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# DBpedia – A Large-scale, Multilingual Knowledge Base Extracted from Wikipedia

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Christian Bizer <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *University of Leipzig, Institute of Computer Science, AKSW Group, Augustusplatz 10, D-04009 Leipzig, Germany*  
*E-mail: {lastname}@informatik.uni-leipzig.de*

<sup>b</sup> *University of Mannheim, Research Group Data and Web Science, B6-26, D-68159 Mannheim*  
*E-mail: chris@informatik.uni-mannheim.de*

<sup>c</sup> *OpenLink Software, 10 Burlington Mall Road, Suite 265, Burlington, MA 01803, U.S.A.*  
*E-mail: pkleef@openlinksw.com*

<sup>d</sup> *Hasso-Plattner-Institute for IT-Systems Engineering, Prof.-Dr.-Helmert-Str. 2-3, D-14482 Potsdam, Germany*  
*E-mail: mail@anjajentzsch.de*

<sup>e</sup> *Neofonie GmbH, Robert-Koch-Platz 4, D-10115 Berlin, Germany*  
*E-mail: max.jakob@neofonie.de*

<sup>f</sup> *Kno.e.sis - Ohio Center of Excellence in Knowledge-enabled Computing, Wright State University, Dayton, USA.*  
*E-Mail: pablo@knoesis.org*

<sup>g</sup> *Brox IT-Solutions GmbH, An der Breiten Wiese 9, D-30625 Hannover, Germany*  
*E-Mail: mail@robertisele.com*

**Abstract.** The DBpedia community project extracts structured, multilingual knowledge from Wikipedia and makes it freely available on the Web using Semantic Web and Linked Data technologies. The project extracts knowledge from 111 different language editions of Wikipedia. The largest DBpedia knowledge base which is extracted from the English edition of Wikipedia consists of over 400 million facts that describe 3.7 million things. The DBpedia knowledge bases that are extracted from the other 110 Wikipedia editions together consist of 1.46 billion facts and describe 10 million additional things. The DBpedia project maps Wikipedia infoboxes from 27 different language editions to a single shared ontology consisting of 320 classes and 1,650 properties. The mappings are created via a world-wide crowd-sourcing effort and enable knowledge from the different Wikipedia editions to be combined. The project publishes regular releases of all DBpedia knowledge bases for download and provides SPARQL query access to 14 out of the 111 language editions via a global network of local DBpedia chapters. In addition to the regular releases, the project maintains a live knowledge base which is updated whenever a page in Wikipedia changes. DBpedia sets 27 million RDF links pointing into over 30 external data sources and thus enables data from these sources to be used together with DBpedia data. Several hundred data sets on the Web publish RDF links pointing to DBpedia themselves and thus make DBpedia one of the central interlinking hubs in the Linked Open Data (LOD) cloud. In this system report, we give an overview of the DBpedia community project, including its architecture, technical implementation, maintenance, internationalisation, usage statistics and applications.

**Keywords:** Knowledge Extraction, Wikipedia, Multilingual Knowledge Bases, Linked Data, RDF

## 1. Introduction

Wikipedia is the 6th most popular website<sup>1</sup>, the most widely used encyclopedia, and one of the finest examples of truly collaboratively created content. There are official Wikipedia editions in 287 different languages which range in size from a couple of hundred articles up to 3.8 million articles (English edition)<sup>2</sup>. Besides of free text, Wikipedia articles consist of different types of structured data such as infoboxes, tables, lists, and categorization data. Wikipedia currently offers only free-text search capabilities to its users. Using Wikipedia search, it is thus very difficult to find all rivers that flow into the Rhine and are longer than 100 miles, or all Italian composers that were born in the 18th century.

The DBpedia project builds a large-scale, multilingual knowledge base by extracting structured data from Wikipedia editions in 111 languages. This knowledge base can be used to answer expressive queries such as the ones outlined above. Being multilingual and covering a wide range of topics, the DBpedia knowledge base is also useful within further application domains such as data integration, named entity recognition, topic detection, and document ranking.

The DBpedia knowledge base is widely used as a testbed in the research community and numerous applications, algorithms and tools have been built around or applied to DBpedia. DBpedia is served as Linked Data on the Web. Since it covers a wide variety of topics and sets RDF links pointing into various external data sources, many Linked Data publishers have decided to set RDF links pointing to DBpedia from their data sets. Thus, DBpedia has developed into a central interlinking hub in the Web of Linked Data and has been a key factor for the success of the Linked Open Data initiative.

The structure of the DBpedia knowledge base is maintained by the DBpedia user community. Most importantly, the community creates mappings from Wikipedia information representation structures to the DBpedia ontology. This ontology – which will be explained in detail in Section 3 – unifies different template structures, both within single Wikipedia language editions and across currently 27 different languages.

The maintenance of different language editions of DBpedia is spread across a number of organisations. Each organisation is responsible for the support of a certain language. The local DBpedia chapters are coordinated by the DBpedia Internationalisation Committee.

The aim of this system report is to provide a description of the DBpedia community project, including the architecture of the DBpedia extraction framework, its technical implementation, maintenance, internationalisation, usage statistics as well as presenting some popular DBpedia applications. This system report is a comprehensive update and extension of previous project descriptions in [1] and [5]. The main advances compared to these articles are:

- The concept and implementation of the extraction based on a community-curated DBpedia ontology.
- The wide internationalisation of DBpedia.
- A live synchronisation module which processes updates in Wikipedia as well as the DBpedia ontology and allows third parties to keep their copies of DBpedia up-to-date.
- A description of the maintenance of public DBpedia services and statistics about their usage.
- An increased number of interlinked data sets which can be used to further enrich the content of DBpedia.
- The discussion and summary of novel third party applications of DBpedia.

Overall, DBpedia has undergone 7 years of continuous evolution. Table 17 provides an overview of the project's timeline.

The system report is structured as follows: In the next section, we describe the DBpedia extraction framework, which forms the technical core of DBpedia. This is followed by an explanation of the community-curated DBpedia ontology with a focus on multilingual support. In Section 4, we explicate how DBpedia is synchronised with Wikipedia with just very short delays and how updates are propagated to DBpedia mirrors employing the *DBpedia Live* system. Subsequently, we give an overview of the external data sets that are interlinked from DBpedia or that set RDF links pointing to DBpedia themselves (Section 5). In Section 6, we provide statistics on the usage of DBpedia and describe the maintenance of a large scale public data set. Within Section 7, we briefly describe several use cases and applications of DBpedia in a variety of different areas. Finally, we report on related work in Section 8 and give an outlook on the further development of DBpedia in Section 9.

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: lehmannn@informatik.uni-leipzig.de.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.alexa.com/topsites>. Retrieved in October 2013.

<sup>2</sup>[http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Wikipedias](http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List_of_Wikipedias)

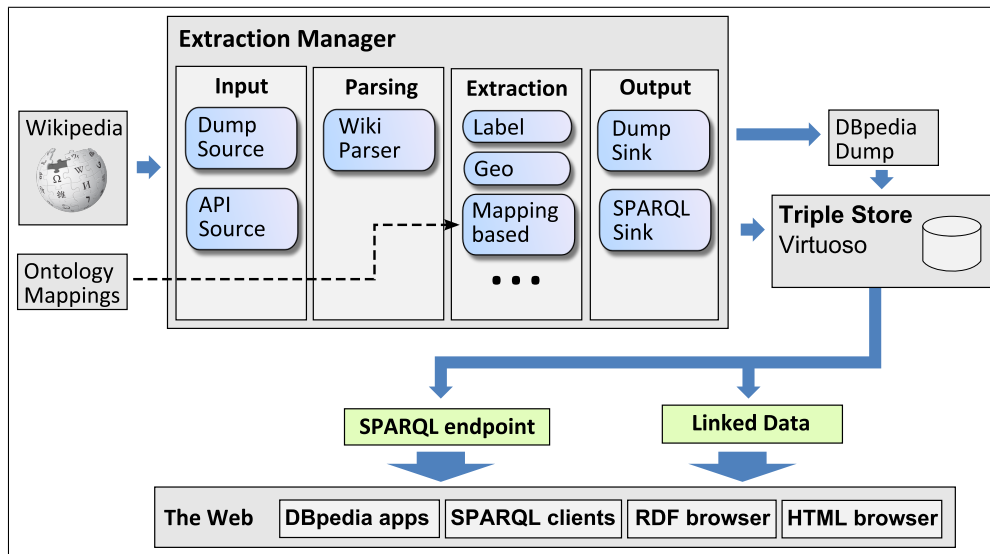


Fig. 1. Overview of DBpedia extraction framework.

## 2. Extraction Framework

Wikipedia articles consist mostly of free text, but also comprise of various types of structured information in the form of wiki markup. Such information includes infobox templates, categorisation information, images, geo-coordinates, links to external web pages, disambiguation pages, redirects between pages, and links across different language editions of Wikipedia. The DBpedia extraction framework extracts this structured information from Wikipedia and turns it into a rich knowledge base. In this section, we give an overview of the DBpedia knowledge extraction framework.

### 2.1. General Architecture

Figure 1 shows an overview of the technical framework. The DBpedia extraction is structured into four phases:

**Input:** Wikipedia pages are read from an external source. Pages can either be read from a Wikipedia dump or directly fetched from a MediaWiki installation using the MediaWiki API.

**Parsing:** Each Wikipedia page is parsed by the wiki parser. The wiki parser transforms the source code of a Wikipedia page into an Abstract Syntax Tree.

**Extraction:** The Abstract Syntax Tree of each Wikipedia page is forwarded to the extractors. DBpedia offers extractors for many different purposes, for instance, to extract labels, abstracts or geographical coordinates. Each extractor consumes an Abstract Syntax Tree and yields a set of RDF statements.

**Output:** The collected RDF statements are written to a sink. Different formats, such as N-Triples, are supported.

### 2.2. Extractors

The DBpedia extraction framework employs various extractors for translating different parts of Wikipedia pages to RDF statements. A list of all available extractors is shown in Table 1. DBpedia extractors can be divided into four categories:

**Mapping-Based Infobox Extraction:** The *mapping-based infobox extraction* uses manually written mappings that relate infoboxes in Wikipedia to terms in the DBpedia ontology. The mappings also specify a datatype for each infobox property and thus help the extraction framework to produce high quality data. The mapping-based extraction will be described in detail in Section 2.4.

**Raw Infobox Extraction:** The *raw infobox extraction* provides a direct mapping from infoboxes in Wikipedia to RDF. As the raw infobox extraction does not rely on explicit extraction knowledge in the form of mappings, the quality of the extracted data is lower. The raw infobox data is useful if a specific infobox has not been mapped yet and thus is not available in the mapping-based extraction.

**Feature Extraction:** The *feature extraction* uses a number of extractors that are specialized in extracting a single feature from an article, such as a label or geographic coordinates.

**Statistical Extraction:** Some NLP related extractors aggregate data from all Wikipedia pages in order to provide data that is based on *statistical measures* of page links or word counts, as further described in Section 2.6.

### 2.3. Raw Infobox Extraction

The type of Wikipedia content that is most valuable for the DBpedia extraction are infoboxes. Infoboxes are frequently used to list an article’s most relevant facts as a table of attribute-value pairs on the top right-hand side of the Wikipedia page (for right-to-left languages on the top left-hand side). Infoboxes that appear in a Wikipedia article are based on a template that specifies a list of attributes that can form the infobox. A wide range of infobox templates are used in Wikipedia. Common examples are templates for infoboxes that describe persons, organisations or automobiles. As Wikipedia’s infobox template system has evolved over time, different communities of Wikipedia editors use different templates to describe the same type of things (e.g. `Infobox.city-japan`, `Infobox.swiss-town` and `Infobox.town-de`). In addition, different templates use different names for the same attribute (e.g. `birthplace` and `placeofbirth`). As many Wikipedia editors do not strictly follow the recommendations given on the page that describes a template, attribute values are expressed using a wide range of different formats and units of measurement. An excerpt of an infobox that is based on a template for describing automobiles is shown below:

```
{{Infobox automobile
| name           = Ford GT40
| manufacturer   = [[Ford Advanced Vehicles]]
| production     = 1964-1969
| engine         = 4181cc
(...)
}}
```

In this infobox, the first line specifies the infobox type and the subsequent lines specify various attributes of the described entity.

An excerpt of the extracted data is as follows:

```
dbr:Ford_GT40
dbp:name "Ford GT40"@en;
dbp:manufacturer dbr:Ford_Advanced_Vehicles;
dbp:engine 4181;
dbp:production 1964;
(...).
```

This extraction output has weaknesses: The resource is not associated to a class in the ontology and parsed

values are cleaned up and assigned a datatype based on heuristics. In particular, the raw infobox extractor searches for values in the following order: dates, coordinates, numbers, links and strings as default. Thus, the datatype assignment for the same property in different resources is non deterministic. The engine for example is extracted as a number but if another instance of the template used “cc4181” it would be extracted as string. This behaviour makes querying for properties in the `dbp` namespace inconsistent. Those problems can be overcome by the mapping-based infobox extraction presented in the next subsection.

### 2.4. Mapping-Based Infobox Extraction

In order to homogenize the description of information in the knowledge base, in 2010 a community effort was initiated to develop an ontology schema and mappings from Wikipedia infobox properties to this ontology. The alignment between Wikipedia infoboxes and the ontology is performed via community-provided mappings that help to normalize name variations in properties and classes. Heterogeneity in the Wikipedia infobox system, like using different infoboxes for the same type of entity or using different property names for the same property (cf. Section 2.3), can be alleviated in this way. This significantly increases the quality of the raw Wikipedia infobox data by typing resources, merging name variations and assigning specific datatypes to the values.

