

IP and IT



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My opinions

- The administration is in favor of open government, transparency, and open access. Congress has mixed minds on the subject of open access to Govt-funded research results.
- If open access to scientific literature prevails, then OORs may have a big job opportunity
- If/when open access to Govt-funded scientific data prevails then OORs will also be called for.
- Fourth mode of science (data intensive science) advocates want to *make to scientific record a first class science object*. What part will ontologies and OORs play in that challenge?

Ideal Keynote Speaker

- A policy maker
- An open IPR policy advocate
- Has a legal professional background

OOR-IPR Panel Series

- Will start a community dialog to address IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) issues relating to the "open ontology repository (OOR)" initiative
- Thu 2010_09_09 - session-1: an exposition of the state of relevant IPR regimes
- Thu 2010_09_16 - session-2: what are the IPR issues relating to ontologies & ontology repositories
- Thu 2010_09_30 - session-3: discussion and consensus on what licensing arrangements would be best suited for the OOR Initiative

The session will be in the form of

- an augmented conference call (a phone and an Internet browser would be all that are needed for participation). It will be a 2-hour session that commences at 1:30pm EDT.

Open Ontology Repository

- OOR will be an open global collaboration (like the Apache Project)
- The OOR community will collaborate to develop a federated infrastructure of persistent open registries, repositories and associated services, for ontologies
- Contributions of the OOR community will include tools (technology) and content
- Tools and technology so contributed shall carry an open source technology license
- Content (essentially ontologies) contributed shall be published under some open content license
- The OOR team will stand up at least one instance of the OOR
- While the OOR technology and content will be open, proprietary ontologies and ontology repositories should also be able to connect to and interoperate with it

Back to IPR matters

- We also agreed, as a community, that we will defer discussion on specifics of the IPR issues (what licenses to standardize on, what does that mean, etc.) until we are further down the road with the work. ...(that was end April 2008)
- We recognize that it is time to revisit the OOR-IPR issues and we have identified that one of the critical tasks at hand is for the OOR team is to clarify IPR issues related to Ontology & OOR and adopt a consensus IPR policy for OOR contributions.

Strawn's comments

- Open access is good, as is profit seeking. Both have their places, and those places change over time. (eg, open access software at the bottom with value-added proprietary software on top)
- Open access to scientific data, literature and software are all important (imho). And all relate to ontologies.
- At present, copyright is used to prevent open access to scientific literature and to support open access to software (panelists will elaborate). Data is an emerging area, both with regards to ipr and other issues
- Ontologies seem to me to be like software, for ipr purposes.

Two types of open ipr

1. any use of open access stuff must *also be open access*
 2. use of open access stuff can be *open or proprietary*. (is this different from "open access interoperating with proprietary?")
- Do you want to choose one or both?

In conclusion

- The third IT mini-revolution is in progress
 - PCs
 - The Internet
 - Information
- Ontologies and things semantic may help us turn the data deluge into a data cornucopia
- Good hunting and good luck!