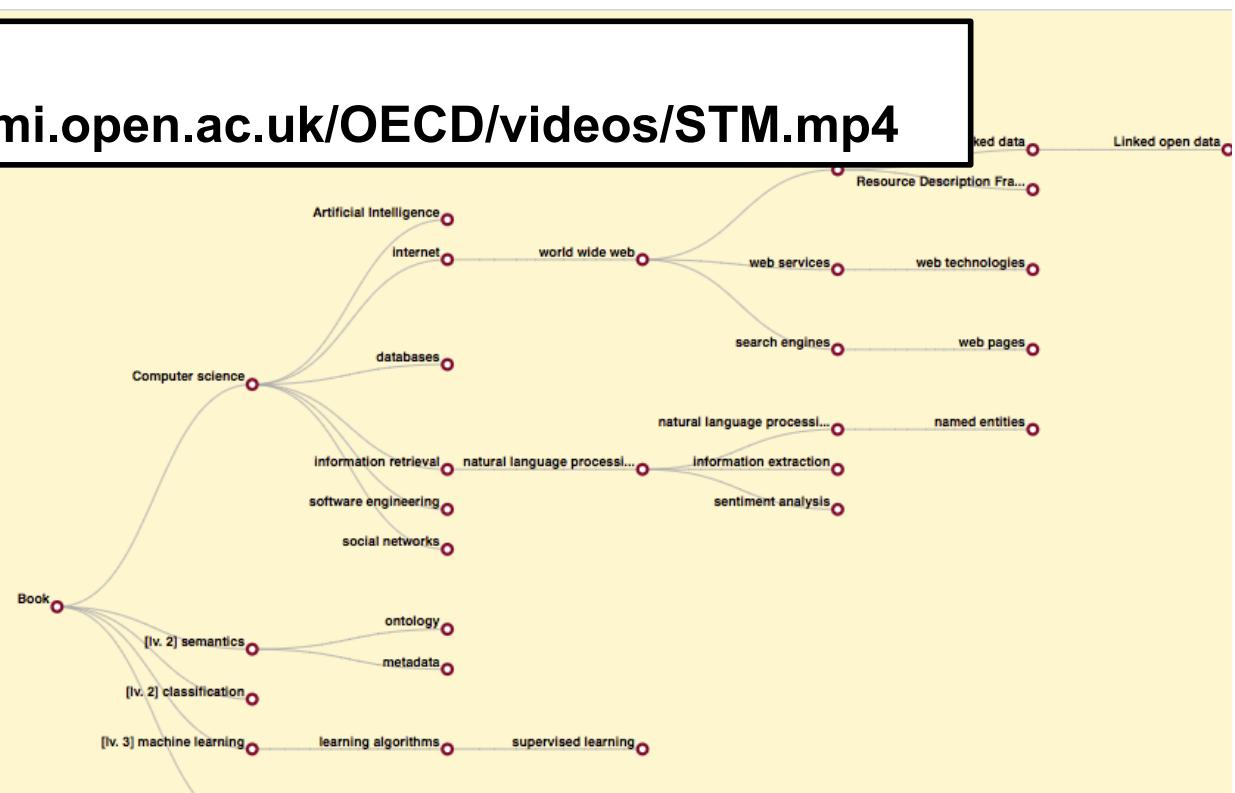
See video at:
<http://rexpolre.kmi.open.ac.uk/OECD/videos/STM.mp4>

24

24

Copy to clipboard

http://rexpolre.kmi.open.ac.uk/STM_demo





Smart Book Recommender

Smart Book Recommender (STM) is a web application that takes as input a conference and suggests books, proceedings and journals which address similar topics.

SpringerNature : Smart Book Recommender

International Semantic Web Conference

Filter Search by Publication Type conference Proceedings Journals Books STM Topics 2016 2017

Publication Name: International Semantic Web Conference
Year: 2016
Document Type: Conference Proceedings
STM Topics: computer science, semantics, world wide web, internet, semantic web, database systems, ontology, artificial intelligence, linked data, metadata, rdf, knowledge based systems, query languages, search engines, data mining

See video at:
<http://rexpolre.kmi.open.ac.uk/OECD/videos/SBR.mp4>

Linked Open Data -- Creating Knowledge Out of Interlinked Data

Year: 2014 Document Type: Books Similarity Score: 0.88
STM Topics: internet, semantic web, semantics, computer science, world wide web, database, information systems, ontology, rdf, xml, information management, Information technology

Materializing the Web of Linked Data

Year: 2015 Document Type: Books Similarity Score: 0.87 Rate Recommendation:
STM Topics: semantic web, semantics, computer science, database systems, world wide web, internet, data handling, linked data, metadata, ontology, rdf, xml, mobile computing, mobile devices, multisensor data fusion

Semantic Web

Year: 2016 Document Type: Books Similarity Score: 0.86 Rate Recommendation:
STM Topics: semantics, computer science, internet, world wide web, ontology, semantic web, database systems, semantic technologies, information services, information systems, web services, data mining, finite element method, software engineering, artificial intelligence

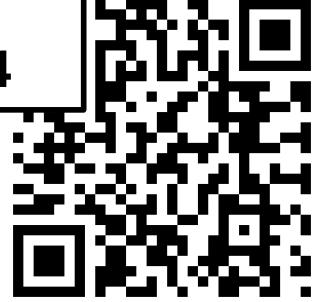
Towards the Multilingual Semantic Web

Year: 2014 Document Type: Books Similarity Score: 0.88 Rate Recommendation:
STM Topics: semantics, computer science, internet, world wide web, ontology, semantic web, linguistics, natural languages, database, information retrieval, data handling, linked data, artificial intelligence, natural language processing systems, computational linguistics

Uncertainty Reasoning for the Semantic Web III (Lecture Notes in Computer Science)

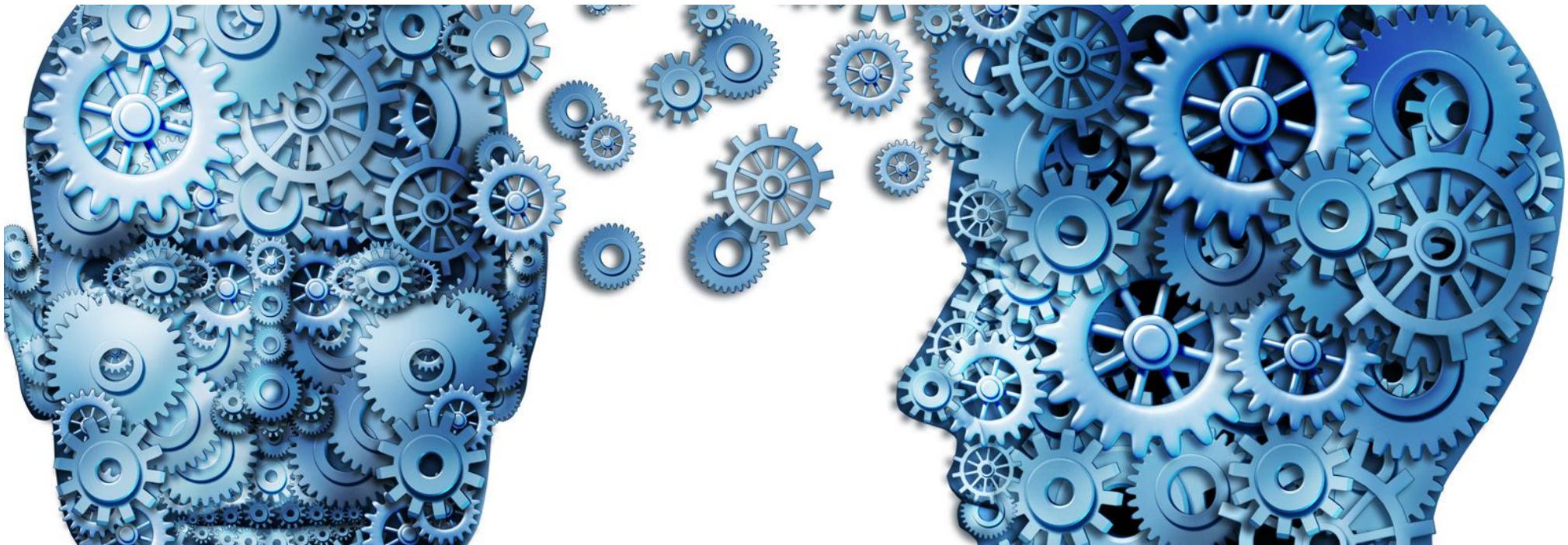
Year: 2014 Document Type: Books Similarity Score: 0.84 Rate Recommendation:
25

http://rexpolre.kmi.open.ac.uk/SBR_demo





2. Fostering technology transfer





Standing on the Shoulder of Giants

- We constantly reuse ideas, technologies, methods and materials.
- Technologies will usually appear in a research community and then spread to other research areas in the following years.
 - *e.g., SW technologies were created in the field of AI, KBS, WWW and then they spread to Information Retrieval, HCI, Biology and so on.*
- This process is often inefficient and may take several years resulting in a **technology adoption lag**.
- Currently there are no methods to predict technology spreading across research areas.