This effort is realized using the DBpedia Mappings Wiki<sup>3</sup>, a MediaWiki installation set up to enable users to collaboratively create and edit mappings. These mappings are specified using the DBpedia Mapping Language. The mapping language makes use of MediaWiki templates that define DBpedia ontology classes and properties as well as template/table to ontology mappings. A mapping assigns a type from the DBpedia ontology to the entities that are described by the corresponding infobox. In addition, attributes in the infobox are mapped to properties in the DBpedia ontology. In the following, we show a mapping that maps infoboxes that use the `Infobox-automobile` template to the DBpedia ontology:

```
{{TemplateMapping
|mapToClass = Automobile
|mappings =
  {{PropertyMapping
  | templateProperty = name
```

<sup>3</sup><http://mappings.dbpedia.org>

Table 1

Overview of the DBpedia extractors (cf. Table 16 for a complete list of prefixes.).

| Name               | Description  | Example   |
|--------------------|--|---|
| abstract           | Extracts the first lines of the Wikipedia article.   | dbr:Berlin dbo:abstract "Berlin is the capital city of (...)".  |
| article categories | Extracts the categorization of the article.  | dbr:OliverTwist dc:subject dbr:Category:English.novels.   |
| category label     | Extracts labels for categories.  | dbr:Category:English.novels rdfs:label "English novels".  |
| category hierarchy | Extracts information about which concept is a category and how categories are related using the SKOS Vocabulary. | dbr:Category:World.War.II skos:broader<br>dbr:Category:Modern.history.  |
| disambiguation     | Extracts disambiguation links.   | dbr:Alien dbo:wikiPageDisambiguates dbr:Alien.(film).   |
| external links     | Extracts links to external web pages related to the concept.   | dbr:Animal.Farm dbo:wikiPageExternalLink<br><http://books.google.com/?id=RBGmrDnBs8UC>.   |
| geo coordinates    | Extracts geo-coordinates.  | dbr:Berlin georss:point "52.5006 13.3989".  |
| grammatical gender | Extracts grammatical genders for persons.  | dbr:Abraham.Lincoln foaf:gender "male".   |
| homepage           | Extracts links to the official homepage of an instance.  | dbr:Alabama foaf:homepage <http://alabama.gov/>.  |
| image              | Extracts the first image of a Wikipedia page.  | dbr:Berlin foaf:depiction <http://.../Overview.Berlin.jpg>.   |
| infobox            | Extracts all properties from all infoboxes.  | dbr:Animal.Farm dbo:date "March 2010".  |
| interlanguage      | Extracts interwiki links.  | dbr:Albedo dbo:wikiPageInterLanguageLink dbr-de:Albedo.   |
| label              | Extracts the article title as label.   | dbr:Berlin rdfs:label "Berlin".   |
| lexicalizations    | Extracts information about surface forms and their association with concepts (only N-Quad format).               | dbr:Pine sptl:lexicalization lx:pine.tree ls:Pine.pine.tree .<br>lx:pine.tree rdfs:label "pine tree".<br>ls:Pine.pine.tree sptl:pUriGivenSf "0.941" . |
| mappings           | Extraction based on mappings of Wikipedia infoboxes to the DBpedia ontology.                                     | dbr:Berlin dbo:country dbr:Germany.   |
| page ID            | Extracts page ids of articles.   | dbr:Autism dbo:wikiPageID "25" .  |
| page links         | Extracts all links between Wikipedia articles.   | dbr:Autism dbo:wikiPageWikiLink dbr:Human.brain.  |
| persondata         | Extracts information about persons represented using the Person-Data template.                                   | dbr:Andre.Agassi foaf:birthDate "1970-04-29".   |
| PND                | Extracts PND (Personennamendatei) data about a person.   | dbr:William.Shakespeare dbo:individualisedPnd "118613723".  |
| redirects          | Extracts redirect links between articles in Wikipedia.   | dbr:ArtificialLanguages dbo:wikiPageRedirects<br>dbr:Constructed.language.  |
| revision ID        | Extracts the revision ID of the Wikipedia article.   | dbr:Autism <http://www.w3.org/ns/prov#wasDerivedFrom><br><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autism?oldid=495234324>.                                       |
| thematic concept   | Extracts 'thematic' concepts, the centres of discussion for categories.  | dbr:Category:Music skos:subject dbr:Music.  |
| topic signatures   | Extracts topic signatures.   | dbr:Alkane sptl:topicSignature "carbon alkanes atoms" .   |
| wiki page          | Extracts links to corresponding articles in Wikipedia.   | dbr:AnAmericanInParis foaf:isPrimaryTopicOf<br><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AnAmericanInParis>.  |

```

| ontologyProperty = foaf:name }}
{{PropertyMapping
| templateProperty = manufacturer
| ontologyProperty = manufacturer }}
{{DateIntervalMapping
| templateProperty = production
| startDateOntologyProperty =
  productionStartDate
| endDateOntologyProperty =
  productionEndDate }}
{{IntermediateNodeMapping
| nodeClass = AutomobileEngine
| correspondingProperty = engine
| mappings =
  {{PropertyMapping
  | templateProperty = engine
  | ontologyProperty = displacement
  | unit = Volume }}
  {{PropertyMapping
  | templateProperty = engine
  | ontologyProperty = powerOutput
  | unit = Power }}
}}
(...)
}}
```

The RDF statements that are extracted from the previous infobox example are shown below. As we can see, the production period is correctly split into a start year and an end year and the engine is represented by a distinct RDF node. It is worth mentioning that all values are canonicalized to basic units. For example, in the engine mapping we state that engine is a *Volume* and thus, the extractor converts “4181cc” (cubic centimeters) to cubic meters (“0.004181”). Additionally, there can exist multiple mappings on the same property that search for different datatypes or different units. For example, a number with “PS” as a suffix for engine.

```

dbr:Ford_GT40
  rdf:type    dbo:Automobile;
  rdfs:label  "Ford GT40"@en;
  dbo:manufacturer
    dbr:Ford_Advanced_Vehicles;
  dbo:productionStartYear
    "1964"^^xsd:gYear;
  dbo:productionEndYear  "1969"^^xsd:gYear;
  dbo:engine [
    rdf:type  AutomobileEngine;
    dbo:displacement  "0.004181";
  ]
  (...)
```

The DBpedia Mapping Wiki is not only used to map different templates within a single language edition of Wikipedia to the DBpedia ontology, but is used to map templates from all Wikipedia language editions to the shared DBpedia ontology. Figure 2 shows how

the infobox properties *author* and *συγγραφέας* – author in Greek – are both being mapped to the global identifier `dbo:author`. That means, in turn, that information from all language versions of DBpedia can be merged and DBpedias for smaller languages can be augmented with knowledge from larger DBpedias such as the English edition. Conversely, the larger DBpedia editions can benefit from more specialized knowledge from localized editions, such as data about smaller towns which is often only present in the corresponding language edition [43].

Besides hosting of the mappings and DBpedia ontology definition, the DBpedia Mappings Wiki offers various tools which support users in their work:

- **Mapping Syntax Validator** The mapping syntax validator checks for syntactic correctness and highlights inconsistencies such as missing property definitions.
- **Extraction Tester** The extraction tester linked on each mapping page tests a mapping against a set of example Wikipedia pages. This gives direct feedback about whether a mapping works and how the resulting data is structured.
- **Mapping Tool** The DBpedia Mapping Tool is a graphical user interface that supports users to create and edit mappings.

## 2.5. URI Schemes

For every Wikipedia article, the framework introduces a number of URIs to represent the concepts described on a particular page. Up to 2011, DBpedia published URIs only under the `http://dbpedia.org` domain. The main namespaces were:

- `http://dbpedia.org/resource/` (prefix *dbr*) for representing article data. There is a one-to-one mapping between a Wikipedia page and a DBpedia resource based on the article title. For example, for the Wikipedia article on *Berlin*<sup>4</sup>, DBpedia will produce the URI *dbr:Berlin*. Exceptions in this rule appear when intermediate nodes are extracted from the mapping-based infobox extractor as unique URIs (e.g., the engine mapping example in Section 2.4).
- `http://dbpedia.org/property/` (prefix *dbp*) for representing properties extracted from the raw infobox extraction (cf. Section 2.3), e.g. *dbp:population*.

<sup>4</sup><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin>

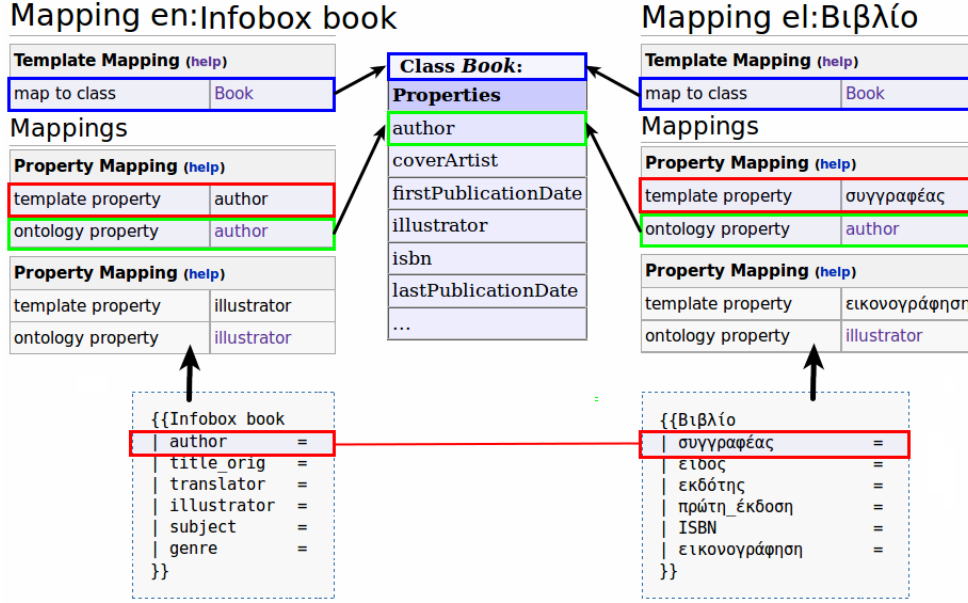


Fig. 2. Depiction of the mapping from the Greek (left) and English Wikipedia templates (right) about books to the same DBpedia Ontology class (middle) [24].

- <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/> (prefix *dbo*) for representing the DBpedia ontology (cf. Section 2.4), e.g. *dbo:populationTotal*.

Although data from other Wikipedia language editions were extracted, they used the same namespaces. This was achieved by exploiting the Wikipedia *inter-language links*<sup>5</sup>. For every page in a language other than English, the page was extracted only if the page contained an inter-language link to an English page. In that case, using the English link, the data was extracted under the English resource name (i.e. *dbp:Berlin*).

Recent DBpedia internationalisation developments showed that this approach omitted valuable data [24]. Thus, starting from the *DBpedia 3.7 release*<sup>6</sup>, two types of data sets were generated. The *localized data sets* contain all things that are described in a specific language. Within the datasets, things are identified with language specific URIs such as <http://<lang>.dbpedia.org/resource/> for article data and <http://<lang>.dbpedia.org/property/> for property data. In addition, we produce a *canonicalized data set* for each language. The canonicalized data sets only contain things for which a corresponding page in the

English edition of Wikipedia exists. Within all canonicalized data sets, the same thing is identified with the same URI from the generic language-agnostic namespace <http://dbpedia.org/resource/>.

## 2.6. NLP Extraction

DBpedia provides a number of data sets which have been created to support Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks [33]. Currently, four datasets are extracted: *topic signatures*, *grammatical gender*, *lexicalizations* and *thematic concept*. While the topic signatures and the grammatical gender extractors primarily extract data from the article text, the lexicalizations and thematic concept extractors make use of the wiki markup.

DBpedia entities can be referred to using many different names and abbreviations. The Lexicalization data set provides access to alternative names for entities and concepts, associated with several scores estimating the association strength between name and URI. These scores distinguish more common names for specific entities from rarely used ones and also show how ambiguous a name is with respect to all possible concepts that it can mean.

The topic signatures data set enables the description of DBpedia resources based on unstructured information, as compared to the structured factual data provided by the mapping-based and raw extractors. We build a

<sup>5</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Interlanguage\\_links](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Interlanguage_links)

<sup>6</sup>A list of all DBpedia releases is provided in Table 17



Vector Space Model (VSM) where each DBpedia resource is a point in a multidimensional space of words. Each DBpedia resource is represented by a vector, and each word occurring in Wikipedia is a dimension of this vector. Word scores are computed using the tf-idf weight, with the intention to measure how strong is the association between a word and a DBpedia resource. Note that word stems are used in this context in order to generalize over inflected words. We use the computed weights to select the strongest related word stems for each entity and build topic signatures [30].

There are two more Feature Extractors related to Natural Language Processing. The thematic concepts data set relies on Wikipedia's category system to capture the idea of a 'theme', a subject that is discussed in its articles. Many of the categories in Wikipedia are linked to an article that describes the main topic of that category. We rely on this information to mark DBpedia entities and concepts that are 'thematic', that is, they are the centre of discussion for a category.

The grammatical gender data set uses a simple heuristic to decide on a grammatical gender for instances of the class `Person` in DBpedia. While parsing an article in the English Wikipedia, if there is a mapping from an infobox in this article to the class `dbo:Person`, we record the frequency of gender-specific pronouns in their declined forms (Subject, Object, Possessive Adjective, Possessive Pronoun and Reflexive) – i.e. he, him, his, himself (masculine) and she, her, hers, herself (feminine). Grammatical genders for DBpedia entities are assigned based on the dominating gender in these pronouns.

## 2.7. Summary of Other Recent Developments

In this section we summarize the improvements of the DBpedia extraction framework since the publication of the previous DBpedia overview article [5] in 2009. One of the major changes on the implementation level is that the extraction framework has been rewritten in Scala in 2010<sup>7</sup> resulting in an improvement of the efficiency of the extractors by an order of magnitude compared to the previous PHP based framework. This is crucial for the DBpedia Live project, which will be explained in Section 4. The new more modular framework also allows to extract data from tables in Wikipedia pages and supports extraction from multiple MediaWiki templates per page. Another significant change was the

creation and utilization of the DBpedia Mappings Wiki as described earlier. Further significant changes include the mentioned NLP extractors and the introduction of URI schemes.

