



Science Meeting – Scientific Report

The scientific report (WORD or PDF file - maximum of seven A4 pages) should be submitted online within two months of the event. It will be published on the ESF website.

Proposal Title: *Humanities Web of Data Workshop at Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School (DHOxSS)*

Application Reference N°: *5522*

1) Summary

This workshop introduced the concepts and technologies behind the Semantic Web and showed how attendees can publish their research so that it is available as Linked Data, using distinct but interwoven models to represent services, data collections, workflows, and so to simplify the rapid development of integrated applications to explore specific findings -- the domain of an application. Topics covered included: the RDF format; modelling your data and publishing to the web; querying RDF data using SPARQL; choosing and designing vocabularies and ontologies; and more.

The work of a digital humanities researcher is informed by the possibilities offered in digital resources: in their ever increasing number and their distribution and access through the Internet.

In this context, the Semantic Web can be seen as a framework which enables radical publication, sharing, and linking of data for, and by, researchers.

2) Description of the scientific content of and discussions at the event

The programme began with a motivating example from the field of music, based on the organisers own research. This demonstrated how Semantic Web technologies can be practically applied to the Humanities, and serves as a useful case through which attendees were introduced to the technical underpinnings of such systems during the first half of the week. In the latter half of the week this knowledge was applied to real world examples introduced by invited speakers, with two specific Semantic Web deployments framing tutorials and discussion on Thursday and Friday: the British Museum, and CLAROS.

The workshop comprised of a series of lectures and tutorials including:

- Scaling Digital Humanities on (and utilising) the Web
- The Semantic Web and Why You Should Care
- Practical Linked Data for Digital Humanities Researchers
 - RDF Basics
 - Linked Data
 - Triplestores and SPARQL
 - Ontology design
- Worked examples of Semantic Web systems and application for Digital Humanities:
 - The British Museum Semantic Web Collection
 - CLAROS: The world of art on the semantic web
 - Music Information Retrieval: How country is my country?
- Solutions surgery: how could the Semantic Web aid your research?

Further sessions encouraged the delegates to consider and discuss how Linked Data and Semantic Web technologies might be applied to their own work.

A guided discussion elicited use cases from attendees focussed on data and linking problems in their domains. A day of the workshop was spent working through these scenarios in groups, guided by the tutors, and structuring them as ontologies first on paper and then as OWL ontologies in the Protege editor.

In the final session of the workshop attendees raised specific questions related to their work and how they might apply Linked Data. Solutions and suggestions for further routes of enquiry were given by the tutors and discussed amongst the class.

3) Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the future directions of the field

The intention of the workshop was twofold:

1. To provide practical training to early career researchers about using RDF and various ontologies, and derive an appropriate curriculum which can be used
2. To join together researchers from different countries and gain a varied perspective on problems across a variety of disciplines. Our geographic coverage was as follows: Brazil (1), France (2), Great Britain (6) Italy (2), South Africa (1), Sweden (2) USA (1), which provided a useful spread.

The results of the week-long teaching will be used to derive a model curriculum, which will be made available to the comparable Digital Humanities summer schools (notably DHSI in Victoria, Canada, Maryland; and Leipzig)

Feedback concerning DHOxSS 2014 Humanities Web of Data workshop

As of Monday 18 August, there were nine feedback responses submitted by DHOxSS 2014 delegates who attended the *Humanities Web of Data* workshop. Feedback for this working was overwhelmingly positive with only two aspects being ranked once as 'Satisfactory' and the rest being marked as 'Good' or more usually 'Excellent'.

	Poor (1)	Could be better (2)	Satisfactory (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)
Level of teaching			1	1	7
Speed of teaching			1	4	4
Range of topics				2	7
Quality of lectures/talks				4	5
Quality of practicals/exercises				3	6
Overall quality of teaching				3	6

From the organisational point of view the teaching went well, with no major problems. Informal feedback received by the director concerning this workshop was all positive especially concentrating on the tutors' willingness to help individuals overcome their problems of unfamiliarity with the materials. The additional comments provided below perhaps indicated that some attendees found it intensive but rewarding.

Some comments on workshop:

"As someone entirely new to Linked Data, I thought it was a fantastic week. It was certainly very challenging, and we covered a lot of ground, so much so that there were times I sort of glazed over because I couldn't keep up. Also, maybe have the practicum in the morning and the lectures in the afternoon? I know many of us were dragging having the practical sessions in the afternoon, right after lunch and a long walk along Banbury. I think most of us would have preferred to jump right into things in the AM. John and Kevin were top notch and I loved meeting the British Museum folks. Thanks!"

