

National Finnish Semantic Web Ontology Project

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Why a National Ontology Project?

✦ Facts:

- Ontologies = The Core of the Semantic Web
- Semantic Web = The next generations of WWW
- There are NO Finnish ontologies available!
- Theses underlying the Project
 - Core ontologies should be open source
 - This maximizes usage and interoperability
 - This maximizes business opportunities
 - Core ontologies should be created together at the "national" level
 - Wide commitment is needed ("standards")
 - Maintenance by public institutions needed
 - This is a question of the national IT infrastructure

National Finnish Semantic Web Ontology Project

- Directed by University of Helsinki, Dept. of Computer Science
 - Semantic Computing Research Group (SeCo)
- Other participating research organizations
 - University of Tampere, Dept. of Information Studies
 - University of Helsinki, Dept. of Linguistics
 - Helsinki University Library
- Funded by Tekes and 14 companies and institutions
- 1.9.2003-31.8.2005
- ◆ Budget 650.000€

Research Consortium





Helsinki University Library THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND

National Board of Antiquities

ALMA | MEDIA

m-cult

KIASMA	
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The Finnish Museum of Photography



Building the Information Society









TSK







Finnish National Ga

The Goals

Demonstrate usability of ontologies Motto: move on from thesauri to ontologies! Create a national ontology library system **ONKI** Distributed, web-based system for creating and maintaining mutually related important ontologies Start a process A continuous national ontology creation process Thesauri -> Ontologies Not only demo systems

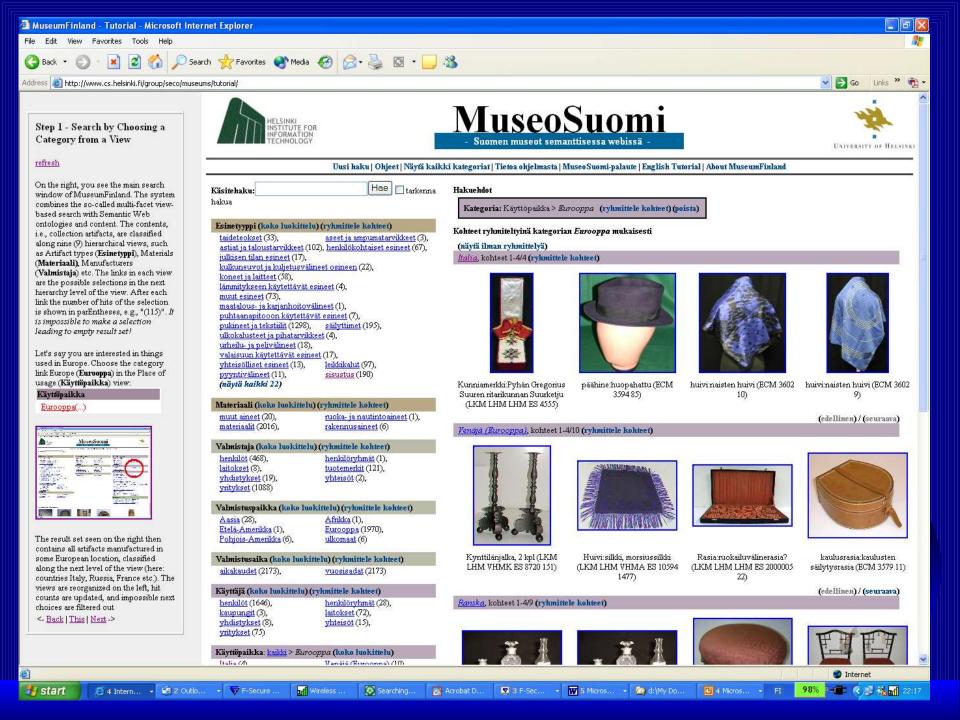
Ontologies Considered

- A top ontology YSO (Yleinen Suomalainen Ontologia)
 - based on the general Finnish keyword thesaurus YSA
 - http://vesa.lib.helsinki.fi
 - 20,000 terms in Finnish
 - bilingual (Swedish)
- Domain ontologies related to YSO
 - Culturico-historical
 - MAO, OCM (Outline of Cultural Material)
 - Art
 - ICONCLASS, mediaculture, photography
 - Locations (at different times), SAPO

– Actors (persons, organizations, etc.), SUTO

Demonstrations

- Towards the Semantic Portal "CultureFinland"
 - MuseumFinland -- Finnish Museums on the Semantic Web
 - A deployed semantic web application (March 2004):
 - http://museosuomi.cs.helsinki.fi
 - Motto: MuseumFinland -> CultureFinland!
- ONKI Ontology Libary System
 - Support collaborative distributed creation, maintenance, publication, and usage of the set of interreleted ontologies



MuseumFinland Ontologies

ONTOLOGY	CONTENT	CLASSES	INDIVIDUALS
Artifacts	Classes for tangible collection objects	3227	0
Materials	Substances that the artifacts are made of	364	0
Actors	Persons, companies, organizations, and other agents	26	1715
Locations	Continents, countries, cities, villages, farms etc.	33	864
Times	Eras, centuries, etc. as time intervals	57	0
Events	Situations, events, and processes in the society	992	0
Collections	Museum collections included in the system	22	24

Altogether about 10,000 interrelated concepts

Research Problems

Ontology representation and reasoning
Distributed ontology development
Ontology versioning & evolution
Uncertainty in ontologies
Ontology mapping

How to Create Ontologies

Change thesauri into ontologies!

- Formal and exact semantics of ontologies enable the creation of intelligent applications
- Ontologies are supported by new WWW standards (Semantic Web)
 - Content publication, interoperability
- Population of ontologies from databases
 - Locations, Actors, ...
- Ontology creation by hand

Co-Operation Issues in Finland

- Various "XML projects" initiated
 - XML vs. RDF: do people understand the difference?
 - When Semantic Web technologies should be used?
- eGovernment applications
 - Semantic portals (e.g., Suomi.fi etc.)
 - Semantic Web Services
- eHealth applications
 - Huge area: In UK a 20 <u>billion</u> € project / 5 yrs!
- eCulture applications
 - Netherlands: over 10M€ national programme?
- eBusiness applications
 - └─ Ireland DERI, EU IPs, ... several 10M€
- ♦ WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN FINLAND?

Joining the Interest Group

- Our project is open and (most) results will be available to everybody for free
- Forms of co-operation
 - Core members are funding and directing the work
 - Special interest members will be informed of the proceedings of the project
- Fenix Knowledge Management & SW Interest Group
- Project Info:
 - http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/group/seco/ontologies/
- Publications:
 - http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/group/seco/publications/
- ✦ Contact:
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