In addition, there were several smaller improvements and general maintenance: Overall, over the past four years, the parsing of the MediaWiki markup improved quite a lot which led to better overall coverage, for example, concerning references and parser functions. In addition, the collection of MediaWiki namespace identifiers for many languages is now performed semi-automatically leading to a high accuracy of detection. This concerns common title prefixes such as *User*, *File*, *Template*, *Help*, *Portal* etc. in English that indicate pages that do not contain encyclopedic content and would produce noise in the data. They are important for specific extractors as well, for instance, the category hierarchy data set is produced from pages of the *Category* namespace. Furthermore, the output of the extraction system now supports more formats and several compliance issues regarding URIs, IRIs, N-Triples and Turtle were fixed.

The individual data extractors have been improved as well in both number and quality in many areas. The abstract extraction was enhanced producing more accurate plain text representations of the beginning of Wikipedia article texts. More diverse and more specific datatypes do exist (e.g. many currencies and XSD datatypes such as `xsd:gYearMonth`, `xsd:positiveInteger`, etc.) and for a number of classes and properties, specific datatypes were added (e.g. inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> for the population density of populated places and m<sup>3</sup>/s for the discharge of rivers). Many issues related to data parsers were resolved and the quality of the `owl:sameAs` data set for multiple language versions was increased by an implementation that takes bijective relations into account.

There are also further extractors, e.g. for Wikipedia page IDs and revisions. Moreover, redirect and disambiguation extractors were introduced and improved. For the redirect data, the transitive closure is computed while taking care of catching cycles in the links. The redirects also help regarding infobox coverage in the mapping-based extraction by resolving alternative template names. Moreover, in the PHP framework, if an infobox value pointed to a redirect, this redirection was not properly resolved and thus resulted in RDF links that led to URIs which did not contain any further information. Resolving redirects affected approximately 15% of all links, and hence increased the overall interconnectivity of resources in the DBpedia ontology.

<sup>7</sup>Table 17 provides an overview of the project's evolution through time.

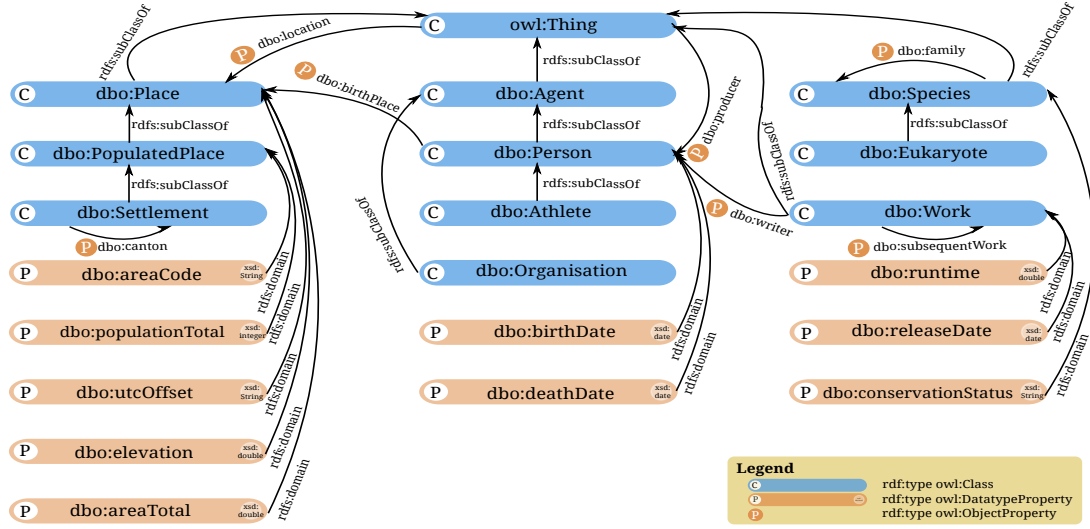


Fig. 3. Snapshot of a part of the DBpedia ontology.

Finally, a new heuristic to increase the connectiveness of DBpedia instances was introduced. If an infobox contains a string value that is not linked to another Wikipedia article, the extraction framework searches for hyperlinks in the same Wikipedia article that have the same anchor text as the infobox value string. If such a link exists, the target of that link is used to replace the string value in the infobox. This method further increases the number of object property assertions in the DBpedia ontology.

Orthogonal to the previously mentioned improvements, there have been various efforts to assess the quality of the DBpedia datasets. [26] developed a framework for estimating the quality of DBpedia and a sample of 75 resources were analysed. A more comprehensive effort was performed in [48] by providing a distributed web-based interface [25] for quality assessment. In this study, 17 data quality problem types were analysed by 58 users covering 521 resources in DBpedia.

### 3. DBpedia Ontology

The DBpedia ontology consists of 320 classes which form a subsumption hierarchy and are described by 1,650 different properties. With a maximal depth of 5, the subsumption hierarchy is intentionally kept rather shallow which fits use cases in which the ontology is visualized or navigated. Figure 3 depicts a part of the DBpedia ontology, indicating the relations among the top ten classes of the DBpedia on-

tology, i.e. the classes with the highest number of instances. The complete DBpedia ontology can be browsed online at <http://mappings.dbpedia.org/server/ontology/classes/>.

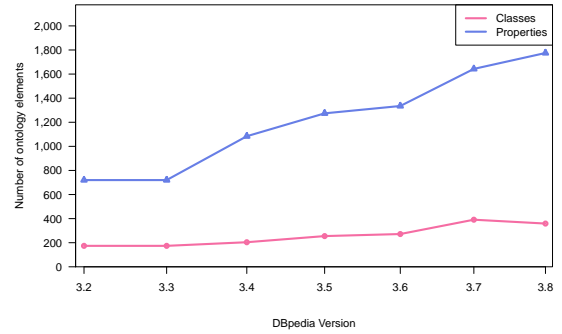


Fig. 4. Growth of the DBpedia ontology.

The DBpedia ontology is maintained and extended by the community in the DBpedia Mappings Wiki. Figure 4 depicts the growth of the DBpedia ontology over time. While the number of classes is not growing too much due to the already good coverage of the initial version of the ontology, the number of properties increases over time due to the collaboration on the DBpedia Mappings Wiki and the addition of more detailed information to infoboxes by Wikipedia editors.

#### 3.1. Mapping Statistics

As of April 2013, there exist mapping communities for 27 languages, 23 of which are active. Figure 5 shows

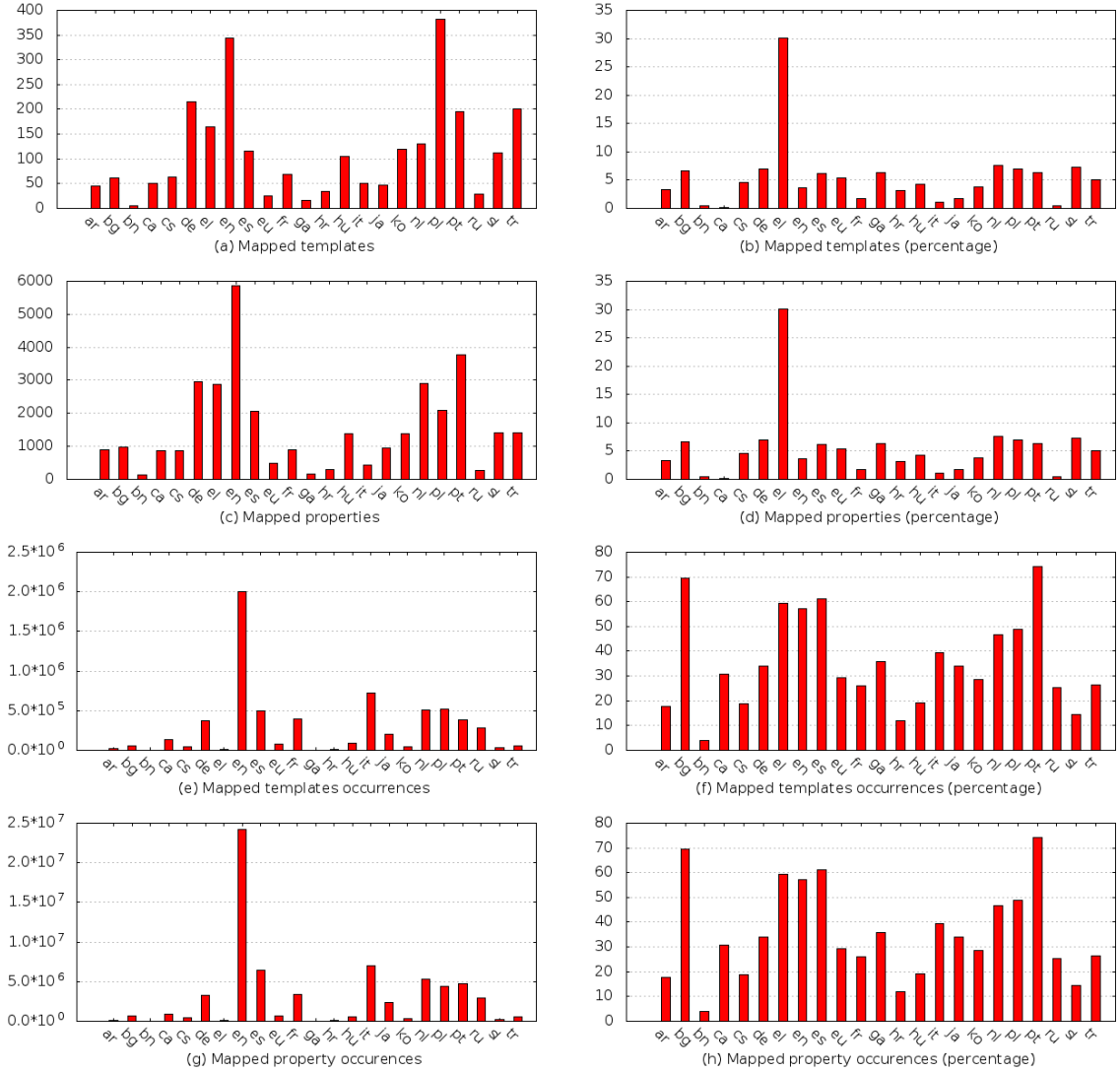


Fig. 5. Mapping coverage statistics for all mapping-enabled languages.

statistics for the coverage of these mappings in DBpedia. Figures (a) and (c) refer to the absolute number of template and property mappings that are defined for every DBpedia language edition. Figures (b) and (d) depict the percentage of the defined template and property mappings compared to the total number of available templates and properties for every Wikipedia language edition. Figures (e) and (g) show the occurrences (instances) that the defined template and property mappings have in Wikipedia. Finally, figures (f) and (h) give the percentage of the mapped templates and properties occurrences, compared to the total templates and property occurrences in a Wikipedia language edition.

It can be observed in the figure that the Portuguese DBpedia language edition is the most complete regarding mapping coverage. Other language editions such as Bulgarian, Dutch, English, Greek, Polish and Spanish have mapped templates covering more than 50% of total template occurrences. In addition, almost all languages have covered more than 20% of property occurrences, with Bulgarian and Portuguese reaching up to 70%.

The mapping activity of the ontology enrichment process along with the editing of the ten most active mapping language communities is depicted in Figure 6. It is interesting to notice that the high mapping activity peaks coincide with the DBpedia release dates.

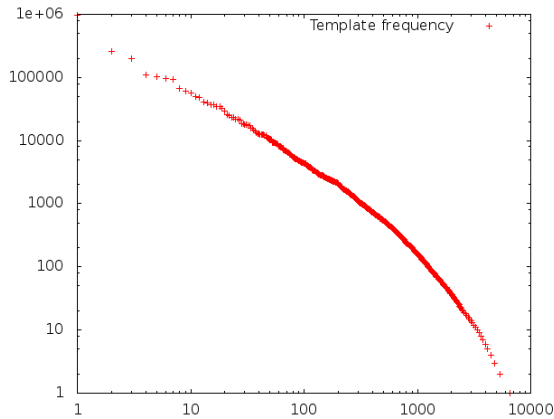


Fig. 7. English property mappings occurrence frequency (both axes are in log scale)

For instance, the DBpedia 3.7 version was released on September 2011 and the 2nd and 3rd quarter of that year have a very high activity compared to the 4th quarter. In the last two years (2012 and 2013), most of the DBpedia mapping language communities have defined their own chapters and have their own release dates. Thus, recent mapping activity shows less fluctuation.

Finally, Figure 7 shows the English property mappings occurrence frequency. Both axes are in log scale and represent the number of property mappings (x axis) that have exactly y occurrences (y axis). The occurrence frequency follows a *long tail* distribution. Thus, a low number of property mappings have a high number of occurrences and a high number of property mappings have a low number of occurrences.

### 3.2. Instance Data

The DBpedia 3.8 release contains localized versions of DBpedia for 111 languages which have been extracted from the Wikipedia edition in the corresponding language. For 20 of these languages, we report in this section the overall number of entities being described by the localized versions as well as the number of facts (i.e. statements) that have been extracted from infoboxes describing these things. Afterwards, we report on the number of instances of popular classes within the 20 DBpedia versions as well as the conceptual overlap between the languages.

Table 2 shows the overall number of things, ontology and raw-infobox properties, infobox statements and type statements for the 20 languages. The column headings have the following meaning: LD = Localized data sets (see Section 2.5); CD = Canonicalized data sets

(see Section 2.5); all = Overall number of instances in the data set, including instances without infobox data; with MD = Number of instances for which mapping-based infobox data exists; Raw Properties = Number of different properties that are generated by the raw infobox extractor; Mapping Properties = Number of different properties that are generated by the mapping-based infobox extractor; Raw Statements = Number of statements (facts) that are generated by the raw infobox extractor; Mapping Statements = Number of statements (facts) that are generated by the mapping-based infobox extractor.

It is interesting to see that the English version of DBpedia describes about three times more instances than the second and third largest language editions (French, German). Comparing the first column of the table with the second and third reveals which portion of the instances of a specific language correspond to instances in the English version of DBpedia and which portion of the instances is described by clean, mapping-based infobox data. The difference between the number of properties in the raw infobox data set and the cleaner mapping-based infobox data set (columns 4 and 5) results on the one hand from multiple Wikipedia infobox properties being mapped to a single ontology property. On the other hand, it reflects the number of mappings that have been so far created in the Mapping Wiki for a specific language.