Standing on the Shoulder of Giants

- We constantly reuse ideas, **technologies**, methods and materials.
- Technologies will usually appear in a research community and then spread to other research areas in the following years.
 - *e.g., SW technologies were created in the field of AI, KBS, WWW and then they spread to Information Retrieval, HCI, Biology and so on.*
- This process is often inefficient and may take several years resulting in a **technology adoption lag**.
- Currently there are no methods to predict technology spreading across research areas.

How can we improve the technology transfer?

How can we help researchers to track down relevant technologies?



TechMiner (TM) is a new approach, which combines NLP, machine learning and semantic technologies, for **mining technologies** applications, systems, languages and formats from research publications.

It generates an **OWL ontology describing technologies** and their relationships with other research entities.

We evaluated TM on a manually annotated gold standard and found that it improves significantly both precision and recall over alternative NLP approaches.

- The **proposed semantic features** significantly **improve both recall and precision**.

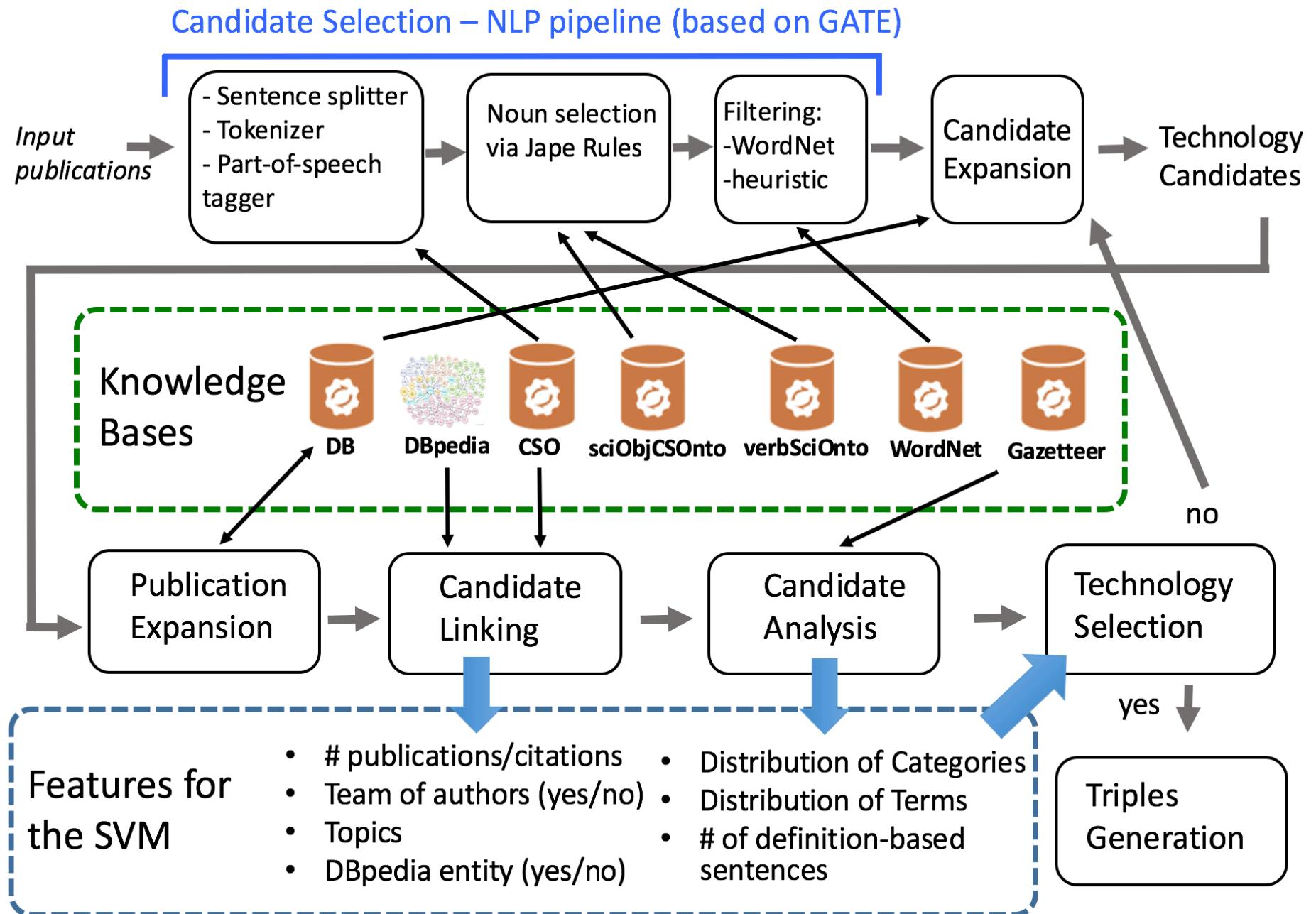


Some example – Technologies created by E. Motta

Label	Debut	pub	Introducers	Main Topics
Magpie	2004	3	Domingue, Motta, Dzbor	Semantic Web, Web Browser, Ontologies, Information Retrieval
PowerAqua	2006	4	Uren, Motta, Lopez, Sabou, D'aquin, Nikolov	Semantic Web, Question Answering, Ontology, Natural Language
KnoFuss	2007	3	Uren, Motta, De Roeck, Nikolov	Ontology, Semantic Web, Information Retrieval
Revyu	2007	3	Motta, Heath	Semantic Web, External Sources, Data Handling, Best Practices
Evolva	2009	1	Zablith, Motta, Sabou, D'aquin	Ontology Evolution, Semantic Web, Background Knowledge, WWW
KC-Viz	2010	2	Motta, Peroni, Manuel G.P., D'aquin [...]	Human Computer Interaction, User Interfaces, Ontology Engineering



TechMiner - Architecture



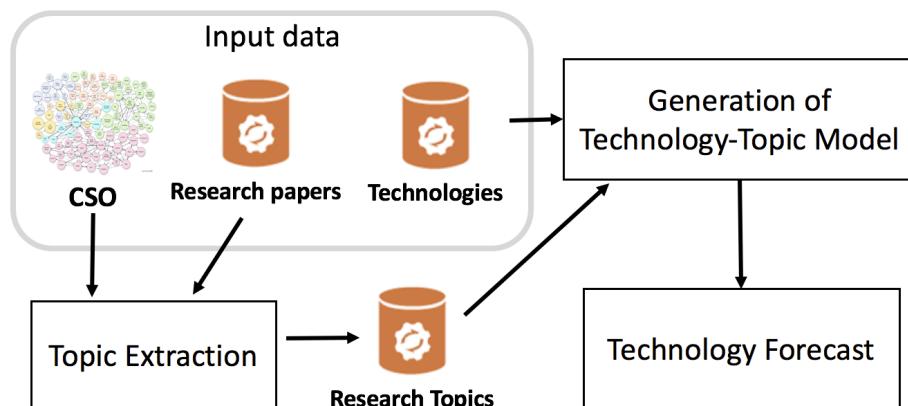


Technology-Topic Framework

It learns how technologies propagate across research field, predict where a technology should be adopted next, and alert relevant stakeholders.

The aim is helping to **accelerate the knowledge flow** and the pace of technology propagation.

Architecture



Technologies

TTF predictions

Latent Dirichlet Allocation
(2003)

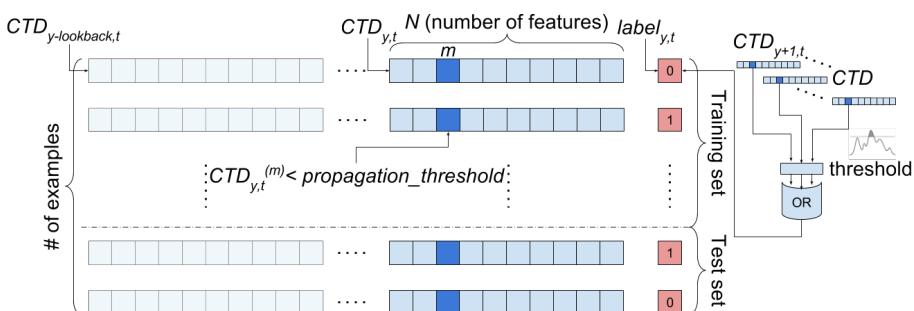
object recognition, software engineering, comp. networks, security of data, ontology, semantic web, robotics, imaging systems, data reduction, image compression ...

