

provided in a formal and machine-processable form. Hence the call for the Semantic Web.¹

Not surprisingly, this call by Tim Berners-Lee has received tremendous attention by researchers and practitioners alike. There is now an International Semantic Web Conference series,² a Semantic Web Journal published by Elsevier,³ as well as industrial committees that are looking at the first generation of standards for the Semantic Web.

The current book constitutes a timely publication, given the fast-moving nature of Semantic Web concepts, technologies, and standards. The book offers a gentle introduction to Semantic Web concepts, including XML, DTDs, and XML schemas, RDF and RDFS, OWL, logic, and inference. Throughout, the book includes examples and applications to illustrate the use of concepts.

We are pleased to include this book on the Semantic Web in the series on Cooperative Information Systems. We hope that readers will find it interesting, insightful, and useful.

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¹Tim Berners-Lee and Mark Fischetti, *Weaving the Web: The Original Design and Ultimate Destiny of the World Wide Web by Its Inventor*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1999.

²iswc.semanticweb.org.

³www.semanticwebjournal.org.