Table 3 reports the number of instances for a set of popular classes from the third and forth hierarchy level of the ontology within the canonicalized DBpedia data sets for each language. The indented classes are subclasses of the superclasses set in bold. The zero values in the table indicate that no infoboxes have been mapped to a specific ontology class within the corresponding language so far. Again, the English version of DBpedia covers by far the most instances.

Table 4 shows, for the canonicalized, mapping-based data set, how many instances are described in multiple languages. The Instances column contains the total number of instances per class across all 20 languages, the second column contains the number of instances that are described only in a single language version, the next column contains the number of instances that are contained in two languages but not in three or more languages, etc. For example, 12,936 persons are described in five languages but not in six or more languages. The number 871,630 for the class `Person` means that all 20 language versions together describe 871,630 different persons. The number is higher than the number of persons described in the canonicalized English infobox

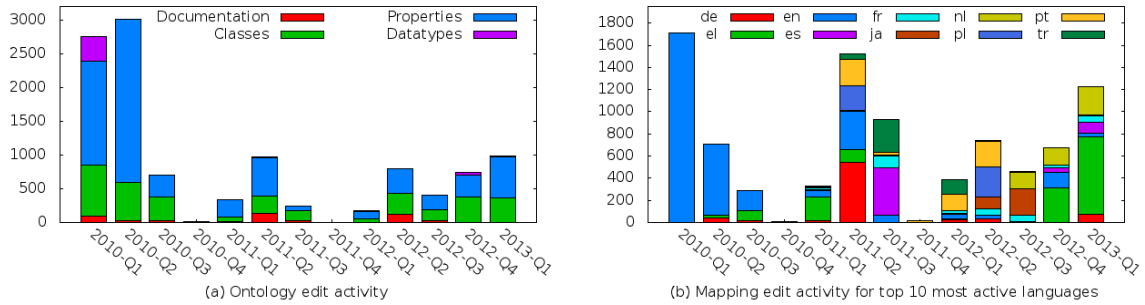


Fig. 6. Mapping community activity for (a) ontology and (b) 10 most active language editions

Table 2

Basic statistics about Localized DBpedia Editions.

|    | <i>Inst. LD all</i> | <i>Inst. CD all</i> | <i>Inst. with MD CD</i> | <i>Raw Prop. CD</i> | <i>Map. Prop. CD</i> | <i>Raw Statem. CD</i> | <i>Map. Statem. CD</i> |
|----|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| en | 3,769,926           | 3,769,926           | 2,359,521               | 48,293              | 1,313                | 65,143,840            | 33,742,015             |
| de | 1,243,771           | 650,037             | 204,335                 | 9,593               | 261                  | 7,603,562             | 2,880,381              |
| fr | 1,197,334           | 740,044             | 214,953                 | 13,551              | 228                  | 8,854,322             | 2,901,809              |
| it | 882,127             | 580,620             | 383,643                 | 9,716               | 181                  | 12,227,870            | 4,804,731              |
| es | 879,091             | 542,524             | 310,348                 | 14,643              | 476                  | 7,740,458             | 4,383,206              |
| pl | 848,298             | 538,641             | 344,875                 | 7,306               | 266                  | 7,696,193             | 4,511,794              |
| ru | 822,681             | 439,605             | 123,011                 | 13,522              | 76                   | 6,973,305             | 1,389,473              |
| pt | 699,446             | 460,258             | 272,660                 | 12,851              | 602                  | 6,255,151             | 4,005,527              |
| ca | 367,362             | 241,534             | 112,934                 | 8,696               | 183                  | 3,689,870             | 1,301,868              |
| cs | 225,133             | 148,819             | 34,893                  | 5,564               | 334                  | 1,857,230             | 474,459                |
| hu | 209,180             | 138,998             | 63,441                  | 6,821               | 295                  | 2,506,399             | 601,037                |
| ko | 196,132             | 124,591             | 30,962                  | 7,095               | 419                  | 1,035,606             | 417,605                |
| tr | 187,850             | 106,644             | 40,438                  | 7,512               | 440                  | 1,350,679             | 556,943                |
| ar | 165,722             | 103,059             | 16,236                  | 7,898               | 268                  | 635,058               | 168,686                |
| eu | 132,877             | 108,713             | 41,401                  | 2,245               | 19                   | 2,255,897             | 532,709                |
| sl | 129,834             | 73,099              | 22,036                  | 4,235               | 470                  | 1,213,801             | 222,447                |
| bg | 125,762             | 87,679              | 38,825                  | 3,984               | 274                  | 774,443               | 488,678                |
| hr | 109,890             | 71,469              | 10,343                  | 3,334               | 158                  | 701,182               | 151,196                |
| el | 71,936              | 48,260              | 10,813                  | 2,866               | 288                  | 206,460               | 113,838                |

data set (763,643) listed in Table 3, since there are infoboxes in non-English articles describing a person without a corresponding infobox in the English article describing the same person. Summing up columns 2 to 10+ for the `Person` class, we see that 195,263 persons are described in two or more languages. The large difference of this number compared to the total number of 871,630 persons is due to the much smaller size of the localized DBpedia versions compared to the English one (cf. Table 2).

### 3.3. Internationalisation Community

The introduction of the mapping-based infobox extractor alongside live synchronisation approaches

in [20] allowed the international DBpedia community to easily define infobox-to-ontology mappings. As a result of this development, there are presently mappings for 27 languages<sup>8</sup>. The DBpedia 3.7 release<sup>9</sup> in September 2011 was the first DBpedia release to use the localized I18n (Internationalisation) DBpedia extraction framework [24].

<sup>8</sup>Arabic (ar), Bulgarian (bg), Bengali (bn), Catalan (ca), Czech (cs), German (de), Greek (el), English (en), Spanish (es), Estonian (et), Basque (eu), French (fr), Irish (ga), Hindi (hi), Croatian (hr), Hungarian (hu), Indonesian (id), Italian (it), Japanese (ja), Korean (ko), Dutch (nl), Polish (pl), Portuguese (pt), Russian (ru), Slovene (sl), Turkish (tr), Urdu (ur)

<sup>9</sup><http://blog.dbpedia.org/2011/09/11/>

Table 3  
Number of instances per class within 10 localized DBpedia versions.

|                     | <i>en</i> | <i>it</i> | <i>pl</i> | <i>es</i> | <i>pt</i> | <i>fr</i> | <i>de</i> | <i>ru</i> | <i>ca</i> | <i>hu</i> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Person</b>       | 763,643   | 145,060   | 70,708    | 65,337    | 43,057    | 62,942    | 33,122    | 18,620    | 7,107     | 15,529    |
| Athlete             | 185,126   | 47,187    | 30,332    | 19,482    | 14,130    | 21,646    | 31,237    | 0         | 721       | 4,527     |
| Artist              | 61,073    | 12,511    | 16,120    | 25,992    | 10,571    | 13,465    | 0         | 0         | 2,004     | 3,821     |
| Politician          | 23,096    | 0         | 8,943     | 5,513     | 3,342     | 0         | 0         | 12,004    | 1,376     | 760       |
| <b>Place</b>        | 572,728   | 14,1101   | 182,727   | 132,961   | 116,660   | 80,602    | 131,766   | 67,932    | 73,078    | 18,324    |
| Popul.Place         | 387,166   | 138,077   | 167,034   | 121,204   | 109,418   | 72,252    | 79,410    | 63,826    | 72,743    | 15,535    |
| Building            | 60,514    | 1,270     | 2,946     | 3,570     | 803       | 921       | 83        | 43        | 0         | 527       |
| River               | 24,267    | 0         | 1,383     | 2         | 4,149     | 3,333     | 6,707     | 3,924     | 0         | 565       |
| <b>Organisation</b> | 192,832   | 4,142     | 12,193    | 11,710    | 10,949    | 17,513    | 16,973    | 1,598     | 1,399     | 3,993     |
| Company             | 44,516    | 4,142     | 2,566     | 975       | 1,903     | 5,832     | 7,200     | 0         | 440       | 618       |
| Educ.Inst.          | 42,270    | 0         | 599       | 1,207     | 270       | 1,636     | 2,171     | 1,010     | 0         | 115       |
| Band                | 27,061    | 0         | 2,993     | 0         | 4,476     | 3,868     | 5,368     | 0         | 263       | 802       |
| <b>Work</b>         | 333,269   | 51,918    | 32,386    | 36,484    | 33,869    | 39,195    | 18,195    | 34,363    | 5,240     | 9,777     |
| Music.Work          | 159,070   | 23,652    | 14,987    | 15,911    | 17,053    | 16,206    | 0         | 6,588     | 697       | 4,704     |
| Film                | 71,715    | 17,210    | 9,467     | 9,396     | 8,896     | 9,741     | 15,038    | 12,045    | 3,859     | 2,320     |
| Software            | 27,947    | 5,682     | 3,050     | 4,833     | 3,419     | 5,733     | 2,368     | 0         | 606       | 857       |

Table 4  
Cross-language overlap: Number of instances that are described in multiple languages.

| <i>Class</i> | <i>Instances</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>10+</i> |
|--------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Person       | 871.630          | 676.367  | 94.339   | 42.382   | 21.647   | 12.936   | 8.198    | 5.295    | 3.437    | 2.391    | 4.638      |
| Place        | 643.260          | 307.729  | 150.349  | 45.836   | 36.339   | 20.831   | 13.523   | 20.808   | 31.422   | 11.262   | 5.161      |
| Organisation | 206.670          | 160.398  | 22.661   | 9.312    | 5.002    | 3.221    | 2.072    | 1.421    | 928      | 594      | 1.061      |
| Work         | 360.808          | 243.706  | 54.855   | 23.097   | 12.605   | 8.277    | 5.732    | 4.007    | 2.911    | 1.995    | 3.623      |

At the time of writing, DBpedia chapters for 14 languages have been founded: Basque, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.<sup>10</sup> Besides providing mappings from infoboxes in the corresponding Wikipedia editions, DBpedia chapters organise a local community and provide hosting for data sets and associated services.

While at the moment chapters are defined by ownership of the IP and server of the sub domain A record (e.g. <http://ko.dbpedia.org>) given by DBpedia maintainers, the DBpedia internationalisation committee<sup>11</sup> is manifesting its structure and each language edition has a representative with a vote in elections. In some cases (e.g. Greek<sup>12</sup> and Dutch<sup>13</sup>) the existence of

a local DBpedia chapter has had a positive effect on the creation of localized LOD clouds [24].

In the weeks leading to a new release, the DBpedia project organises a *mapping sprint*, where communities from each language work together to improve mappings, increase coverage and detect bugs in the extraction process. The progress of the mapping effort is tracked through statistics on the number of mapped templates and properties, as well as the number of times these templates and properties occur in Wikipedia. These statistics provide an estimate of the coverage of each Wikipedia edition in terms of how many entities will be typed and how many properties from those entities will be extracted. Therefore, they can be used by each language edition to prioritize properties and templates with higher impact on the coverage.

The mapping statistics have also been used as a way to promote a healthy competition between language editions. A sprint page was created with bar charts that show how close each language is from achieving total coverage (as shown in Figure 5), and line charts showing the progress over time highlighting when one

<sup>10</sup>Accessed on 25/09/2013: <http://wiki.dbpedia.org/Internationalization/Chapters>

<sup>11</sup><http://wiki.dbpedia.org/Internationalization>

<sup>12</sup><http://el.dbpedia.org>

<sup>13</sup><http://nl.dbpedia.org>

language is overtaking another in their race for higher coverage. The mapping sprints have served as a great motivator for the crowd-sourcing efforts, as it can be noted from the increase in the number of mapping contributions in the weeks leading to a release.

#### 4. Live Synchronisation

Wikipedia articles are continuously revised at a very high rate, e.g. the English Wikipedia, in June 2013, has approximately 3.3 million edits per month which is equal to 77 edits per minute<sup>14</sup>. This high change frequency leads to DBpedia data quickly being out-dated, which in turn leads to the need for a methodology to keep DBpedia in synchronisation with Wikipedia. As a consequence, the *DBpedia Live* system was developed, which works on a continuous stream of updates from Wikipedia and processes that stream on the fly [20,36]. It allows extracted data to stay up-to-date with a small delay of at most a few minutes. Since the English Wikipedia is the largest among all Wikipedia editions with respect to the number of articles and the number of edits per month, it was the first language DBpedia Live supported<sup>15</sup>. Meanwhile, DBpedia Live for Dutch<sup>16</sup> was developed.

##### 4.1. DBpedia Live System Architecture

In order for live synchronisation to be possible, we need access to the changes made in Wikipedia. The Wikimedia foundation kindly provided us access to their update stream using the *OAI-PMH* protocol [27]. This protocol allows a programme to pull page updates in XML via HTTP. A Java component, serving as a proxy, constantly retrieves new updates and feeds them to the DBpedia Live framework. This proxy is necessary to decouple the stream from the framework to simplify maintenance of the software. The live extraction workflow uses this update stream to extract new knowledge upon relevant changes in Wikipedia articles.

The overall architecture of DBpedia Live is indicated in Figure 8. The major components of the system are as follows:

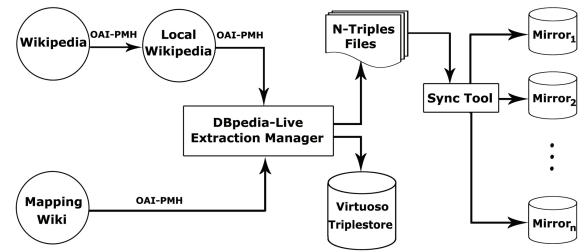


Fig. 8. Overview of DBpedia Live extraction framework.

