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Open Knowledge Base and Question Answering Workshop

A Workshop of the 26th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2016)

Proceedings of the Workshop

December 11, 2016 Osaka, Japan

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Preface

The Workshop on Open Knowledge Base and Question Answering Workshop (OKBQA 2016) took place in Osaka on 11 December 2016, as part of COLING 2016. The huge and rapidly increasing amount of structured and unstructured data available on the Web makes it both possible and necessary to support users in finding relevant information. The trend moves more and more towards smart knowledge services that are able to find information, aggregate them, draw inferences, and present succinct answers without requiring the user to wade through a large number of documents. The novel avenues made possible by knowledge services are numerous and diverse, including ubiquitous information access (from smartphones, tablets, smart watches, etc.), barrier-free access to data (especially for the blind and disabled) and knowledge discovery.

Over the last years, several challenges and calls for research projects have pointed out the dire need for pushing natural language interfaces. In this context, the importance of Semantic Web data as a premier knowledge source is rapidly increasing. But we are still far from having accurate natural language interfaces that allow handling complex information needs in a user-centric and highly performant manner. The development of such interfaces requires the collaboration of a range of different fields, including natural language processing, information extraction, knowledge base construction and population, reasoning, and question answering.

The main goal of this workshop is to join forces in the collaborative development of open frameworks for knowledge extraction and question answering, to share standards, and to foster the creation of an ecosystem of tools and benchmarks.

The call for papers for OKBQA 2016 was issued in September 2016 and elicited a good number of high-quality submissions, each of which was peer-reviewed by three members of the programme committee. At the end we accepted six submissions as long papers, and ten as short papers. Our technical programme combined five oral long papers, two oral short papers and seven poster papers.

We would like to thank all the people who have contributed to the organization and delivery of this workshop: the authors who submitted such high quality papers; the programme committee for their high quality, prompt and thoughtful reviewing; the keynote speakers; the COLING 2016 organizing committees, the workshops chairs, the participants in the workshop; and future readers of these proceedings for your shared interest in this exciting new area of research. Finally, we most gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsor: Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Semantic Web Research Center (SWRC), KAIST School of Computing, Institute for Information & communications Technology Promotion (IITP) and National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF).

Welcome to OKBQA 2016, OKBQA organizers

Organisers

Key-Sun Choi, KAIST, Korea

Christina Unger, Universität Bielefeld, Germany

Piek Vossen, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

Jin-Dong Kim, Database Center for Life Science (DBCLS), Japan

Axel-Cyrille Ngonga Ngomo, Universität Leipzig, Germany

Teruko Mitamura, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

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Teruko Mitamura, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

Vanessa Lopez, IBM, USA

Invited Keynote Speakers

Sebastian Riedel, University College London (UCL)

Noriko Kando, National Institute of Informatics (NII)

Feature Talkers

Jin-Dong Kim, Database Center for Life Science (DBCLS)

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