Web Ontology Language (2004)

multimedia systems, image processing, computer vision, robotics, security systems, computer aided design, genetic, telecommunication services, e-learning ...

Extreme Learning Machine (2008)

infor. retrieval, wireless telecommunication systems, signal processing, data mining, computer vision, robotics, image reconstruction, speech recognition ...





Example of forecasted topics

Extreme learning machine: infor. retrieval, wireless telecommunication systems, signal processing, security of data, data mining, computer vision, robotics, image reconstruction, speech recognition, object recognition, [...]

Markov Logic Network : information retrieval, software engineering, problem solving, signal processing, image processing, data mining, KB systems, computer vision, theorem proving , image segmentation, [...]

Latent Dirichlet allocation: object recognition, software engineering, computer networks, security of data, ontology, semantic web, robotics, imaging systems, data reduction, image compression, object recognition, [...]

Web Ontology language: multimedia systems, image processing, parallel processing systems, computer vision, robotics, network architecture, security systems, computer aided design, genes (biology), e-learning, [...]

SKOS: software engineering, bioinformatics, computer networks, ML systems, information systems, computer programming languages, linguistics, object oriented programming, software design , e-learning, [...]

Semantic Web Rule Language: quality of service, object oriented programming, software design, mobile telecommunication systems, mobile devices, e-commerce, social networks, computer aided soft. engineering, [...]

FOAF: software engineering, computer networks, machine learning systems, security of data, distributed computer systems, web services, mobile computing, software design, multimedia systems, P2P networks, [...]



Conclusions

- **It is possible to forecast technology spreading**, at least for some categories of topics.
- We will need to consider other kinds of features if we want to address **other kinds of technology transfers**.
- We can use TTF for **alerting researchers about promising new technologies** relevant to their research and shorten the technology adoption lag.

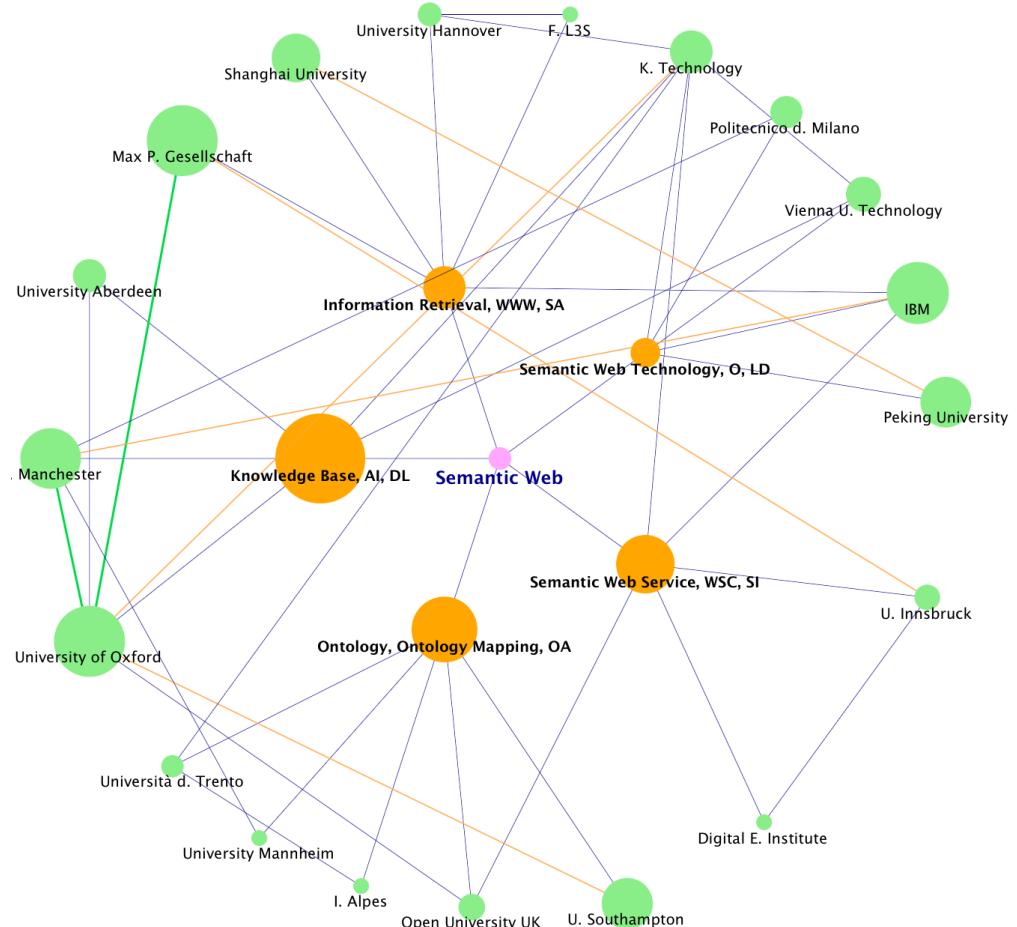
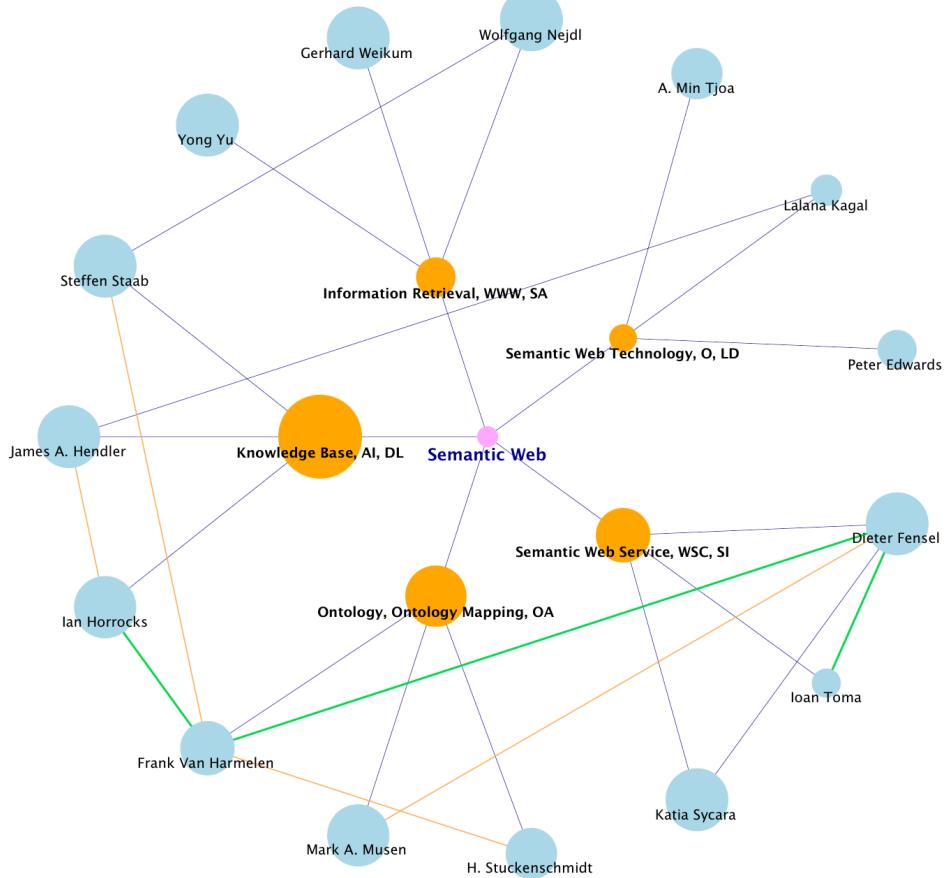


Next Steps

- Collecting data about more technologies to perform larger scale experiments.
- Creating an ontology of technologies and incorporate it in the analysis.
- Expanding the scope of our work by including other research fields, such as Biology, Social Science, and Engineering.