- **Local Wikipedia Mirror:** A local copy of a Wikipedia language edition is installed which is kept in real-time synchronisation with its live version using the OAI-PMH protocol. Keeping a local Wikipedia mirror allows us to exceed any access limits posed by Wikipedia.
- **Mappings Wiki:** The DBpedia Mappings Wiki, described in Section 2.4, serves as secondary input source. Changes of the mappings wiki are also consumed via an OAI-PMH stream. Note that a single mapping change can affect a high number of DBpedia resources.
- **DBpedia Live Extraction Manager:** This is the core component of the DBpedia Live extraction architecture. The manager takes feeds of pages for re-processing as input and applies all the enabled extractors. After processing a page, the extracted triples are a) inserted into a backend triple store (in our case Virtuoso [10]), updating the old triples and b) saved as changesets into a compressed N-Triples file structure.
- **Synchronisation Tool:** This tool allows third parties to keep DBpedia Live mirrors up-to-date by harvesting the produced changesets.

##### 4.2. Features of DBpedia Live

The core components of the DBpedia Live Extraction framework provide the following features:

- **Mapping-Affected Pages:** The update of all pages that are affected by a mapping change.
- **Unmodified Pages:** The update of unmodified pages at regular intervals.
- **Changesets Publication:** The publication of triple-changesets.
- **Synchronisation Tool:** A synchronisation tool for harvesting updates to DBpedia Live mirrors.
- **Data Isolation:** Separate data from different sources.

<sup>14</sup><http://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryEN.htm>

<sup>15</sup><http://live.dbpedia.org>

<sup>16</sup><http://live.nl.dbpedia.org>



**Mapping-Affected Pages:** Whenever an infobox mapping change occurs, all the Wikipedia pages that use that infobox are reprocessed. Taking Figure 2 as an example, if a new property mapping is introduced (i.e. *dbo:translator*) or an existing (i.e. *dbo:illustrator*) is updated or deleted, then all entities belonging to the class *dbo:Book* are reprocessed. Thus, upon a mapping change, we identify all the affected Wikipedia pages and feed them for reprocessing.

**Unmodified Pages:** Extraction framework improvements or activation / deactivation of DBpedia extractors might never be applied to rarely modified pages. To overcome this problem, we obtain a list of the pages which have not been processed over a period of time (30 days in our case) and feed that list to the DBpedia Live extraction framework for reprocessing. This feed has a lower priority than the update or the mapping affected pages feed and ensures that all articles reflect a recent state of the output of the extraction framework.

**Publication of Changesets:** Whenever a Wikipedia article is processed, we get two disjoint sets of triples. A set for the added triples, and another set for the deleted triples. We write those two sets into N-Triples files, compress them, and publish the compressed files as changesets. If another DBpedia Live mirror wants to synchronise with the DBpedia Live endpoint, it can just download those files, decompress and integrate them.

**Synchronisation Tool:** The synchronisation tool enables a DBpedia Live mirror to stay in synchronisation with our live endpoint. It downloads the changeset files sequentially, decompresses them and updates the target SPARQL endpoint via insert and delete operations.

**Data Isolation:** In order to keep the data isolated, DBpedia Live keeps different sources of data in different SPARQL graphs. Data from the article update feeds are contained in the graph with the URI <http://live.dbpedia.org>, static data (i.e. links to the LOD cloud) are kept in <http://static.dbpedia.org> and the DBpedia ontology is stored in <http://dbpedia.org/ontology>. All data is also accessible under the <http://dbpedia.org> graph for combined queries. Next versions of DBpedia Live will also separate data from the raw infobox extraction and mapping-based infobox extraction.

## 5. Interlinking

DBpedia is interlinked with numerous external data sets following the Linked Data principles. In this sec-

tion, we give an overview of the number and types of outgoing links that point from DBpedia into other data sets, as well as the external data sets that set links pointing to DBpedia resources.

### 5.1. Outgoing Links

Similar to the DBpedia ontology, DBpedia also follows a community approach for adding links to other third party data sets. The DBpedia project maintains a link repository<sup>17</sup> for which conventions for adding linksets and linkset metadata are defined. The adherence to those guidelines is supervised by a linking committee. Linksets which are added to the repository are used for the subsequent official DBpedia release as well as for DBpedia Live. Table 5 lists the linksets created by the DBpedia community as of April 2013. The first column names the data set that is the target of the links. The second and third column contain the predicate that is used for linking as well as the overall number of links that is set between DBpedia and the external data set. The last column names the tool that was used to generate the links. The value S refers to Silk, L to LIMES, C to custom script and a missing entry means that the dataset is copied from the previous releases and not regenerated.

An example for the usage of links is the combination of data about European Union project funding (FTS) [32] and data about countries in DBpedia. The query below compares funding per year (from FTS) and country with the gross domestic product of a country (from DBpedia)<sup>18</sup>.

```

1 SELECT * { {
2   SELECT ?ftsyear ?ftscountry (SUM(?amount) AS
   ?funding) {
3     ?com rdf:type fts-o:Commitment .
4     ?com fts-o:year ?year .
5     ?year rdfs:label ?ftsyear .
6     ?com fts-o:benefit ?benefit .
7     ?benefit fts-o:detailAmount ?amount .
8     ?benefit fts-o:beneficiary ?beneficiary .
9     ?beneficiary fts-o:country ?country .
10    ?country owl:sameAs ?ftscountry .
11  } } {
12   SELECT ?dbpcountry ?gdpyear ?gdpnominal {
13     ?dbpcountry rdf:type dbo:Country .
14     ?dbpcountry dbp:gdpNominal ?gdpnominal .
15     ?dbpcountry dbp:gdpNominalYear ?gdpyear .
16   } }
17 FILTER ((?ftsyear = str(?gdpyear)) &&
18         (?ftscountry = ?dbpcountry)) }
```

<sup>17</sup><https://github.com/dbpedia/dbpedia-links>

<sup>18</sup>Endpoint: <http://fts.publicdata.eu/sparql>  
Results: <http://bit.ly/1c2mIWQ>.



Table 5  
Data sets linked from DBpedia

| <i>Data set</i>         | <i>Predicate</i>        | <i>Count</i> | <i>Tool</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Amsterdam Museum        | owl:sameAs              | 627          | S           |
| BBC Wildlife Finder     | owl:sameAs              | 444          | S           |
| Book Mashup             | rdf:type                | 9 100        |             |
|                         | owl:sameAs              |              |             |
| Bricklink               | dc:publisher            | 10 100       |             |
| CORDIS                  | owl:sameAs              | 314          | S           |
| Dailymed                | owl:sameAs              | 894          | S           |
| DBLP Bibliography       | owl:sameAs              | 196          | S           |
| DBTune                  | owl:sameAs              | 838          | S           |
| Diseasome               | owl:sameAs              | 2 300        | S           |
| Drugbank                | owl:sameAs              | 4 800        | S           |
| EUNIS                   | owl:sameAs              | 3 100        | S           |
| Eurostat (Linked Stats) | owl:sameAs              | 253          | S           |
| Eurostat (WBSG)         | owl:sameAs              | 137          |             |
| CIA World Factbook      | owl:sameAs              | 545          | S           |
| flickr wrappr           | dbp:hasPhoto-Collection | 3 800 000    | C           |
| Freebase                | owl:sameAs              | 3 600 000    | C           |
| GADM                    | owl:sameAs              | 1 900        |             |
| GeoNames                | owl:sameAs              | 86 500       | S           |
| GeoSpecies              | owl:sameAs              | 16 000       | S           |
| GHO                     | owl:sameAs              | 196          | L           |
| Project Gutenberg       | owl:sameAs              | 2 500        | S           |
| Italian Public Schools  | owl:sameAs              | 5 800        | S           |
| LinkedGeoData           | owl:sameAs              | 103 600      | S           |
| LinkedMDB               | owl:sameAs              | 13 800       | S           |
| MusicBrainz             | owl:sameAs              | 23 000       |             |
| New York Times          | owl:sameAs              | 9 700        |             |
| OpenCyc                 | owl:sameAs              | 27 100       | C           |
| OpenEI (Open Energy)    | owl:sameAs              | 678          | S           |
| Revyu                   | owl:sameAs              | 6            |             |
| Sider                   | owl:sameAs              | 2 000        | S           |
| TCMGeneDIT              | owl:sameAs              | 904          |             |
| UMBEL                   | rdf:type                | 896 400      |             |
| US Census               | owl:sameAs              | 12 600       |             |
| WikiCompany             | owl:sameAs              | 8 300        |             |
| WordNet                 | dbp:wordnet_type        | 467 100      |             |
| YAGO2                   | rdf:type                | 18 100 000   |             |
| <b>Sum</b>              |                         | 27 211 732   |             |

In addition to providing outgoing links on an instance-level, DBpedia also sets links on schema-level pointing from the DBpedia ontology to equivalent terms in other schemas. Links to other schemata can be set by the community within the DBpedia Mappings Wiki by using `owl:equivalentClass` in *class templates* and `owl:equivalentProperty` in *datatype or object property templates*, respectively.

In particular, in 2011 Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo! announced their collaboration on Schema.org, a collection of vocabularies for marking up content on web pages. The DBpedia 3.8 ontology contains 45 equivalent class and 31 equivalent property links pointing to <http://schema.org/terms>.

## 5.2. Incoming Links

DBpedia is being linked to from a variety of data sets. The overall number of incoming links, i.e. links pointing to DBpedia from other data sets, is 39,007,478 according to the Data Hub.<sup>19</sup> However, those counts are entered by users and may not always be valid and up-to-date.

In order to identify actually published and online data sets that link to DBpedia, we used Sindice [39]. The Sindice project crawls RDF resources on the web and indexes those resources. In Sindice, a data set is defined by the second-level domain name of the entity's URI, e.g. all resources available at the domain `fu-berlin.de` are considered to belong to the same data set. A triple is considered to be a link if the data set of subject and object are different. Furthermore, the Sindice data we used for analysis only considers *authoritative* entities: The data set of a subject of a triple must match the domain it was retrieved from, otherwise it is not considered. Sindice computes a graph summary [8] over all resources they store. With the help of the Sindice team, we examined this graph summary to obtain all links pointing to DBpedia. As shown in Table 7, Sindice knows about 248 data sets linking to DBpedia. 70 of those data sets link to DBpedia via `owl:sameAs`, but other link predicates are also very common as evident in this table. In total, Sindice has indexed 4 million links pointing to DBpedia. Table 6 lists the 10 data sets which set most links to DBpedia.

It should be noted that the data in Sindice is not complete, for instance it does not contain all data sets that are catalogued by the DataHub<sup>20</sup>. However, it crawls for RDFa snippets, converts microformats etc., which are not captured by the DataHub. Despite the inaccuracy, the relative comparison of different datasets can still give us insights. Therefore, we analysed the link structure of all Sindice datasets using the Sindice cluster. Table 8 shows the datasets with most incoming links. Those are authorities in the network structure of the

<sup>19</sup>See <http://wiki.dbpedia.org/Interlinking> for details.

<sup>20</sup><http://datahub.io/>

Table 6

Top 10 data sets in Sindice ordered by the number of links to DBpedia.

| <i>Data set</i> | <i>Link Predicate Count</i> | <i>Link Count</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| okaboo.com      | 4                           | 2,407,121         |
| tfri.gov.tw     | 57                          | 837,459           |
| naplesplus.us   | 2                           | 212,460           |
| fu-berlin.de    | 7                           | 145,322           |
| freebase.com    | 108                         | 138,619           |
| geonames.org    | 3                           | 125,734           |
| opencyc.org     | 3                           | 19,648            |
| geospecies.org  | 10                          | 16,188            |
| dbrec.net       | 3                           | 12,856            |
| faviki.com      | 5                           | 12,768            |

Table 7

Sindice summary statistics for incoming links to DBpedia.

| <i>Metric</i>              | <i>Value</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Total links:               | 3,960,212    |
| Total distinct data sets:  | 248          |
| Total distinct predicates: | 345          |

Table 8

Top 10 datasets by incoming links in Sindice.

| <i>domain</i>       | <i>datasets</i> | <i>links</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| purl.org            | 498             | 6,717,520    |
| dbpedia.org         | 248             | 3,960,212    |
| creativecommons.org | 2,483           | 3,030,910    |
| identi.ca           | 1,021           | 2,359,276    |
| l3s.de              | 34              | 1,261,487    |
| rkbexplorer.com     | 24              | 1,212,416    |
| nytimes.com         | 27              | 1,174,941    |
| w3.org              | 405             | 658,535      |
| geospecies.org      | 13              | 523,709      |
| livejournal.com     | 14,881          | 366,025      |

web of data and DBpedia is currently ranked second in terms of incoming links.

## 6. DBpedia Usage Statistics

DBpedia is served on the web in three forms: First, it is provided in the form of downloadable data sets where each data set contains the results of one of the extractors listed in Table 1. Second, DBpedia is served via a public SPARQL endpoint and, third, it provides dereferencable URIs according to the Linked Data principles. In this section, we explore some of the statistics gathered during the hosting of DBpedia over the last two of years.

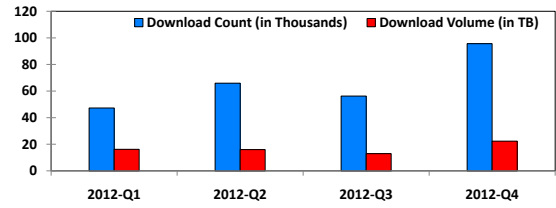


Fig. 9. The download count and download volume of the English language edition of DBpedia.

### 6.1. Download Statistics for the DBpedia Data Sets

DBpedia covers more than 100 languages, but those languages vary with respect to the download popularity as well. The top five languages with respect to the download volume are English, Chinese, German, Catalan, and French respectively. The download count and download volume of the English language is indicated in Figure 9. To host the DBpedia dataset downloads, a bandwidth of approximately 6 TB per month is currently needed.

Furthermore, DBpedia consists of several data sets which vary with respect to their download popularity. The download count and the download volume of each data set during the year 2012 is depicted in Figure 10. In those statistics we filtered out all IP addresses, which requested a file more than 1000 times per month.<sup>21</sup> Pagelinks are the most downloaded dataset, although they are not semantically rich as they do not reveal which type of links exists between two resources. Supposedly, they are used for network analysis or providing relevant links in user interfaces and downloaded more often as they are not provided via the official SPARQL endpoint.

