

OntologySummit2009 Virtual Panel Session

- "Standards Community Perspectives
Toward Ontology-based Standards" - Opening:

What are standards?

Howard Mason

Thu 19-Mar-2009

What is a standard?

- A standard is nothing more than an agreement across a particular community of interest, to achieve mutual benefit, based on the best available knowledge and technology.
- Implementation is voluntary, unless mandated by legal or commercial constraints.

Key principles

- Consensus - The views of all interests are taken into account: manufacturers, vendors and users, consumer groups, testing laboratories, governments, engineering professions and research organizations.
- Industry wide - Global solutions to satisfy industries and customers worldwide.
- Voluntary - International standardization is market driven and therefore based on voluntary involvement of all interests in the market-place.

The stages of standardisation

- Agree the need and the scope
- Agree the technical content
- Formal approval

Areas of opportunity include

- Lists of permitted values for a property
 - Eg country codes, military ranks, academic degrees
- Traditional product standards (10K+)
 - defined by characteristics
 - permitted values and tolerances
- Common concepts across standards
- Information models
 - entities, attributes and relationships
- Management standards eg ISO 9000
 - ????

Issues

- To be augmented during the meeting
- Resources for conversion of established standards