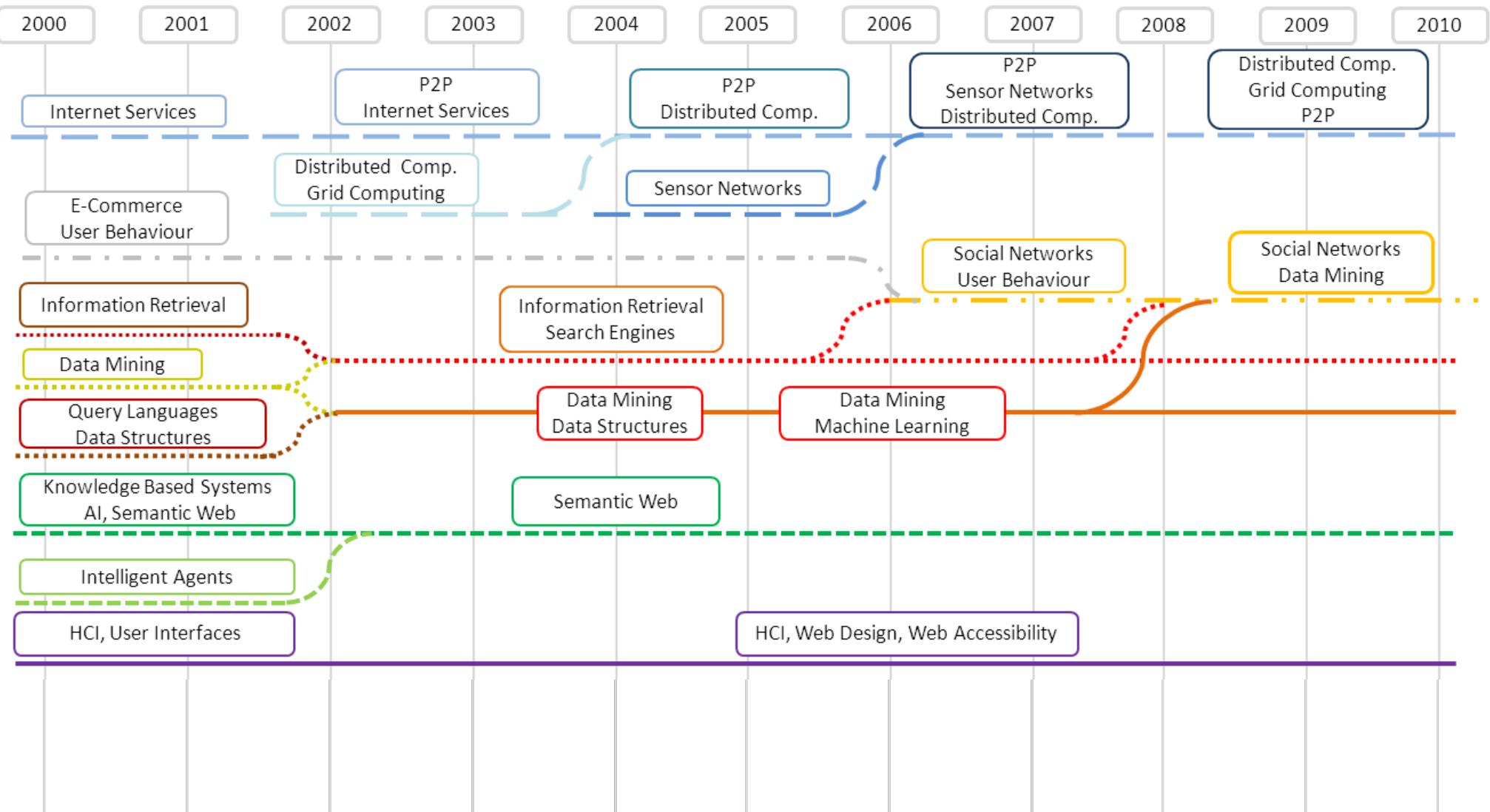


3. Describing and assessing research actors and products



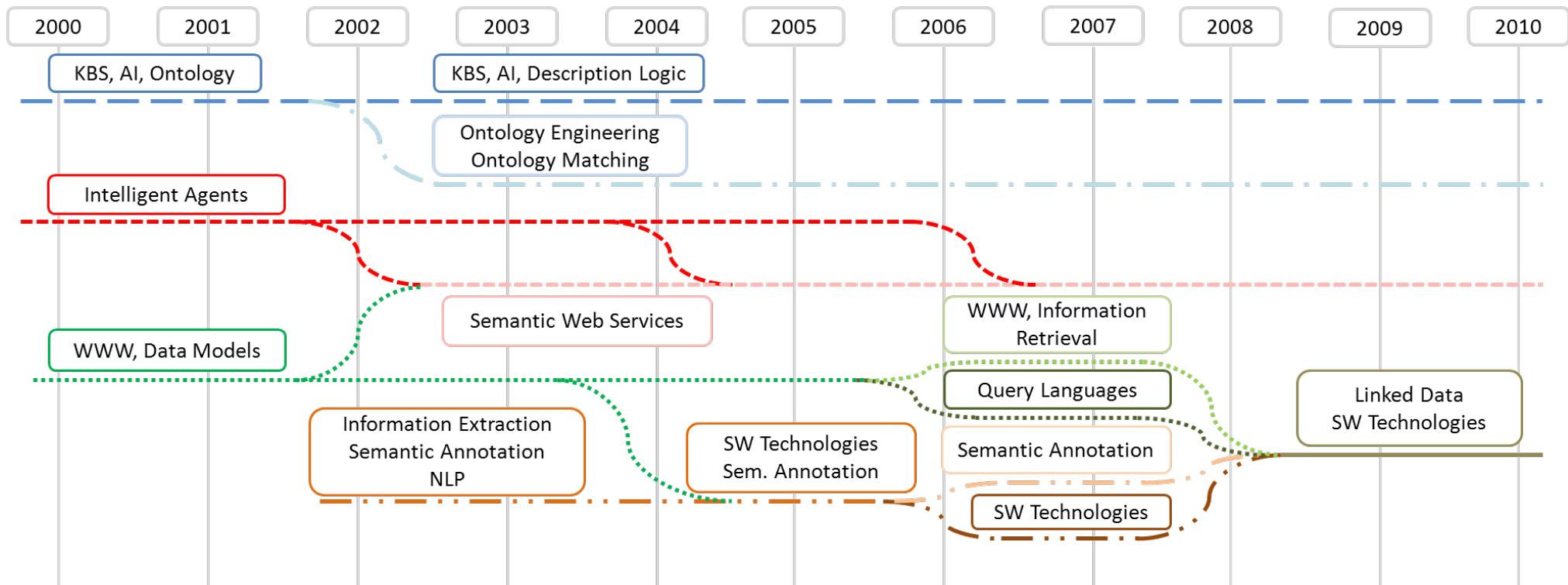


Research Maps – WWW



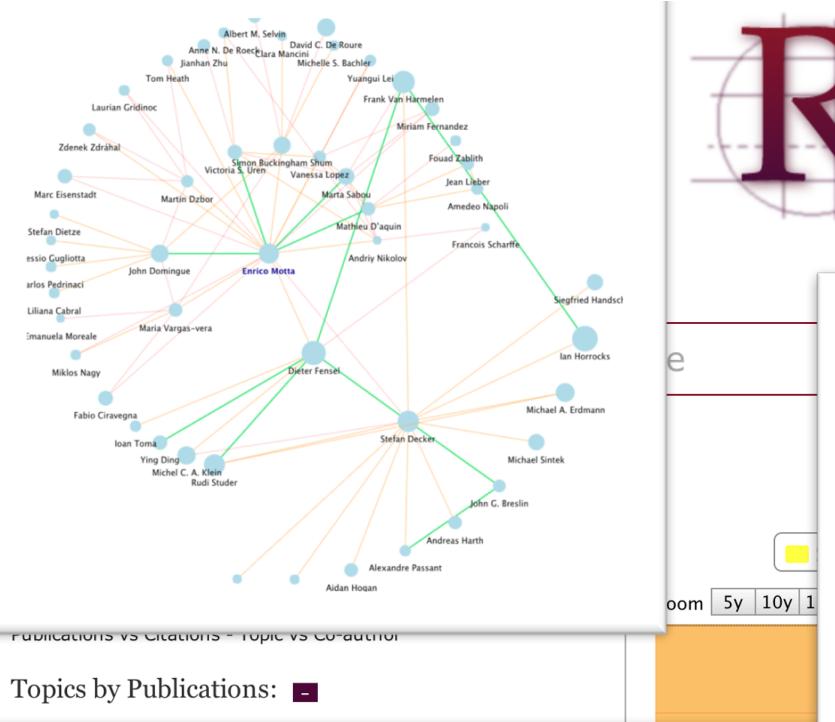


Research Maps – Semantic Web



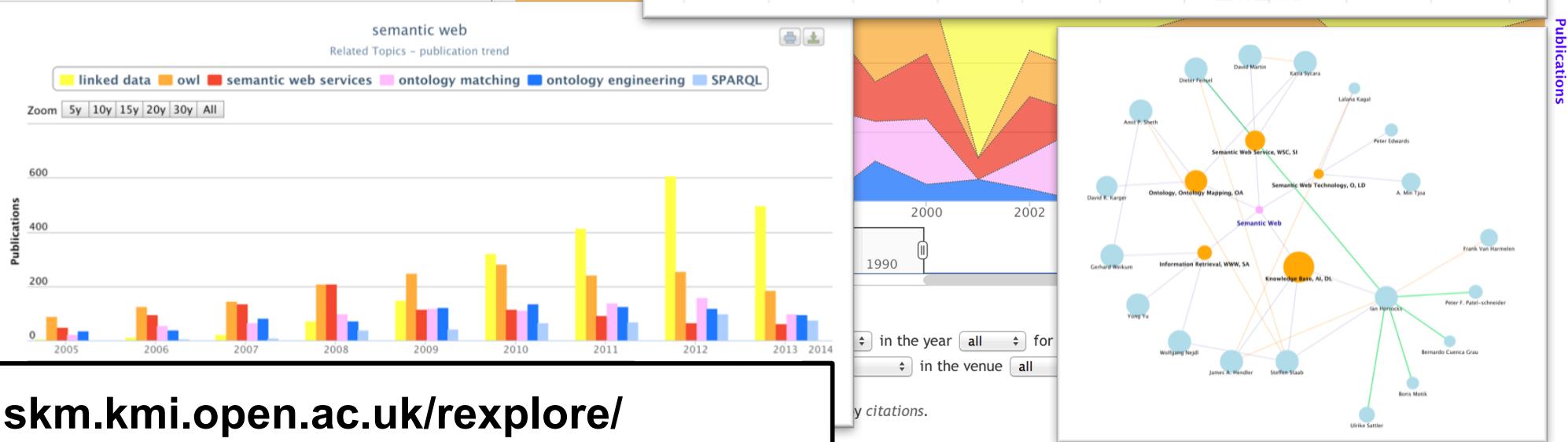
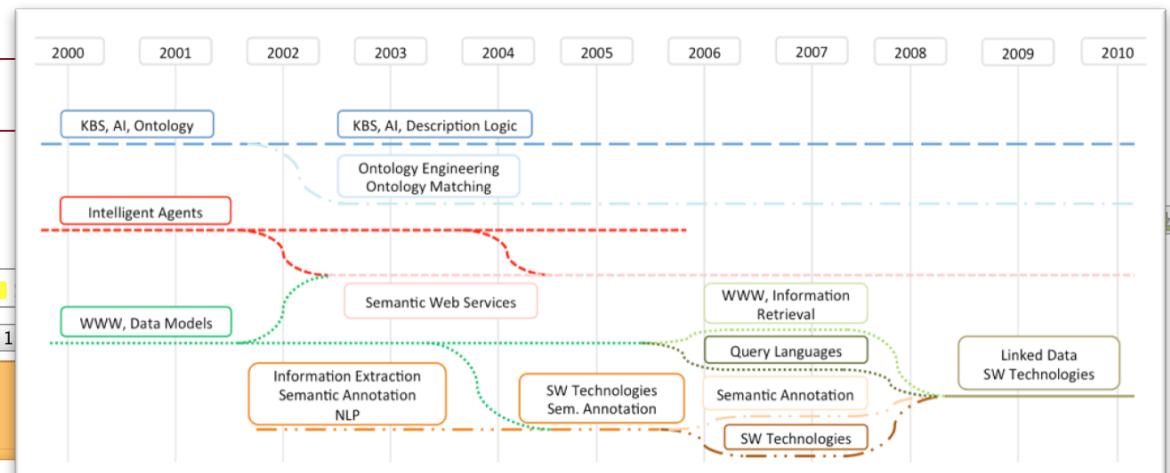


Rexplore



Publications vs Citations - Topic vs Co-author

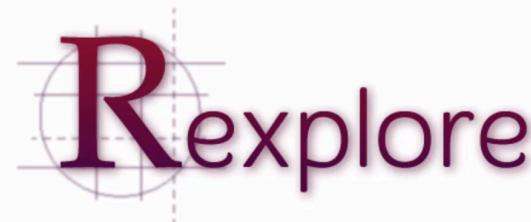
Topics by Publications: □



skm.kmi.open.ac.uk/rexplore/

Osborne, F., Motta, E. and Mulholland, P.
Exploring scholarly data with Rexplore.
International Semantic Web Conference 2013