### 6.2. Public Static DBpedia SPARQL Endpoint

The main public DBpedia SPARQL endpoint<sup>22</sup> is hosted using the Virtuoso Universal Server (Enterprise Edition) version 6.4 software in a 4-nodes cluster configuration. This cluster setup provides parallelization of query execution, even when the cluster nodes are on the same machine, as splitting a query over several nodes allows better use of parallel threads on modern multi-core CPUs on standard commodity hardware.

Virtuoso supports horizontal scale-out, either by re-distributing the existing cluster nodes onto multiple ma-

<sup>21</sup>The IP address was only filtered for that specific file and month in those cases.

<sup>22</sup><http://dbpedia.org/sparql>

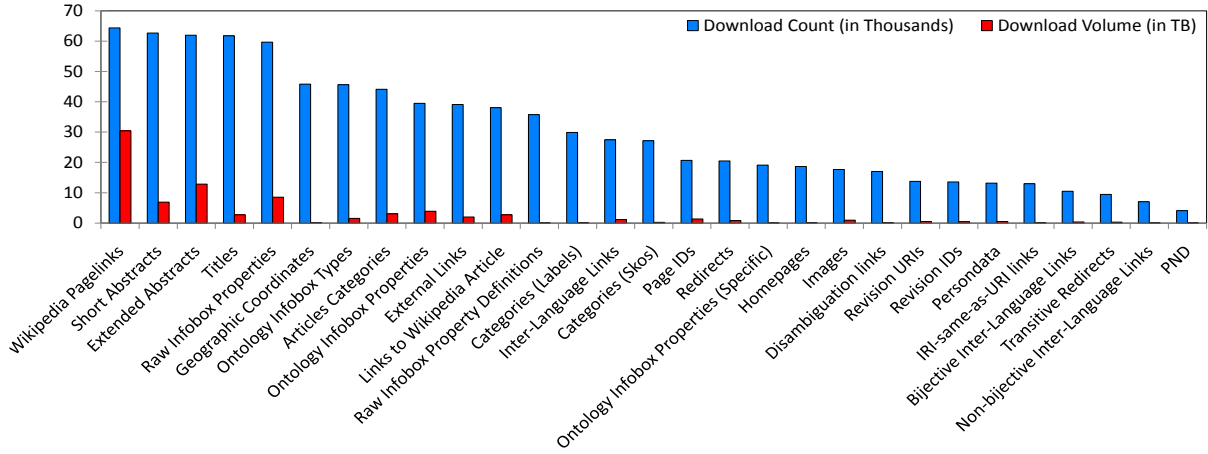


Fig. 10. The download count and download volume (in GB) of the DBpedia data sets.

Table 9

Hardware of the machines serving the public SPARQL endpoint.

| DBpedia   | Configuration                             |
|-----------|---|
| 3.3 - 3.4 | AMD Opteron 8220 2.80Ghz, 4 Cores, 32GB   |
| 3.5 - 3.7 | Intel Xeon E5520 2.27Ghz, 8 Cores, 48GB   |
| 3.8       | Intel Xeon E5-2630 2.30GHz, 8 Cores, 64GB |

chines, or by adding several separate clusters with a round robin HTTP front-end. This allows the cluster setup to grow in line with desired response times for an RDF data set collection. As the size of the DBpedia data set increased and its use by the Linked Data community grew, the project migrated to increasingly powerful, but still moderately priced, hardware as shown in Table 9. The Virtuoso instance is configured to process queries within a 1,200 second timeout window and a maximum result set size of 50,000 rows. It provides OFFSET and LIMIT support for paging alongside the ability to produce partial results.

The log files used in the following analysis excluded traffic generated by:

1. clients that have been temporarily rate limited after a burst period,
2. clients that have been banned after misuse,
3. applications, spiders and other crawlers that are blocked after frequently hitting the rate limit or generally use too many resources.

Virtuoso supports HTTP Access Control Lists (ACLs) which allow the administrator to rate limit certain IP addresses or whole IP ranges. A maximum number of requests per second (currently 15) as well as a bandwidth limit per request (currently 10MB) are enforced. If the client software can handle compres-

Table 11

Number of unique sites accessing DBpedia endpoints.

| DBpedia | Avg/Day | Median | Stdev | Maximum |
|---------|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| 3.3     | 5,824   | 5,977  | 1,046 | 7,865   |
| 3.4     | 6,656   | 6,704  | 947   | 8,312   |
| 3.5     | 9,392   | 9,432  | 1,643 | 12,584  |
| 3.6     | 10,810  | 10,810 | 1,612 | 14,798  |
| 3.7     | 17,077  | 17,091 | 6,782 | 33,288  |
| 3.8     | 14,513  | 14,493 | 2,783 | 20,510  |

sion, replies are compressed to further save bandwidth. Exception rules can be configured for multiple clients hidden behind a NAT firewall (appearing as a single IP address) or for temporary requests for higher rate limits. When a client hits an ACL limit, the system reports an appropriate HTTP status code<sup>23</sup> like 509 ("Bandwidth Limit Exceeded") and quickly drops the connection. The system further uses an iptables based firewall for permanent blocking of clients identified by their IP addresses.

### 6.3. Public Static Endpoint Statistics

The statistics presented in this section were extracted from reports generated by Webalizer v2.21<sup>24</sup>. Table 10 and Table 11 show various DBpedia SPARQL endpoint usage statistics for the DBpedia 3.3 to 3.8 releases. Note that the usage of all endpoints mentioned in Table 12 is counted. The Avg/Day column represents the average number of hits (resp. visits/sites) per day, followed by

<sup>23</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_HTTP\\_status\\_codes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_HTTP_status_codes)

<sup>24</sup><http://www.webalizer.org>

Table 10  
Number of endpoint hits (left) and visits (right).

| DBpedia | Avg/Day   | Median    | Stdev     | Maximum   | DBpedia | Avg/Day | Median | Stdev  | Maximum |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 3.3     | 733,811   | 711,306   | 188,991   | 1,319,539 | 3.3     | 9,750   | 9,775  | 2,036  | 13,126  |
| 3.4     | 1,212,549 | 1,165,893 | 351,226   | 2,371,657 | 3.4     | 11,329  | 11,473 | 1,546  | 14,198  |
| 3.5     | 1,122,612 | 1,035,444 | 386,454   | 2,908,720 | 3.5     | 16,592  | 16,902 | 2,969  | 23,129  |
| 3.6     | 1,328,355 | 1,286,750 | 256,945   | 2,495,031 | 3.6     | 19,471  | 17,664 | 5,691  | 56,064  |
| 3.7     | 2,085,399 | 1,930,728 | 1,057,398 | 8,873,473 | 3.7     | 23,972  | 22,262 | 10,741 | 127,869 |
| 3.8     | 2,910,410 | 2,717,775 | 1,085,640 | 7,678,490 | 3.8     | 16,851  | 16,711 | 2,960  | 27,416  |

the *Median* and *Standard Deviation*. The last column shows the *maximum* number of hits (resp. visits/sites) that was recorded on a single day for each data set version. Visits (i.e. sessions of subsequent queries from the same client) are determined by a floating 30 minute time window. All requests from behind a NAT firewall are logged under the same external IP address and are therefore counted towards the same visit if they occur within the 30 minute interval.

Table 10 shows the increasing popularity of DBpedia. There is a distinct dip in hits to the SPARQL endpoint in DBpedia 3.5, which is partially due to more strict initial limits for bot-related traffic which were later relaxed. The sudden drop of visits between the 3.7 and the 3.8 data sets can be attributed to:

1. applications starting to use their own private DBpedia endpoint
2. blocking of apps that were abusing the DBpedia endpoint
3. uptake of the language specific DBpedia endpoints and DBpedia Live

#### 6.4. Query Types and Trends

The DBpedia server is not only a SPARQL endpoint, but also serves as a Linked Data Hub returning resources in a number of different formats. For each data set we randomly selected 14 days worth of log files and processed those in order to show the various services called. Table 12 shows the number of hits to the various endpoints.

The */resource* endpoint uses the *Accept*: line in the HTTP header sent by the client to return a HTTP status code 30x to redirect the client to either the */page* (HTML based) or */data* (formats like RDF/XML or Turtle) equivalent of the article. Clients also frequently mint their own URLs to either */page* or */data* version of an articles directly, or download the raw data directly. This explains why the count of */page* and */data* hits in the table is larger than the number of hits on the

Table 12  
Hits per service to <http://dbpedia.org> in thousands.

| Endpoint  | 3.3   | 3.4    | 3.5   | 3.6    | 3.7    | 3.8    |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| /data     | 1,355 | 2,681  | 2,230 | 2,547  | 3,714  | 4,246  |
| /ontology | 80    | 168    | 142   | 178    | 116    | 97     |
| /page     | 2,634 | 4,703  | 1,810 | 1,687  | 3,787  | 7,377  |
| /property | 231   | 311    | 137   | 176    | 176    | 128    |
| /resource | 2,976 | 4,080  | 2,554 | 2,309  | 4,436  | 7,143  |
| /sparql   | 2,090 | 4,177  | 2,266 | 9,112  | 15,902 | 15,475 |
| other     | 252   | 420    | 342   | 277    | 579    | 695    |
| total     | 9,619 | 16,541 | 9,434 | 16,286 | 28,710 | 35,142 |

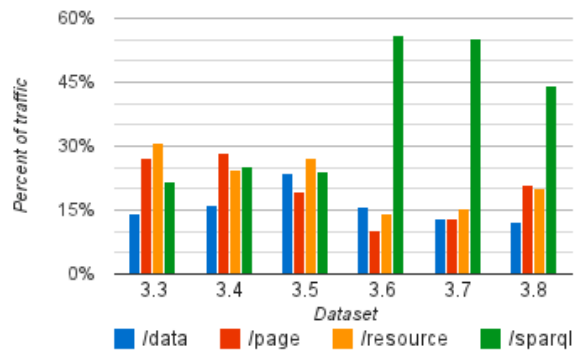


Fig. 11. Traffic Linked Data versus SPARQL endpoint

*/resource* endpoint. The */ontology* and */property* endpoints return meta information about the DBpedia ontology. While all of these endpoints themselves may use SPARQL queries to generate various page content, these requests are handled by the internal Virtuoso engine directly and do not show up as extra calls to the */sparql* endpoint in our analysis.

Figure 11 shows the percentages of traffic hits that were generated by the main endpoints. As we can see, the usage of the SPARQL endpoint has doubled from about 22 percent in 2009 to about 44 percent in 2013. However, this still means that 56 percent of traffic hits are directed to the Linked Data service.

In Table 13, we focussed on the calls to the */sparql* endpoint and counted the number of statements per type.

Table 13  
Hits per statement type in thousands.

| Statement | 3.3  | 3.4  | 3.5  | 3.6  | 3.7   | 3.8   |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| ask       | 56   | 269  | 360  | 326  | 159   | 677   |
| construct | 55   | 31   | 14   | 11   | 22    | 38    |
| describe  | 11   | 8    | 4    | 7    | 62    | 111   |
| select    | 1891 | 3663 | 1658 | 8030 | 11204 | 13516 |
| unknown   | 78   | 206  | 229  | 738  | 4455  | 1134  |
| total     | 2090 | 4177 | 2266 | 9112 | 15902 | 15475 |

Table 14  
Trends in SPARQL select (rounded values in %).

| Statement | 3.3  | 3.4  | 3.5  | 3.6  | 3.7  | 3.8  |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| distinct  | 19.5 | 11.4 | 17.3 | 19.4 | 13.3 | 25.4 |
| filter    | 45.7 | 13.7 | 31.8 | 25.3 | 29.2 | 36.1 |
| functions | 8.8  | 6.9  | 23.5 | 21.3 | 25.5 | 25.9 |
| geo       | 27.7 | 7.0  | 39.6 | 6.7  | 9.3  | 9.2  |
| group     | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.2  |
| limit     | 4.6  | 6.5  | 11.6 | 10.5 | 7.7  | 7.8  |
| optional  | 30.6 | 23.8 | 47.3 | 26.3 | 16.7 | 17.2 |
| order     | 2.3  | 1.3  | 1.9  | 3.2  | 1.2  | 1.6  |
| union     | 3.3  | 3.2  | 26.4 | 11.3 | 12.1 | 20.6 |

As the log files only record the full SPARQL query on a GET request, all the POST requests are counted as unknown.

Finally, we analyzed each SPARQL query and counted the use of keywords and constructs like:

- DISTINCT
- FILTER
- FUNCTIONS like CONCAT, CONTAINS, ISIRI
- Use of GEO objects
- GROUP BY
- LIMIT / OFFSET
- OPTIONAL
- ORDER BY
- UNION

For the *GEO* objects we counted the use of SPARQL PREFIX *geo:* and *wgs84\**: declarations and usage in property tags. Table 14 shows the use of various keywords as a percentage of the total *select* queries made to the */sparql* endpoint for the sample sets. In general, we observed that queries became more complex over time indicating an increasing maturity and higher expectations of the user base.

### 6.5. Statistics for DBpedia Live

Since its official release at the end of June 2011, DBpedia Live attracted a steadily increasing number

of users. Furthermore, more users tend to use the synchronisation tool to synchronise their own DBpedia Live mirrors. This leads to an increasing number of live update requests, i.e. changeset downloads. Figure 12 indicates the number of daily SPARQL and synchronisation requests sent to DBpedia Live endpoint in the period between August 2012 and January 2013.

