



FOIS-2006

International Conference on Formal Ontology Information Systems

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Johns Hopkins University's Gilman Hall; picture courtesy of JHU Conference Servi

**November 9-11, 2006
Baltimore, Maryland (USA)**

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Conference Description

Since ancient times, ontology, the analysis and categorisation of what exists fundamental to philosophical enquiry. But, until recently, ontology has been abstract, purely theoretical discipline, far removed from the practical applica science. However, with the increasing use of sophisticated computerised infc systems, solving problems of an ontological nature is now key to the effectiv technologies supporting a wide range of human activities. The ship of These tail of Tibbles the cat are no longer merely amusing puzzles. We employ dat software applications to deal with everything from ships and ship building to and amputations. When we design a computer to take stock of a ship yard c all goes well at the veterinary hospital, we need to ensure that our system c consistent and reliable way even when manipulating information that involve issues of semantics and identity. So, whereas ontologists may once have sh from practical problems, now the practicalities of achieving cohesion in an in based society demand that attention must be paid to ontology.

Researchers in such areas as artificial intelligence, formal and computaciona biomedical informatics, conceptual modeling, knowledge engineering and inf

retrieval have come to realise that a solid foundation for their research calls work in ontology, understood as a general theory of the types of entities and that make up their respective domains of inquiry. In all these areas, attention being focused on the *content* of information rather than on just the formats languages used to represent information. The clearest example of this development provided by the many initiatives growing up around the project of the Semantic Web, as the need for integrating research in these different fields arises, so is the realisation that strong principles for building well-founded ontologies might provide significant advantages over ad hoc, case-based solutions. The tools of formal ontology address precisely these needs, but a real effort is required in order to apply philosophical tools to the domain of *information systems*. Reciprocally, research in information sciences raises specific ontological questions which call for further philosophical investigations.

The purpose of FOIS is to provide a forum for genuine interdisciplinary exchange in the spirit of a unified effort towards solving the problems of ontology, with an eye on both theoretical issues and concrete applications.

Organizing Committee

Program Chairs

Brandon Bennett (University of Leeds, UK) brandon@comp.leeds.ac.uk

Christiane Fellbaum (Princeton University, USA and Berlin Brandenburg Academic Sciences and Humanities, Germany) fellbaum@clarity.princeton.edu

Conference Chair

Nicola Guarino (ISTC-CNR, Trento, Italy) guarino@loa-cnr.it

Local Chair

Bill Andersen (Ontology Works, USA) andersen@ontologyworks.com

Publicity Chair

Leo Obrst (The MITRE Corporation, USA) lobrst@mitre.org

Topics

We seek high-quality papers on a wide range of topics. While authors may focus on narrow and specific issues, all papers should emphasize the relevance of the topics described to formal ontology and to information systems. Papers that completely ignore one or the other of these aspects will be considered as lying outside the scope of the meeting. Topic areas of particular interest to the conference are:

Foundational Issues

- Kinds of entity: particulars vs. universals, continuants vs. occurrents, abstract vs. concreta, dependent vs. independent, natural vs. artificial
- Formal relations: parthood, identity, connection, dependence, constitution, subsumption, instantiation

- Vagueness and granularity
- Identity and change
- Formal comparison among ontologies
- Ontology of physical reality (matter, space, time, motion, ...)
- Ontology of biological reality (genes, proteins, cells, organisms, ...)
- Ontology of mental reality (mental attitudes, emotions, ...)
- Ontology of social reality (institutions, organizations, norms, social relations, artistic expressions, ...)
- Ontology of the information society (information, communication, media, negotiation, ...)
- Ontology and natural language semantics, ontology and cognition, ontology and epistemology, semiotics

Methodologies and Applications

- Top-level vs. application ontologies
- Role of reference ontologies; Ontology integration and alignment
- Ontology-driven information systems design
- Requirements engineering
- Knowledge engineering
- Knowledge management and organization
- Knowledge representation; Qualitative modeling
- Computational lexica; Terminology
- Information retrieval; Question-answering
- Semantic web; Web services; Grid computing
- Domain-specific ontologies, especially for: Linguistics, Geography, Law science, Biomedical science, E-business, Enterprise integration,

Important Dates

Submission of electronic abstracts and keywords: May 1, 2006
 Deadline for uploading paper submissions: May 5, 2006
 Acceptance Notification: June 26, 2006
 Submission of camera-ready paper: July 28, 2006
 FOIS-06 Conference: November 9-11, 2006

Submissions

Submitted papers must not exceed 5000 words (including bibliography) and minimally be in 10 pt font size. Papers should be submitted electronically in PDF via the [website](#).