[About](#)[Publications](#)[Team](#)[Contact](#)[User Guide](#)[Advanced Search](#)[Authors](#)[Publications](#)[Topics](#)[Groups](#)**KMi**

See video at:

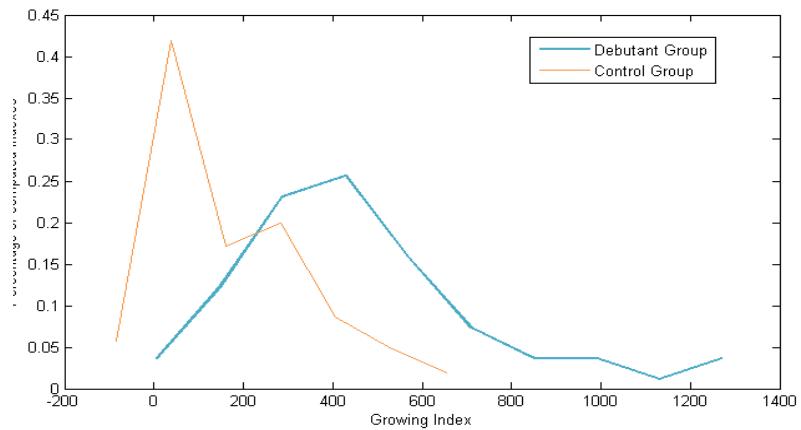
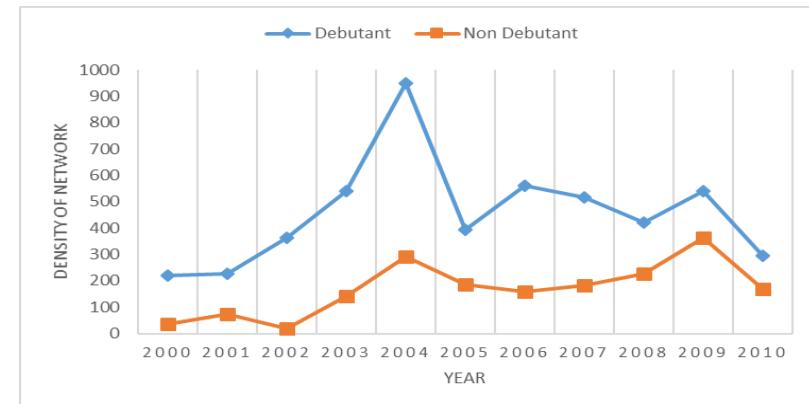
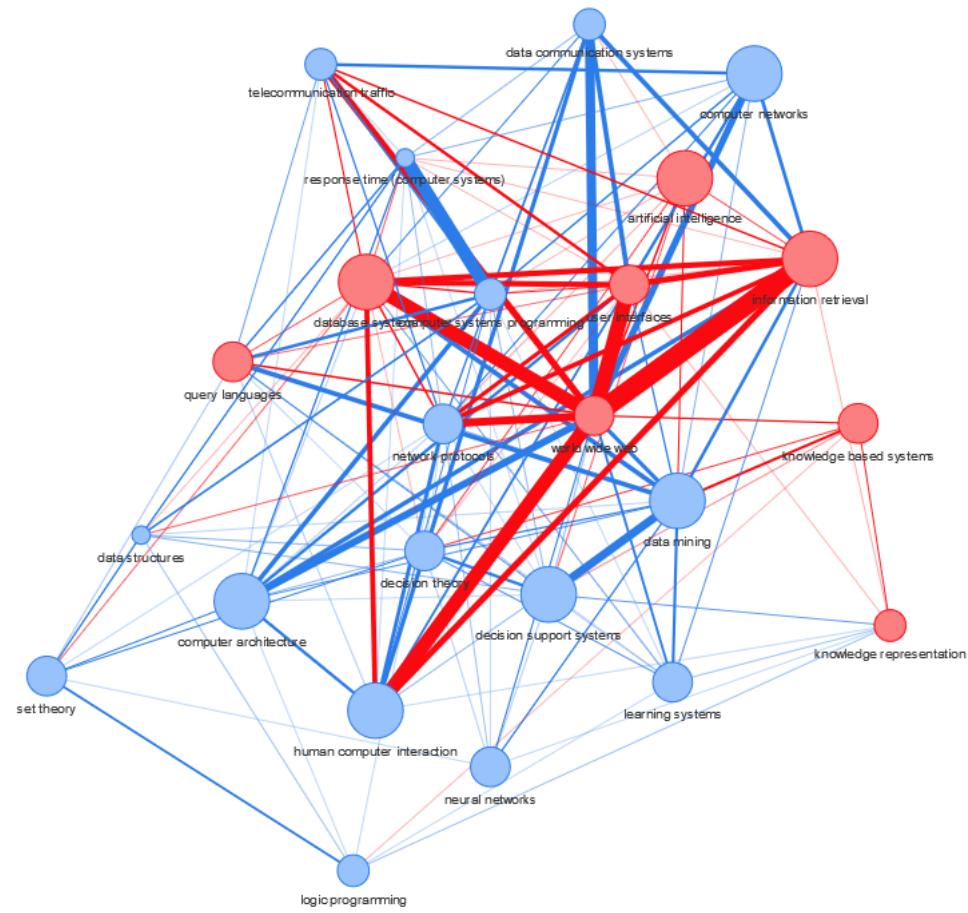
<http://rexplore.kmi.open.ac.uk/OECD/videos/Rexplore.mp4>

skm.kmi.open.ac.uk/rexplore/



4. Anticipating trends

Augur is a method for detecting the emergence of research areas at an **embryonic stage**, i.e., before the topic has been consistently labelled by researchers and associated with several publications.