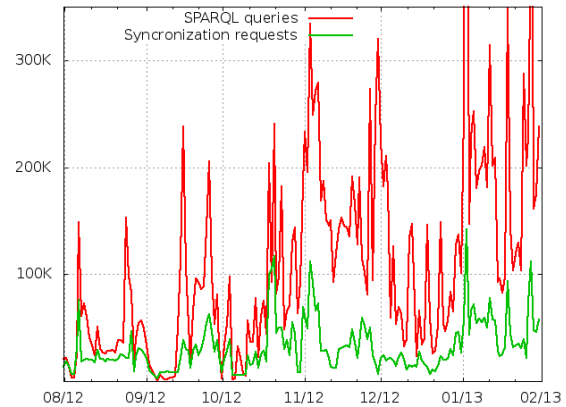


Fig. 12. Number of daily requests sent to the DBpedia Live for a) SPARQL queries and b) synchronisation requests from August 2012 until January 2013

## 7. Use Cases and Applications

Due to DBpedia's coverage of various domains as well as its steady growth as a hub on the Web of Data, the data sets provided by DBpedia can serve many purposes. Such applications include improving search and exploration of Wikipedia, data proliferation for applications, mashups as well as text analysis and annotation tools.

### 7.1. Natural Language Processing

DBpedia can support many tasks in Natural Language Processing (NLP) [33]. For that purpose, DBpedia includes a number of specialized data sets<sup>25</sup>. For instance, the lexicalizations data set can be used to estimate the ambiguity of phrases, to help select unambiguous identifiers for ambiguous phrases, or to provide alternative names for entities, just to mention a few examples. Topic signatures can be useful in tasks such as query expansion or document summarization, and has

<sup>25</sup><http://wiki.dbpedia.org/Datasets/NLP>

been successfully employed to classify ambiguously described images as good depictions of DBpedia entities [13]. The thematic concepts data set of resources can be used for creating a corpus from Wikipedia to be used as training data for topic classifiers, among other things (see below). The grammatical gender data set can, for example, be used to add a gender feature in co-reference resolution.

### 7.1.1. Annotation: Entity Disambiguation

An important use case for NLP is annotating texts or other content with semantic information. Named entity recognition and disambiguation – also known as key phrase extraction and entity linking tasks – refers to the task of finding real world entities in text and linking them to unique identifiers. One of the main challenges in this regard is ambiguity: an entity name, or surface form, may be used in different contexts to refer to different concepts. Many different methods have been developed to resolve this ambiguity with fairly high accuracy [22].

As DBpedia reflects a vast amount of structured real world knowledge obtained from Wikipedia, DBpedia URIs can be used as identifiers for the majority of domains in text annotation. Consequently, interlinking text documents with Linked Data enables the Web of Data to be used as background knowledge within document-oriented applications such as semantic search or faceted browsing (cf. Section 7.3).

Many applications performing this task of annotating text with entities in fact use DBpedia entities as targets. For example, DBpedia Spotlight [34] is an open source tool<sup>26</sup> including a free web service that detects mentions of DBpedia resources in text. It uses the lexicalizations in conjunction with the topic signatures data set as context model in order to be able to disambiguate found mentions. The main advantage of this system is its comprehensiveness and flexibility, allowing one to configure it based on quality measures such as prominence, contextual ambiguity, topical pertinence and disambiguation confidence, as well as the DBpedia ontology. The resources that should be annotated can be specified by a list of resource types or by more complex relationships within the knowledge base described as SPARQL queries.

There are numerous other NLP APIs that link entities in text to DBpedia: *AlchemyAPI*<sup>27</sup>, *Semantic API*

from Ontos<sup>28</sup>, *Open Calais*<sup>29</sup> and *Zemanta*<sup>30</sup> among others. Furthermore, the DBpedia ontology has been used for training named entity recognition systems (without disambiguation) in the context of the *Apache Stanbol* project<sup>31</sup>.

A related project is ImageSnippets<sup>32</sup>, which is a system for annotating images. It uses DBpedia as one of its main datasets for unambiguously identifying entities depicted within an image.

*Tag disambiguation* Similar to linking entities in text to DBpedia, user-generated tags attached to multimedia content such as music, photos or videos can also be connected to the Linked Data hub. This has previously been implemented by letting the user resolve ambiguities. For example, *Faviki*<sup>33</sup> suggests a set of DBpedia entities coming from Zemanta's API and lets the user choose the desired one. Alternatively, similar disambiguation techniques as mentioned above can be utilized to choose entities from tags automatically [14]. The BBC<sup>34</sup> [23] employs DBpedia URIs for tagging their programmes. Short clips and full episodes are tagged using two different tools while utilizing DBpedia to benefit from global identifiers that can be easily integrated with other knowledge bases.

### 7.1.2. Question Answering

DBpedia provides a wealth of human knowledge across different domains and languages, which makes it an excellent target for question answering and keyword search approaches. One of the most prominent efforts in this area is the *DeepQA* project, which resulted in the *IBM Watson* system [12]. The Watson system won a \$1 million prize in Jeopardy and relies on several data sets including DBpedia<sup>35</sup>. DBpedia is also the primary target for several QA systems in the Question Answering over Linked Data (QALD) workshop series<sup>36</sup>. Several QA systems, such as *TBSL* [44], *PowerAqua* [31], *FREyA* [9] and *QAKiS* [6] have been applied to DBpedia using the QALD benchmark questions. DBpedia is interesting as a test case for such

<sup>28</sup><http://www.ontos.com/>

<sup>29</sup><http://www.opencalais.com/>

<sup>30</sup><http://www.zemanta.com/>

<sup>31</sup><http://stanbol.apache.org/>

<sup>32</sup><http://www.imagesnippets.com>

<sup>33</sup><http://www.faviki.com/>

<sup>34</sup><http://bbc.co.uk>

<sup>35</sup><http://www.aaai.org/Magazine/Watson/watson.php>

<sup>36</sup><http://greententacle.techfak.uni-bielefeld.de/~cunger/qald/>

<sup>26</sup><http://spotlight.dbpedia.org/>

<sup>27</sup><http://www.alchemyapi.com/>

systems. Due to its large schema and data size as well as its topic diversity, it provides significant scientific challenges. In particular, it would be difficult to provide capable QA systems for DBpedia based only on simple patterns or via domain specific dictionaries, because of its size and broad coverage. Therefore, a question answering system, which is able to reliably answer questions over DBpedia correctly, could be seen as a truly intelligent system. In the latest QALD series, question answering benchmarks also exploit national DBpedia chapters for multilingual question answering.

Similarly, the *slot filling* task in natural language processing poses the challenge of finding values for a given entity and property from mining text. This can be viewed as question answering with static questions but changing targets. DBpedia can be exploited for fact validation or training data in this task, as was done by the Watson team [4] and others [28].

## 7.2. Digital Libraries and Archives

In the case of libraries and archives, DBpedia could offer a broad range of information on a broad range of domains. In particular, DBpedia could provide:

- Context information for bibliographic and archive records: Background information such as an author's demographics, a film's homepage or an image could be used to enhance user interaction.
- Stable and curated identifiers for linking: DBpedia is a hub of Linked Open Data. Thus, (re-)using commonly used identifiers could ease integration with other libraries or knowledge bases.
- A basis for a thesaurus for subject indexing: The broad range of Wikipedia topics in addition to the stable URIs could form the basis for a global classification system.

Libraries have already invested both in Linked Data and Wikipedia (and transitively to DBpedia) though the realization of the *Virtual International Authority Files* (VIAF) project.<sup>37</sup> Recently, it was announced that VIAF added a total of 250,000 reciprocal authority links to Wikipedia.<sup>38</sup> These links are already harvested by DBpedia Live and will also be included in the next static DBpedia release. This creates a huge opportunity for libraries that use VIAF to get connected to DBpedia and the LOD cloud in general.

<sup>37</sup><http://viaf.org>

<sup>38</sup>Accessed on 12/02/2013: <http://www.oclc.org/research/news/2012/12-07a.html>

## 7.3. Knowledge Exploration

Since DBpedia spans many domains and has a diverse schema, many knowledge exploration tools either used DBpedia as a testbed or were specifically built for DBpedia. We give a brief overview of tools and structure them in categories:

**Facet Based Browsers** An award-winning<sup>39</sup> facet-based browser used the Neofonie search engine to combine facts in DBpedia with full-text from Wikipedia in order to compute hierarchical facets [15]. Another facet based browser, which allows to create complex graph structures of facets in a visually appealing interface and filter them is gFacet [16]. A generic SPARQL based facet explorer, which also uses a graph based visualisation of facets, is LODLive [7]. The OpenLink built-in facet based browser<sup>40</sup> is an interface, which enables developers to explore DBpedia, compute aggregations over facets and view the underlying SPARQL queries.

**Search and Querying** The DBpedia Query Builder<sup>41</sup> allows developers to easily create simple SPARQL queries, more specifically sets of triple patterns via intelligent autocompletion. The autocompletion functionality ensures that only URIs, which lead to solutions are suggested to the user. The *RelFinder* [17] tool provides an intuitive interface, which allows to explore the neighborhood and connections between resources specified by the user. For instance, the user can view the shortest paths connecting certain persons in DBpedia. *Sem-Lens* [18] allows to create statistical analysis queries and correlations in RDF data and DBpedia in particular.

**Spatial Applications** *DBpedia Mobile* [3] is a location aware client, which renders a map of nearby locations from DBpedia, provides icons for schema classes and supports more than 30 languages from various DBpedia language editions. It can follow RDF links to other data sets linked from DBpedia and supports powerful SPARQL filters to restrict the viewed data.

## 7.4. Applications of the Extraction Framework: Wiktionary Extraction

Wiktionary is one of the biggest collaboratively created lexical-semantic and linguistic resources, avail-

<sup>39</sup><http://blog.dbpedia.org/2009/11/20/german-government-proclaims-faceted-wikipedia-search-one-of-the-365-best-ideas-in-germany/>

<sup>40</sup><http://dbpedia.org/fct/>

<sup>41</sup><http://querybuilder.dbpedia.org/>

able in 171 languages (of which approximately 147 can be considered active<sup>42</sup>). It contains information about hundreds of spoken and even ancient languages. In the case of the English Wiktionary there are nearly 3 million detailed descriptions of words covering several domains<sup>43</sup>. Such descriptions provide, for a lexical word, a hierarchical disambiguation to its language, part of speech, sometimes etymologies, synonyms, hyponyms, hyperonyms, example sentences, and most prominently senses.

Due to its fast changing nature, together with the fragmentation of the project into Wiktionary language editions (WLE) with independent layout rules a, configurable mediator/wrapper approach is taken for its automated transformation into a structured knowledge base. The workflow of this dedicated Wiktionary extractor being part of the Wiktionary2RDF [19] project is as follows: For every WLE to be transformed an XML configuration file is provided as input. This configuration is used by the Wiktionary extractor, invoked by the DBpedia extraction framework, to first generate a schema reflecting the configured page structure (wrapper part). After this, these language specific schemas are converted to a global schema (mediator part) and later serialized to RDF.

To enable non-programmers (the community of adopters and domain experts) to tailor and maintain the WLE wrappers themselves, a simple XML dialect was created to encode the page structure to be parsed and declare triple patterns, that define how the resulting RDF should be built. The described setup is run against Wiktionary dumps. The resulting data set is open in every aspect and hosted as Linked Data.<sup>44</sup> Statistics are shown in Table 15.

## 8. Related Work

### 8.1. Cross Domain Community Knowledge Bases

#### 8.1.1. Wikidata

In March 2012, the Wikimedia Germany e.V. started the development of Wikidata<sup>45</sup>. Wikidata is a free knowledge base about the world that can be read and

edited by humans and machines alike. It provides data in all languages of the Wikimedia projects, and allows for central access to the data in a similar vein as Wikimedia Commons does for multimedia files. Things described in the Wikidata knowledge base are called items and can have labels, descriptions and aliases in all languages. Wikidata does not aim at offering a single truth about things, but providing statements given in a particular context. Rather than stating that Berlin has a population of 3.5 million, Wikidata contains the statement about Berlin's population being 3.5 million as of 2011 according to the German statistical office. Thus, Wikidata can offer a variety of statements from different sources and dates. As there are potentially many different statements for a given item and property, ranks can be added to statements to define their status (preferred, normal or deprecated). The initial development was divided in three phases:

- The first phase (interwiki links) created an entity base for the Wikimedia projects. This provides a better alternative to the previous interlanguage link system.
- The second phase (infoboxes) gathered infobox-related data for a subset of the entities, with the explicit goal of augmenting the infoboxes that are currently widely used with data from Wikidata.
- The third phase (lists) will expand the set of properties beyond those related to infoboxes, and will provide ways of exploiting this data within and outside the Wikimedia projects.

At the time of writing of this article, the development of the third phase is ongoing.

Wikidata already contains 11.95 million items and 348 properties that can be used to describe them. Since March 2013 the Wikidata extension is live on all Wikipedia language editions and thus their pages can be linked to items in Wikidata and include data from Wikidata.

Wikidata also offers a Linked Data interface<sup>46</sup> as well as regular RDF dumps of all its data. The planned collaboration with Wikidata is outlined in Section 9.

#### 8.1.2. Freebase

Freebase<sup>47</sup> is a graph database, which also extracts structured data from Wikipedia and makes it available in RDF. Both DBpedia and Freebase link to each other

<sup>42</sup>[http://s23.org/wikistats/wiktionaries\\_html.php](http://s23.org/wikistats/wiktionaries_html.php)

<sup>43</sup>See <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/semantic> for a simple example page

<sup>44</sup><http://wiktionary.dbpedia.org/>

<sup>45</sup><http://wikidata.org/>

<sup>46</sup><http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikidata/Development/LinkedDataInterface>

<sup>47</sup><http://www.freebase.com/>



Table 15  
Statistical comparison of extractions for different languages.

| <i>language</i> | <i>#words</i> | <i>#triples</i> | <i>#resources</i> | <i>#predicates</i> | <i>#senses</i> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| en              | 2,142,237     | 28,593,364      | 11,804,039        | 28                 | 424,386        |
| fr              | 4,657,817     | 35,032,121      | 20,462,349        | 22                 | 592,351        |
| ru              | 1,080,156     | 12,813,437      | 5,994,560         | 17                 | 149,859        |
| de              | 701,739       | 5,618,508       | 2,966,867         | 16                 | 122,362        |

and provide identifiers based on those for Wikipedia articles. They both provide dumps of the extracted data, as well as APIs or endpoints to access the data and allow their communities to influence the schema of the data. There are, however, also major differences between both projects. DBpedia focuses on being an RDF representation of Wikipedia and serving as a hub on the Web of Data, whereas Freebase uses several sources to provide broad coverage. The store behind Freebase is the GraphD [35] graph database, which allows to efficiently store metadata for each fact. This graph store is append-only. Deleted triples are marked and the system can easily revert to a previous version. This is necessary, since Freebase data can be directly edited by users, whereas information in DBpedia can only indirectly be edited by modifying the content of Wikipedia or the Mappings Wiki. From an organisational point of view, Freebase is mainly run by Google, whereas DBpedia is an open community project. In particular in focus areas of Google and areas in which Freebase includes other data sources, the Freebase database provides a higher coverage than DBpedia.