"I found I was left behind at times, because of the unfamiliarity of the material; my own fault really, I guess."

"I had a great time with the semantic web workshop and all the people involved - it left me feeling very inspired to get further into those technologies!"

Annex 4a: Programme of the meeting

Workshop Timetable

Times	Monday 14 July	Tuesday 15 July	Wednesday 16 July	Thursday 17 July	Friday 18 July
9.00 – 9.30	Registration				
9.30-10.30	Opening Keynote: Community, Community of Practice, and The Methodological Commons, Ray Siemens	Choice of 3 lectures 1a Restoration and revelation: how digital images are far more than simply photographs in the digital medium. 1b Creating and Sustaining DH Teams. 1c Scholarly Digital Editing Panel.	Choice of 3 lectures 2a If a picture is Worth 1000 words what's a medium quality scan worth?, 2b: Obtaining the Unobtainable: The Holy Grail of Seed Funding For Small- Scale Digital Projects, 2c The Future of Data Access and Preservation Panel,	Choice of 3 lectures 3a: Ancient Lives: Classics And Digital Humanities at Oxford, 3b: The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese Lexicon, 3c: Electrifying The 'Via Lucis': communication technologies and republics of letters, past, present and future.	Closing Keynote: Beyond Digital Humanities: Skills, Application And Collaboration, Melissa Terras
10.30-11.00	Morning Break				
Morning: 11:00-12:30 Wolfson College, Seminar Room 2	Scaling Digital Humanities on (and utilising) the Web: an Introduction aka The Semantic Web And Why You Should Care Kevin Page	Practical Linked Data for Digital Humanities Researchers: An example in Music Information Retrieval Part 2 Kevin Page	myExperiment and other animals David De Roure	The British Museum Semantic Web Collection Dominic Oldman	CLAROS: The World of Art On the Semantic Web Sebastian Rahtz
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch and travel time				
Afternoon: 14:00-16:00	Practical Linked Data for Digital Humanities Researchers: An example In Music Information Retrieval Part 1 Kevin Page	Hands on: Triplestores, and SPARQL Kevin Page and John Pybus	Ontologies John Pybus	Hands on: Exploring and using The British Museum Endpoint Dominic Oldman	Hands on: Building Claros, A worked example Sebastian Rahtz
16.00-16.30	Afternoon Break				
16:30-17:30 IT Services, Evenlode Room	Hands on: RDF Basics Kevin Page and John Pybus	As above -continued	Hands on: Building your own ontology John Pybus	As above -continued	Group Discussion and Solutions Surgery: how you Might apply The semantic Web to your work John Pybus
Evening events	Welcome Drinks Reception and Poster Session 19:00 - 21:00 Natural History Museum	Guided Walking Tour Of "Oxford Past and Present" 18:15- City Centre: Martyr's Memorial	DHOxSS Dinner 18:45 (drinks) 19:15 (meal) Wadham College	TORCH Open Lecture Ukiyo-e to Emoji: Museums In the Digital Age Mathematical Institute 18:15-19:45 Martin Roth (Victoria and Albert Museum)	Informal Pub Trip Victoria Arms 18:15

Annex 4b: Full list of speakers and participants

Workshop Speakers

- David De Roure (Oxford e-Research Centre, University of Oxford)
- Dominic Oldman (British Museum)
- Kevin Page (Oxford e-Research Centre, University of Oxford)
- John Pybus (Oxford e-Research Centre, University of Oxford)
- Sebastian Rahtz (IT Services, University of Oxford)

Participants (NeDiMaH Bursary recipients highlighted in grey)

Chen Wei Zhu	HumData GB
Claudia Filos	HumData US
Hanna Cannon	HumData GB
Matt Kohl	HumData GB
Mélanie Lucciano	HumData FR
Merisa Martinez	HumData SE
Natalie Pollecutt	HumData GB
Nicholas Meihuizen	HumData ZA
Nollaig O Fiongháile	HumData IE
Pauline Charbonnier	HumData FR
Roger Mähler	HumData SE
Sandro Cirulli	HumData GB
Simon Noriega-Olmos	HumData BR
Tiziana Mancinelli	HumData IT
Manuela Vastolo	HumData IT