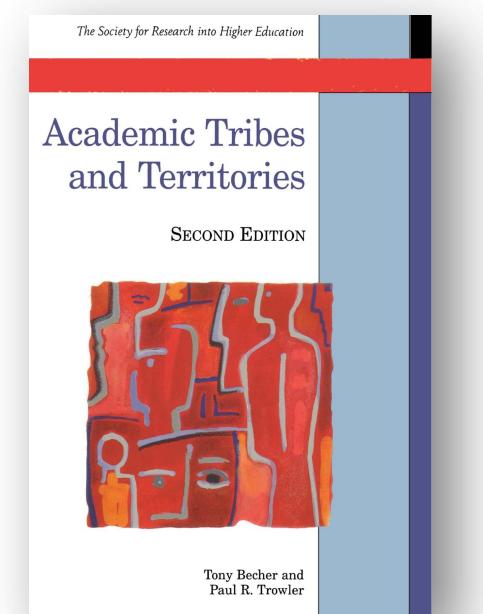
What are research topics?

«As the work and the points of view **grow more specialised**, men in different disciplines have **fewer things in common**, in their background and in their daily problems»

Clark - *The study of Campus Cultures*

«Sometimes, of course, friendly relations **may be established to mutual benefit ...»**

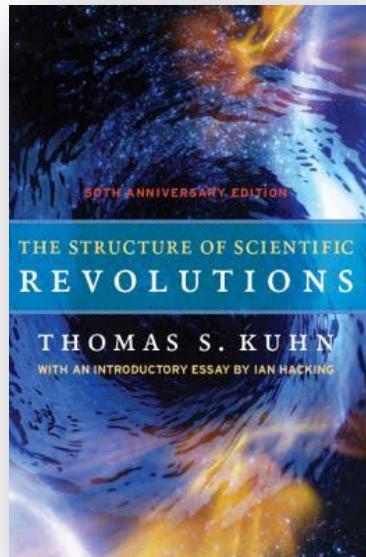
Becher and Throwler - *Academic Tribes and Territories*





How do they change?

44

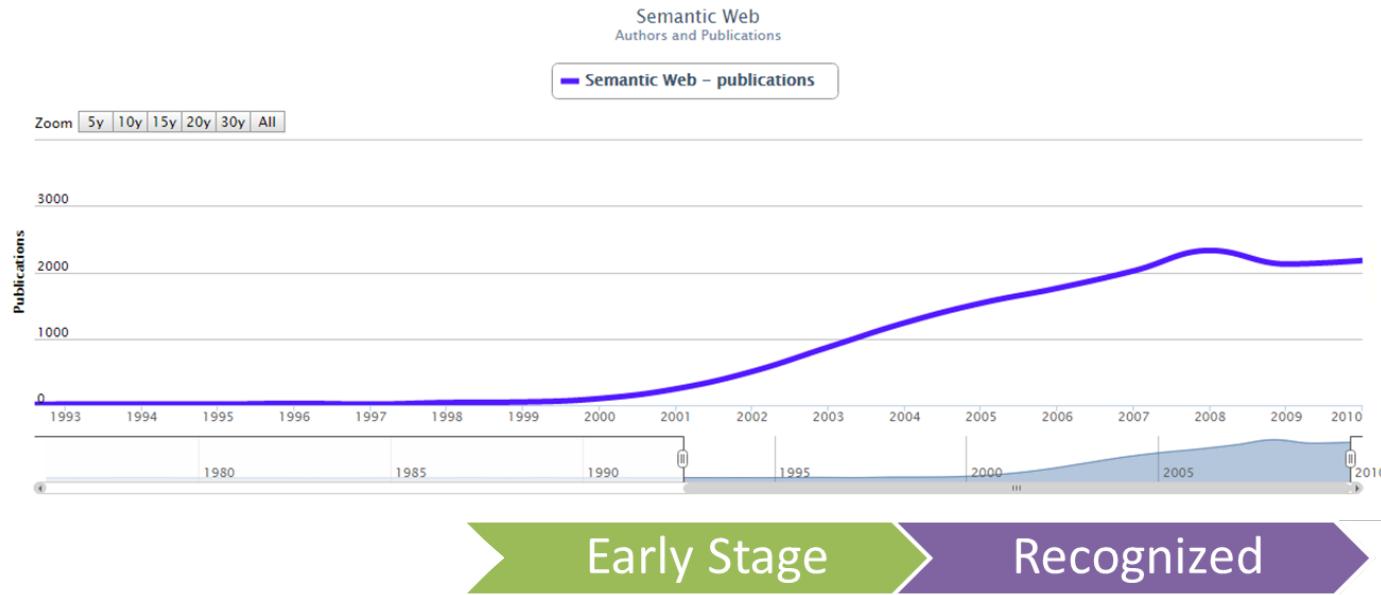


«[...] successive **transition** from one **paradigm** to another via revolution is the usual **developmental pattern** of mature **science**.»
Thomas Kuhn - *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*





