

Chapter 7

Ontology Engineering

7.1 Introduction

So far, we have focused mainly on the techniques that are essential to the Semantic Web: representation languages, query languages, transformation and inference techniques, and tools. Clearly, the introduction of such a large volume of new tools and techniques also raises methodological questions: How can tools and techniques best be applied? Which languages and tools should be used in which circumstances, and in which order? What about issues of quality control and resource management?

Chapter Overview

Many of these questions for the Semantic Web have been studied in other contexts – for example, in software engineering, object-oriented design, and knowledge engineering. It is beyond the scope of this book to give a comprehensive treatment of all of these issues. Nevertheless, in this chapter, we briefly discuss some of the methodological issues that arise when building ontologies, in particular, constructing ontologies manually (section 7.2), reusing ontologies (section 7.3), and using semiautomatic methods