### 8.1.3. YAGO

One of the projects that pursues similar goals to DBpedia is YAGO<sup>48</sup> [42]. YAGO is identical to DBpedia in that each article in Wikipedia becomes an entity in YAGO. Based on this, it uses the leaf categories in the Wikipedia category graph to infer type information about an entity. One of its key features is to link this type information to WordNet. WordNet synsets are represented as classes and the extracted types of entities may become subclasses of such a synset. In the YAGO2 system [21], declarative extraction rules were introduced, which can extract facts from different parts of Wikipedia articles, e.g. infoboxes and categories, as well as other sources. YAGO2 also supports spatial and temporal dimensions for facts at the core of its system.

One of the main differences between DBpedia and YAGO in general is that DBpedia tries to stay very close to Wikipedia and provide an RDF version of its

content. YAGO focuses on extracting a smaller number of relations compared to DBpedia to achieve very high precision and consistent knowledge. The two knowledge bases offer different type systems: whereas the DBpedia ontology is manually maintained, YAGO is backed by WordNet and Wikipedia leaf categories. Due to this, YAGO contains many more classes than DBpedia. Another difference is that the integration of attributes and objects in infoboxes is done via mappings in DBpedia and, therefore, by the DBpedia community itself, whereas this task is facilitated by expert-designed declarative rules in YAGO2.

The two knowledge bases are connected, e.g. DBpedia offers the YAGO type hierarchy as an alternative to the DBpedia ontology and `sameAs` links are provided in both directions. While the underlying systems are very different, both projects share similar aims and positively complement and influence each other.

## 8.2. Knowledge Extraction from Wikipedia

Since its official start in 2001, Wikipedia has always been the target of automatic extraction of information due to its easy availability, open license and encyclopedic knowledge. A large number of parsers, scraper projects and publications exist. In this section, we restrict ourselves to approaches that are either notable, recent or pertinent to DBpedia. MediaWiki.org maintains an up-to-date list of software projects<sup>49</sup>, who are able to process wiki syntax, as well as a list of data extraction extensions<sup>50</sup> for MediaWiki.

JWPL (Java Wikipedia Library, [49]) is an open-source, Java-based API that allows to access information provided by the Wikipedia API (redirects, categories, articles and link structure). JWPL contains a MediaWiki Markup parser that can be used to further analyze the contents of a Wikipedia page. Data is also

<sup>48</sup><http://www.mpi-inf.mpg.de/yago-naga/yago/>

<sup>49</sup>[http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Alternative\\_parsers](http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Alternative_parsers)

<sup>50</sup>[http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension\\_Matrix/data\\_extraction](http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension_Matrix/data_extraction)

provided as XML dump and is incorporated in the lexical resource UBY<sup>51</sup> for language tools.

Several different approaches to extract knowledge from Wikipedia are presented in [37]. Given features like anchor texts, interlanguage links, category links and redirect pages are utilized e.g. for word-sense disambiguations or synonyms, translations, taxonomic relations and abbreviation or hypernym resolution, respectively. Apart from this, link structures are used to build the *Wikipedia Thesaurus* Web service<sup>52</sup>. Additional projects that exploit the mentioned features are listed on the *Special Interest Group on Wikipedia Mining (SIGWP)* Web site<sup>53</sup>.

An earlier approach to improve the quality of the infobox schemata and contents is described in [47]. The presented methodology encompasses a three step process of *preprocessing*, *classification* and *extraction*. During preprocessing refined target infobox schemata are created applying statistical methods and training sets are extracted based on real Wikipedia data. After assigning a class and the corresponding target schema (classification) the training sets are used to extract target infobox values from the document's text applying machine learning algorithms.

The idea of using structured data from certain markup structures was also applied to other user-driven Web encyclopedias. In [38] the authors describe their effort building an integrated *Chinese Linking Open Data (CLOD)* source based on the Chinese Wikipedia and the two widely used and large encyclopedias *Baidu Baike*<sup>54</sup> and *Hudong Baike*<sup>55</sup>. Apart from utilizing MediaWiki and HTML Markup for the actual extraction, the Wikipedia interlanguage links were used to link the CLOD source to the English DBpedia.

A more generic approach to achieve a better cross-lingual knowledge-linkage beyond the use of Wikipedia interlanguage links is presented in [45]. Focusing on wiki knowledge bases the authors introduce their solution based on structural properties like similar linkage structures, the assignment to similar categories and similar interests of the authors of wiki documents in the considered languages. Since this approach is language-feature-agnostic it is not restricted to certain languages.

KnowItAll<sup>56</sup> is a web scale knowledge extraction effort, which is domain-independent, and uses generic extraction rules, co-occurrence statistics and Naive Bayes classification [11]. Cyc [29] is a large common sense knowledge base, which is now partially released as OpenCyc and also available as an OWL ontology. OpenCyc is linked to DBpedia, which provides an ontological embedding in its comprehensive structures. WikiTaxonomy [40] is a large taxonomy derived from categories in Wikipedia by classifying categories as instances or classes and deriving a subsumption hierarchy. The KOG system [46] refines existing Wikipedia infoboxes based on machine learning techniques using both SVMs and a more powerful joint-inference approach expressed in Markov Logic Networks. KYLIN [47] is a system which autonomously extracts structured data from Wikipedia and uses self-supervised linking.

## 9. Conclusions and Future Work

In this system report, we presented an overview on recent advances of the DBpedia community project. The technical innovations described in this article included in particular: (1) the extraction based on the community-curated DBpedia ontology, (2) the live synchronisation of DBpedia with Wikipedia and DBpedia mirrors through update propagation, and (3) the facilitation of the internationalisation of DBpedia. As a result, we demonstrated that in the past four years DBpedia matured and improved significantly in terms of coverage, usability, and data quality.

With DBpedia, we also aim to provide a proof-of-concept and blueprint for the feasibility of large-scale knowledge extraction from crowd-sourced content repositories. There are a large number of further crowd-sourced content repositories and DBpedia already had an impact on their structured data publishing and interlinking. Two examples are Wiktionary with the Wiktionary extraction [19] meanwhile becoming part of DBpedia and *LinkedGeoData* [41], which aims to implement similar data extraction, publishing and linking strategies for *OpenStreetMaps*.

In the future, we see in particular the following directions for advancing the DBpedia project:

*Multilingual data integration and fusion.* An area, which is still largely unexplored is the integration and

<sup>51</sup><http://www.ukp.tu-darmstadt.de/data/lexical-resources/uby/>

<sup>52</sup>[http://sigwp.org/en/index.php/Wikipedia\\_Thesaurus](http://sigwp.org/en/index.php/Wikipedia_Thesaurus)

<sup>53</sup><http://sigwp.org/en/>

<sup>54</sup><http://baike.baidu.com/>

<sup>55</sup><http://www.hudong.com/>

<sup>56</sup><http://www.cs.washington.edu/research/knowitall/>

fusion between different DBpedia language editions. Non-English DBpedia editions comprise a better and different coverage of local culture. When we are able to precisely identify equivalent, overlapping and complementary parts in different DBpedia language editions, we can reach significantly increased coverage. On the other hand, comparing the values of a specific property between different language editions will help us to spot extraction errors as well as wrong or outdated information in Wikipedia.

*Community-driven data quality improvement.* In the future, we also aim to engage a larger community of DBpedia users in feedback loops, which help us to identify data quality problems and corresponding deficiencies of the DBpedia extraction framework. By constantly monitoring the data quality and integrating improvements into the mappings to the DBpedia ontology as well as fixes into the extraction framework, we aim to demonstrate that the Wikipedia community is not only capable of creating the largest encyclopedia, but also the most comprehensive and structured knowledge base. With the *DBpedia quality evaluation campaign* [48] we were making a first step in this direction.

*Inline extraction.* Currently DBpedia extracts information primarily from templates. In the future, we envision to also extract semantic information from typed links. Typed links is a feature of Semantic MediaWiki, which was backported and implemented as a very lightweight extension for MediaWiki<sup>57</sup>. If this extension is deployed at Wikipedia installations, this opens up completely new possibilities for more fine-grained and non-invasive knowledge representations and extraction from Wikipedia.

*Collaboration between Wikidata and DBpedia.* While DBpedia provides a comprehensive and current view on entity descriptions extracted from Wikipedia, Wikidata offers a variety of factual statements from different sources and dates. One of the richest sources of DBpedia are Wikipedia infoboxes, which are structured but at the same time heterogeneous and non-standardized (thus making the extraction error prone in certain cases). The aim of Wikidata is to populate infoboxes automatically from a centrally managed, high-quality fact database. In this regard, both projects complement each other and there are several ongoing collaboration activities. In future versions, DBpedia will include more raw data provided by Wikidata and add

services such as Linked Data/SPARQL endpoints, RDF dumps, linking and ontology mapping for Wikidata.

*Feedback for Wikipedia.* A promising prospect is that DBpedia can help to identify misrepresentations, errors and inconsistencies in Wikipedia. In the future, we plan to provide more feedback to the Wikipedia community about the quality of Wikipedia. This can, for instance, be achieved in the form of sanity checks, which are implemented as SPARQL queries on the DBpedia Live endpoint, which identify data quality issues and are executed in certain intervals. For example, a query could check that the birthday of a person must always be before the death day or spot outliers that differ significantly from the range of the majority of the other values. In case a Wikipedia editor makes a mistake or typo when adding such information to a page, this could be automatically identified and provided as feedback to Wikipedians.

*Integrate DBpedia and NLP.* Recent advances (cf. Section 7) show huge potential for employing Linked Data background knowledge in various Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks. One very promising research avenue in this regard is to employ DBpedia as structured background knowledge for named entity recognition and disambiguation. Currently, most approaches use statistical information such as co-occurrence for named entity disambiguation. However, co-occurrence is not always easy to determine (depends on training data) and update (requires recomputation). With DBpedia and in particular DBpedia Live, we have comprehensive and evolving background knowledge comprising information on the relationship between a large number of real-world entities. Consequently, we can employ this information for deciding to what entity a certain surface form should be mapped.

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<sup>57</sup><http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:LightweightRDFa>

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## Appendix

Table 16  
List of namespace prefixes.

| Prefix | Namespace   |
|--------|---|
| dbo    | <a href="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/">http://dbpedia.org/ontology/</a>                                   |
| dbp    | <a href="http://dbpedia.org/property/">http://dbpedia.org/property/</a>                                   |
| dbr    | <a href="http://dbpedia.org/resource/">http://dbpedia.org/resource/</a>                                   |
| dbr-de | <a href="http://de.dbpedia.org/resource/">http://de.dbpedia.org/resource/</a>                             |
| dc     | <a href="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/">http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/</a>                           |
| foaf   | <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/</a>                                       |
| geo    | <a href="http://www.w3.org/2003/01/geo/wgs84_pos#">http://www.w3.org/2003/01/geo/wgs84_pos#</a>           |
| georss | <a href="http://www.georss.org/georss/">http://www.georss.org/georss/</a>                                 |
| ls     | <a href="http://spotlight.dbpedia.org/scores/">http://spotlight.dbpedia.org/scores/</a>                   |
| lx     | <a href="http://spotlight.dbpedia.org/lexicalizations/">http://spotlight.dbpedia.org/lexicalizations/</a> |
| owl    | <a href="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#">http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#</a>                               |
| rdf    | <a href="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#">http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#</a>     |
| rdfs   | <a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#">http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#</a>                 |
| skos   | <a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#</a>                   |
| sptl   | <a href="http://spotlight.dbpedia.org/vocab/">http://spotlight.dbpedia.org/vocab/</a>                     |
| xsd    | <a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#">http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#</a>                         |

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Table 17  
DBpedia timeline.

| Year | Month | Event   |
|------|-------|---|
| 2006 | Nov   | Start of infobox extraction from Wikipedia              |
| 2007 | Mar   | DBpedia 1.0 release                                     |
|      | Jun   | ESWC DBpedia article [2]                                |
|      | Nov   | DBpedia 2.0 release                                     |
|      | Nov   | ISWC DBpedia article [1]                                |
|      | Dec   | DBpedia 3.0 release candidate                           |
| 2008 | Feb   | DBpedia 3.0 release                                     |
|      | Aug   | DBpedia 3.1 release                                     |
|      | Nov   | DBpedia 3.2 release                                     |
| 2009 | Jan   | DBpedia 3.3 release                                     |
|      | Sep   | JWS DBpedia article [5]                                 |
| 2010 | Feb   | Information extraction framework in Scala               |
|      |       | Mappings Wiki release                                   |
|      | Mar   | DBpedia 3.4 release                                     |
|      | Apr   | DBpedia 3.5 release                                     |
|      | May   | Start of DBpedia Internationalization effort            |
| 2011 | Feb   | DBpedia Spotlight release                               |
|      | Mar   | DBpedia 3.6 release                                     |
|      | Jul   | DBpedia Live release                                    |
|      | Sep   | DBpedia 3.7 release (with I18n datasets)                |
| 2012 | Aug   | DBpedia 3.8 release                                     |
|      | Sep   | Publication of DBpedia Internationalization article[24] |
| 2013 | Sep   | DBpedia 3.9 release                                     |

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