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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
@ ASUNET

Faculty of Computers and Information
Cairo University

Extracting Ontology from Different Sources

By
Mohammed Yehia Hassan Dahab

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF

Doctor of Philosophy
Computer Science

Supervised by

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Rafea
Prof. Dr. Khaled Shaalan
Dr. Hesham Hassan

2007

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A thesis submitted to the faculty of Computers and Information, Cairo University, in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Computer Science in the department of Computer Science.

I certify that this work has not been accepted in substance for any academic degree and is not being concurrently submitted in candidature for any other degree.

Any portion of this thesis for which I am indebted to other sources are mentioned and explicit references are given.

Student: Mohammed Yehia Hassan Dahab

Approval Sheet

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This thesis is for the Ph.D. Degree in Computer Science, Department of
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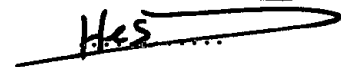
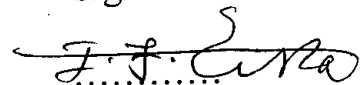
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ABSTRACT

Ontologies have become a popular research topic and have been investigated by several artificial intelligence research communities, including knowledge engineering and management, natural language processing and knowledge representation. Ontologies meet a major demand in these fields: they establish shared and common understanding of a domain to facilitate communication among different software applications and users.

Ontology construction, in large, complex application domains, can be lengthy, costly and controversial. Most of existing ontologies construction tools support construction of ontological relations (e.g. taxonomy, equivalence, etc.) but they do not support construction of domain relations, non-taxonomic conceptual relationships, (e.g. causes, caused by, has-member, contain, etc.). The aim of this thesis is to investigate the automation of the ontology building process from structured and unstructured sources. This thesis also aims at proposing approaches related to merging, integrating and maintaining extracted or existing domain ontologies.

To achieve the thesis objectives we surveyed the most important ontology representation languages and tools and developed tools for extracting ontologies from text, knowledge bases, thesauri and semantic lexicons. One of these tools has been developed to extract taxonomy of plant diseases and insects that affect plant parts using a knowledge base, a thesaurus for agricultural terms (AGROVOC) and a semantic lexicon (WordNet). A second tool has been developed to extract relations between symptoms on plant parts and their causes namely diseases and insects, through analyzing available text on the web and scientific papers.

The methodologies and tools have been applied and tested for extracting different ontologies and integrating them automatically to form one general ontology. Results showed the success of the proposed methodologies and tools.

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