

Formal Ontology in Information Systems (FOIS'98)

Trento, Italy

Saturday June 6 – Monday June 8, 1998

(coordinated event with **KR'98** – Sixth International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning)

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Resources:

FOIS'98 home page:

<http://mnemosyne.itc.it:1024/fois98/>

Enquiries to: fois98@irst.itc.it

ONTOINT home page:

<http://saussure.irmkant.rm.cnr.it/onto/ontoint.html>

Research on ontology is becoming increasingly widespread in the computer science community. Its importance has been recognized in fields as diverse as qualitative modelling of physical systems, natural language processing, knowledge engineering, information integration, database design, geographic information science, and intelligent information access. Insights in this field have potential impacts on the whole area of information systems. In order to provide a solid general foundation for this work, it is therefore important to focus on the common scientific principles and open problems arising from current tools, methodologies, and applications of ontology. The purpose of this conference is to take a first step in this direction.

The conference will have a strongly interdisciplinary character. Expected participants include computer science practitioners as well as linguists, logicians, and philosophers. Although the primary focus of the conference is on theoretical issues, methodological proposals as well as concrete applications from a well-founded theoretical perspective will be discussed.

Topics. Problem areas that will be addressed at the conference include:

- **Theoretical Issues.** Foundations: parthood, constitution, identity, integrity, dependence, causality. Kinds of entity: particulars vs. universals, continuants vs. occurrents, abstracta vs. concreta, attributes, relations, qualities, quantities, tropes or moments, states, situations, environments. Matter, space, time, motion, change. Natural kinds, organisms, artifacts. The ontology of social reality: legal and administrative entities, artistic expressions. The ontology of information and information processing: representations, signs, software products, virtual reality, cyberspace. Top-level ontological taxonomies: new proposals or critical analyses of existing ones. Cognitive foundations of ontological distinctions. Kinds of ontology: top-level ontologies, domain ontologies, task ontologies, application ontologies. Ontological commitment.
- **Application Areas.** Knowledge organization, integration and standardization. Intelligent information access. Information systems design. Knowledge engineering. Conceptual modelling. Qualitative modelling. Lexical semantics. Terminology integration. Product knowledge integration. Geographic information systems. Legal information systems.
- **Tools And Methodologies.** Ontological and linguistic instruments for conceptual analysis. Methodologies for ontology development, maintenance, and integration.

Proceedings. The proceedings will be published in the IOS-Press (Amsterdam) bookseries "Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications" and will be available at the conference.

Sponsorship. The conference is sponsored by the Project ONTOINT (Ontological Tools for Heterogeneous Knowledge Organization and Integration) funded by the Italian National Research Council (CNR), in cooperation with AI*IA (Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence). The conference is hosted by ITC-IRST Trento, Italy.