How are topics born? A study with Springer Nature



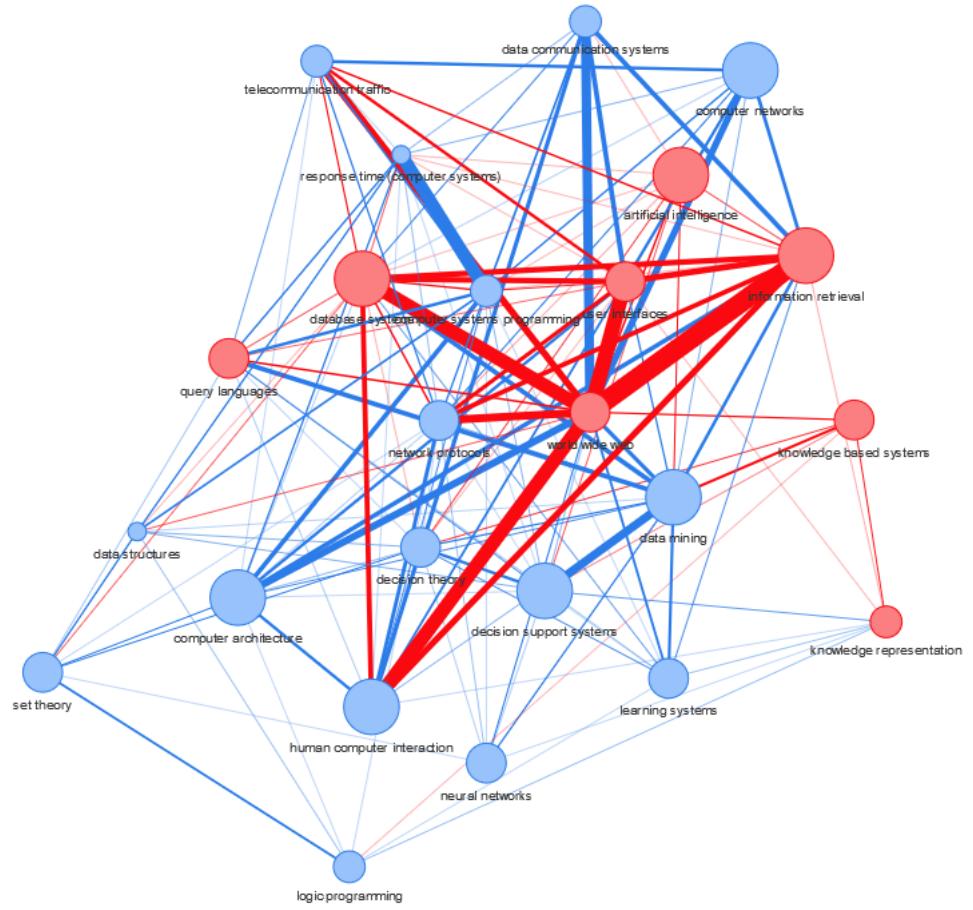
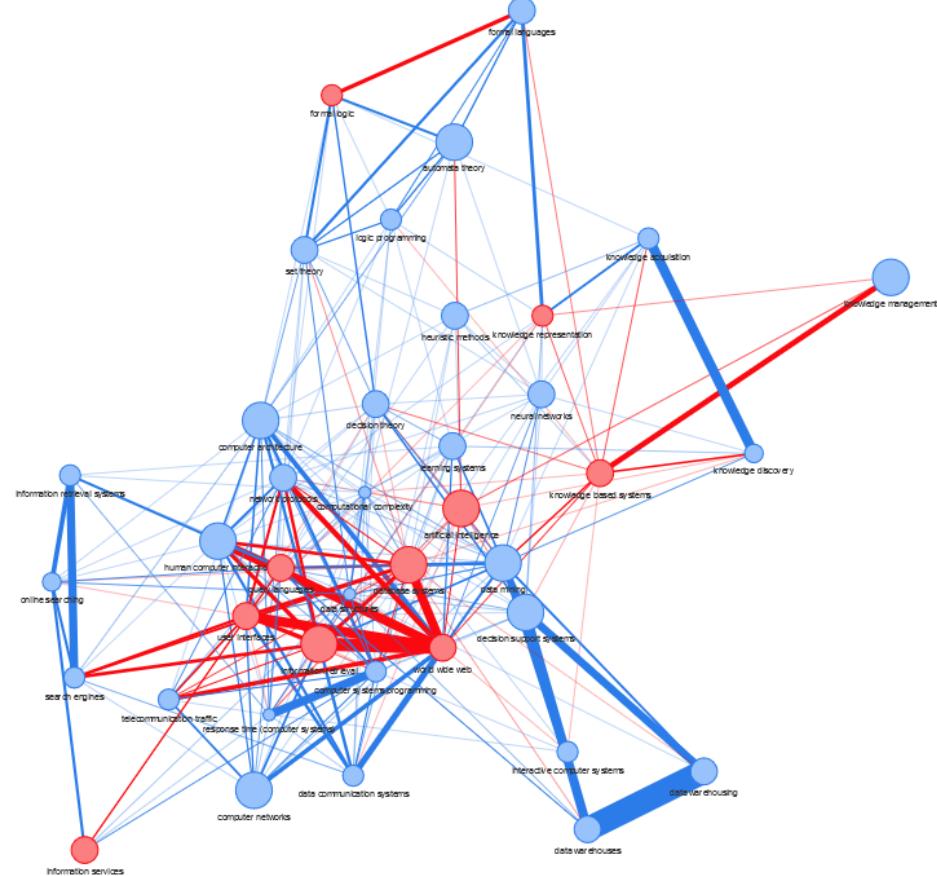
Is it possible to **detect the emergence of new research topics** even before they are consistently labelled by the community?

What are the dynamics that anticipate the creation of new research topic?

We analysed the co-occurrence network of research topics preceding a treatment group of debutant topics vs. a control group.



Can the increase of **pace of collaboration** and **density** in a topic network be an indicator of a new research topic?

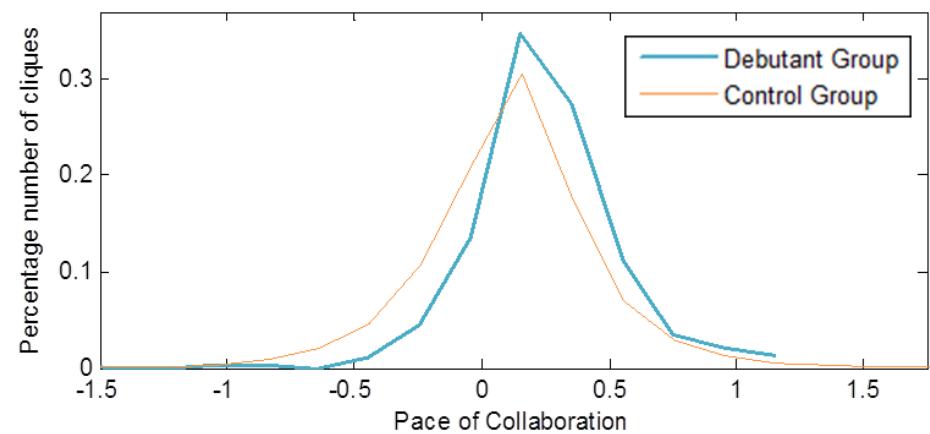
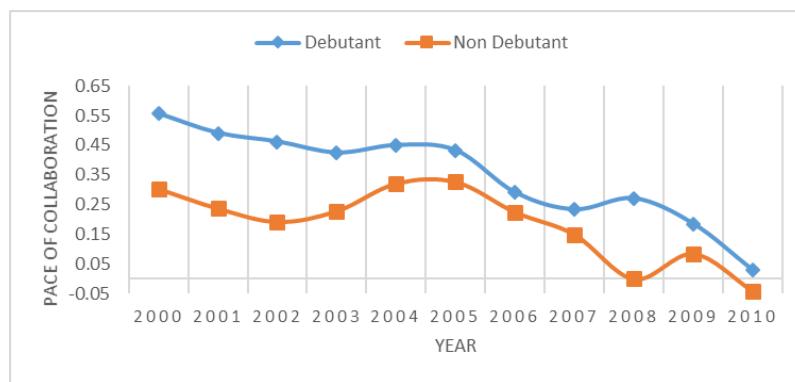




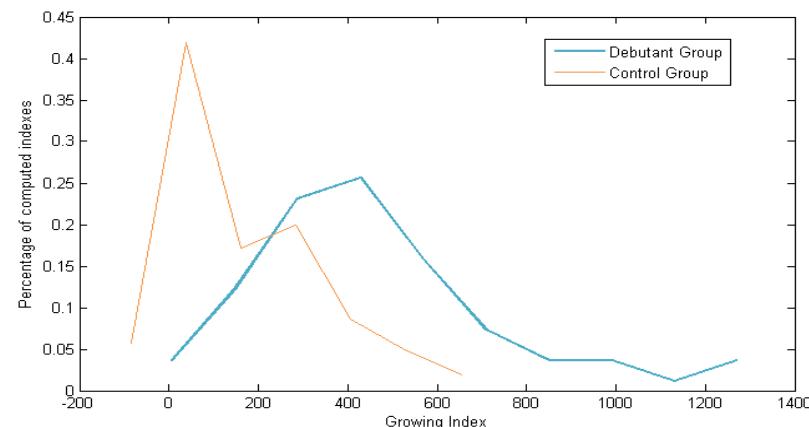
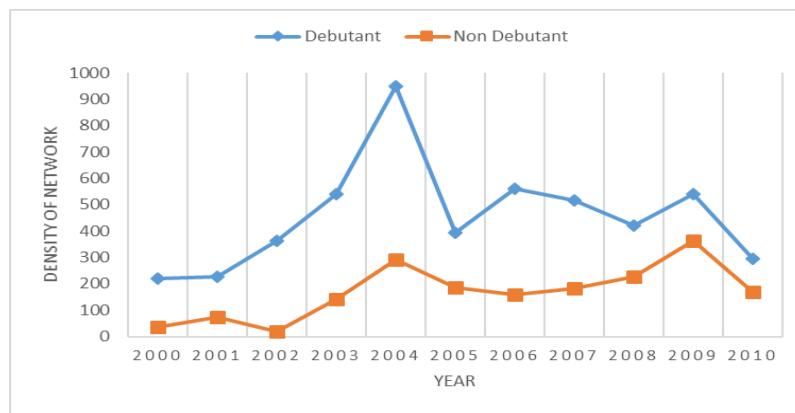
Results

The **dynamics preceding the appearance** of research topics are significantly different from the ones associated to the other portions of the networks (**p<0.0001**).