If you intend to submit a paper, please submit an electronic abstract and self-describing your paper by May 1, if possible. To do this go to the submission website and click the "new submission" button and enter your keywords and abstract (up to 300 characters). You will be assigned a pass-code enabling you to access and modify your submission details. You can then revisit the submission website later to upload your actual paper.

(Having the abstracts and keywords in advance will help us to assign papers reviewers.)

Details of the camera ready format will be posted later on the FOIS-06 webs
Proceedings will be published by IOS Press and made available at the confer

Programme Committee

- Bill Andersen (Ontology Works, USA)
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- Simon Milton (Department of Information Systems, University of Melbourne)

- Australia)
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 - Barbara Partee (University of Massachusetts, USA)
 - Massimo Poesio (Department of Computer Science, University of Essex)
 - Ian Pratt-Hartmann (Department of Computer Science, University of Manchester, UK)
 - James Pustejovsky (Department of Computer Science, Brandeis University)
 - David Randell (Imperial College London, UK)
 - Robert Rynasiewicz (Johns Hopkins University, USA)
 - Barry Smith (National Center for Ontological Research and Department of Philosophy, University at Buffalo, USA; Institute for Formal Ontology and Information Science, Saarbrücken, Germany)
 - John Sowa (Vivomind Intelligence Inc., USA)
 - Veda Storey (Department of Computer Information Systems, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA)
 - Richmond Thomason (University of Michigan, USA)
 - Mike Uschold (The Boeing Company, USA)
 - Achille Varzi (Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, USA)
 - Laure Vieu (Research Institute for Computer Science, CNRS, Toulouse, France)
 - Chris Welty (IBM Watson Research Center, USA)
-

Co-located Workshop: [Biomedical Ontology in Action](#)

November 8, 2006, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Workshop organized by the National Center for Ontology Research (NCOR) and the Working Group on Formal (Bio-)Medical Knowledge Representation of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA).

Co-located with FOIS 2006.

Please note that this workshop requires separate registration and separate payment of the Workshop fees at the above site.

Registration

Academic:

Early: \$250

Late: \$300

Onsite: \$350

Corporate / Government

Early \$300

Late: \$400

Onsite: \$450

Student:

Early: \$50

Late: \$75
Onsite: \$100

Early registration is through October 9, 2006.
Late registration will begin October 10, 2006.

To register for FOIS 2006, please enter the appropriate information at the [registration website](#).

Accommodation

Hotel: [Inn at The Colonnade](#). This is the conference hotel. The Inn at the Colonnade is located right off the John Hopkins University campus, about a 5-10 min walk from the conference location, the new Charles Commons facility.

Conference Location

The conference will take place at the very new **Charles Commons** facility of Johns Hopkins University. Charles Commons features conference space, a central dining area, and a major campus bookstore.



Charles Commons is located at 33rd Street between Charles and St. Paul Streets in Baltimore, Maryland. The address is:

**Charles Commons, John Hopkins University, 3301 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218.**

[John Hopkins University](#)

[John Hopkins University Main \(Homewood\) Campus Map](#)

[John Hopkins University Map \(pdf\)](#)

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[Driving directions to John Hopkins University, and additional maps](#)

Johns Hopkins University: [Wikipedia entry](#)

News

The [Preliminary Programme](#) is now available.

[List of Accepted Papers](#)

[Conference Location Information](#)

Accomodations are at the [Inn at the Colonnade](#), Baltimore, Md.

[Sponsors](#)

Sponsors



[Ontology Works, Inc.](#)

Ontology Works is the leading source of ontology construction software, or database software, and ontology-based information integration software.

Baltimore

The following are some useful links for information about the city of Baltimore:
[The Official Home Page of the City of Baltimore, Maryland.](#)
[Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association.](#)
[Wikipedia - Baltimore, Maryland.](#)

Programme

[Provisional FOIS-06 schedule.](#)

Accepted Papers

List of [accepted papers.](#)