Pace of Collaboration



Density Growth

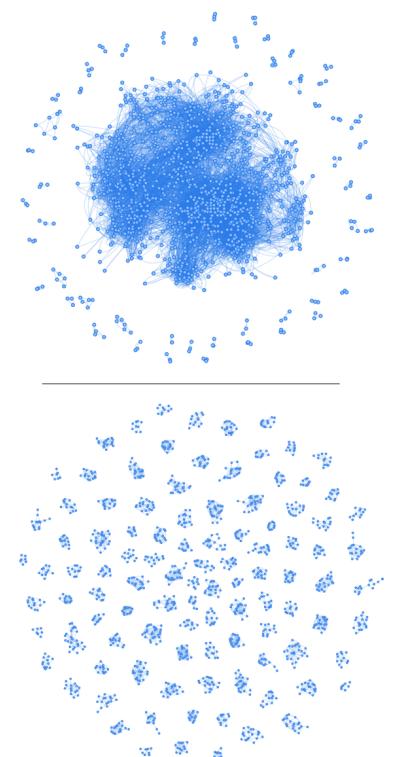
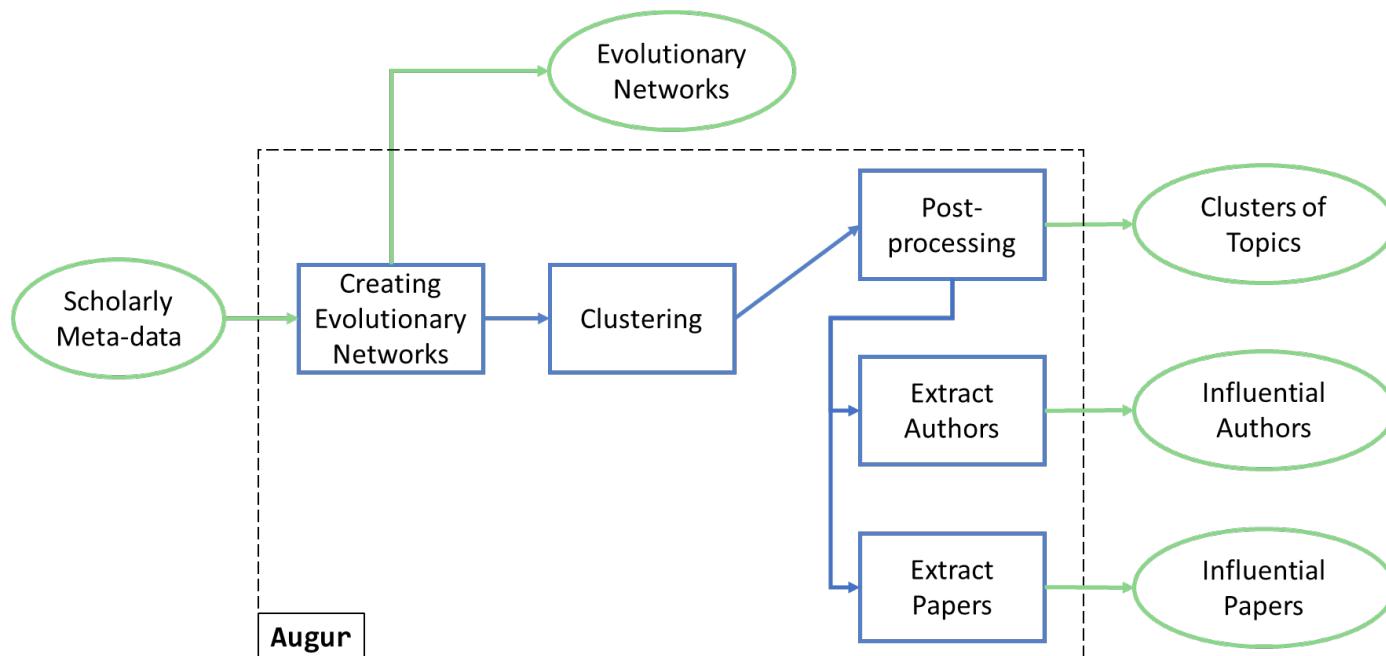




Augur

Augur is a method for detecting the emergence of research areas at an **embryonic stage**, i.e., before the topic has been consistently labelled by researchers and associated with several publications.

It analyses the relationships between research areas and is able to detect clusters of topics that exhibit dynamics correlated with the emergence of new research topics.





Conclusion

- The study confirmed our hypothesis that it is possible in principle to detect the emergence of a new topic at the embryonic stage.
- It suggest that new topics tend to emerge in an environment in which weakly interconnected research areas begin to cross fertilize.
 - Interestingly, this can be fostered by relevant research policies



Some Lesson Learnt

- A little semantic goes a long way (Hendler's hypothesis)
- Working together is imperative (scientific community, companies, organizations, political entities)
- Semantic does not just produce analytics, but also a new way to understand how research works.



**Andrea
Mannocci**



**Enrico
Motta**



**Francesco
Osborne**



**Angelo
Salatino**



**Thivyan
Thanapalasingam**

Scholarly Knowledge Modelling, Mining and SenseMaking

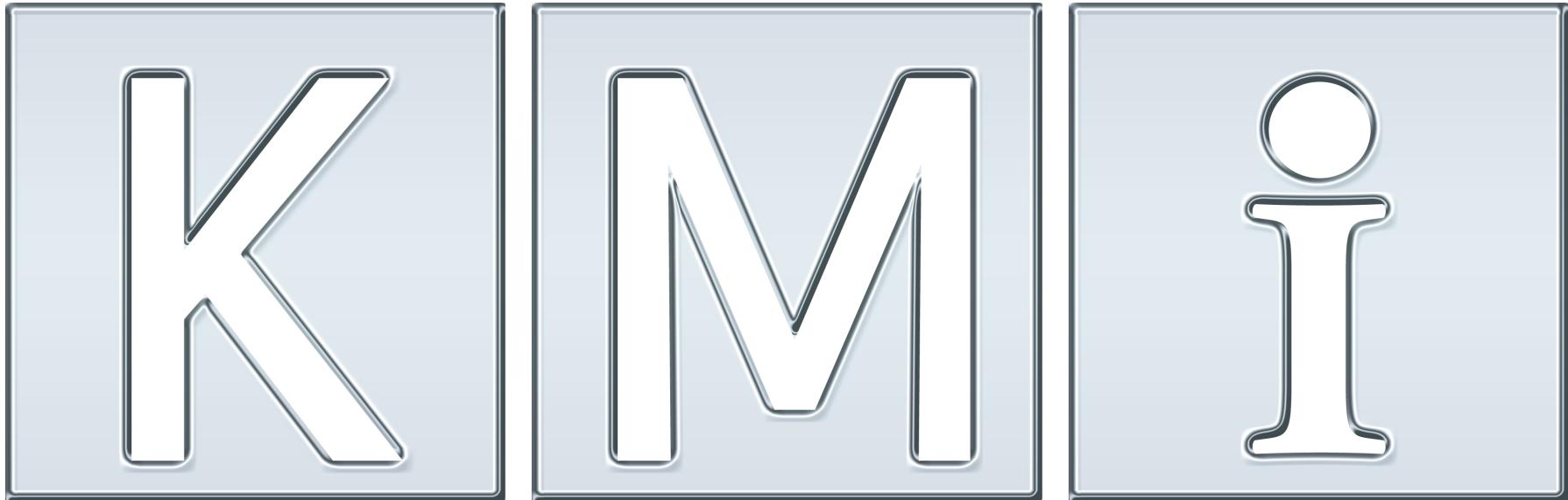


References

- **Fostering Technology Transfer:** Osborne, F., Mannocci, A. and Motta, E. (2017) [Forecasting the Spreading of Technologies in Research Communities](#), K-CAP 2017, Austin, Texas, USA.
- **Early detection of research trends:** Salatino, A.A., Osborne, F. and Motta, E., (2017) [How are topics born? Understanding the research dynamics preceding the emergence of new areas](#). PeerJ Computer Science, 3, p.e119.
- **Smart Book Recommender:** Osborne, F., Birukou, A., Thanapalasingam, T. , and Motta, E. (2017) [Smart Book Recommender: A Semantic Recommendation Engine for Editorial Products](#). International Semantic Web Conference 2017, Poster Track. Vienna, Austria.
- **Smart Topic Miner:** Osborne, F., Salatino, A., Birukou, A. and Motta, E. (2016) [Automatic Classification of Springer Nature Proceedings with Smart Topic Miner](#). International Semantic Web Conference 2016, Kobe, Japan.
- **CSO ontology creation:** Osborne, F. and Motta, E. (2015) [Klink-2: Integrating Multiple Web Sources to Generate Semantic Topic Networks](#), International Semantic Web Conference 2015, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA
- **Rexplore:** Osborne, F., Motta, E. and Mulholland, P. (2013) [Exploring Scholarly Data with Rexplore](#), International Semantic Web Conference, Sydney, Australia

Francesco Osborne
KMi, The Open University

francesco.osborne@open.ac.uk



Knowledge Media Institute

skm.kmi.open.ac.uk