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Role of Semantic Web in Health Informatics

Tutorial at 2012 ACM SIGHIT International Health Informatics
Symposium (IHI 2012), January 28-30, 2012

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Division of Medical Informatics [Kno.e.sis](#) Center

Case Western Reserve University Wright State University

Outline

- Semantic Web
 - Introductory Overview
- Clinical Research
 - Physio-MIMI
- Bench Research and Provenance
 - Semantic Problem Solving Environment for *T.cruzi*
- Clinical Practice
 - Active Semantic Electronic Medical Record

Semantic Web

Landscape of Health Informatics

Clinical Research

- Patient Care
- Personalized Medicine
- Drug Development
- Privacy
- Cost

Bench Research

Clinical Practice

Challenges

- Information Integration: Reconcile heterogeneity
 - Syntactic Heterogeneity: DOB vs. Date of Birth
 - Structural Heterogeneity: Street + Apt + City vs. Address
 - Semantic Heterogeneity: Age vs. Age at time of surgery vs. Age at time of admission
- Humans can (often) accurately interpret, but extremely difficult for machine
 - Role for Metadata/Contextual Information/Semantics

Semantic Web

- Web of Linked Data
- Introduced by Berners Lee et. al as next step for Web of Documents
- Allow “machine understanding” of data,
- Create “common” models of domains using formal language - ontologies

Semantic Web Layer Cake

Resource Description Framework

- Resource Description Framework – Recommended by W3C for metadata modeling [RDF]
- A standard common modeling framework – usable by humans and machine understandable

RDF: Triple Structure, IRI, Namespace

- **RDF Triple**
 - **Subject:** The resource that the triple is about
 - **Predicate:** The property of the subject that is described by the triple
 - **Object:** The value of the property
- **Web Addressable Resource:** Uniform Resource Locator (URL), Uniform Resource Identifier (URI), Internationalized Resource Identifier (IRI)
- **Qualified Namespace:** <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> as xsd:
 - xsd: string instead of <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string>

RDF Representation

- Two types of property values in a triple

- Web resource
- Typed literal

- The graph model of RDF: **node-arc-node** is the primary representation model
- Secondary notations: Triple notation
 - companyExample:IBM companyExample:has-Total-Employee "430,000" ^^xsd:integer .

RDF Schema

- RDF Schema: Vocabulary for describing groups of resources [RDFS]

RDF Schema

- Property **domain** (rdfs:domain) and **range** (rdfs:range)

- Class Hierarchy/Taxonomy: rdfs:subClassOf

Ontology: A Working Definition

- Ontologies are shared conceptualizations of a domain represented in a formal language*
- Ontologies in health informatics:
 - Common representation model - facilitate interoperability, integration across different projects, and enforce consistent use of terminology
 - Closely reflect domain-specific details (*domain semantics*) essential to answer end user
 - Support reasoning to discover implicit knowledge

* Paraphrased from Gruber, 1993

OWL2 Web Ontology Language

- A language for modeling ontologies [OWL]
- OWL2 is declarative
- An OWL2 ontology (schema) consists of:
 - Entities: Company, Person
 - Axioms: Company employs Person
 - Expressions: A Person Employed by a Company = CompanyEmployee
- Reasoning: Draw a conclusion given certain constraints are satisfied
 - RDF(S) Entailment
 - OWL2 Entailment

OWL2 Constructs

- **Class Disjointness:** Instance of class A cannot be instance of class B
- **Complex Classes:** Combining multiple classes with set theory operators:
 - **Union:** $\text{Parent} = \text{ObjectUnionOf} (: \text{Mother} : \text{Father})$
 - **Logical negation:** $\text{UnemployedPerson} = \text{ObjectIntersectionOf} (: \text{EmployedPerson})$
 - **Intersection:** $\text{Mother} = \text{ObjectIntersectionOf} (: \text{Parent} : \text{Woman})$

OWL2 Constructs

- Property restrictions: defined over property
- Existential Quantification:
 - Parent = `ObjectSomeValuesFrom (:hasChild :Person)`
 - To capture incomplete knowledge
- Universal Quantification:
 - US President = `objectAllValuesFrom (:hasBirthPlace United States)`
- Cardinality Restriction

SPARQL: Querying Semantic Web Data

- A SPARQL query pattern composed of triples
- Triples correspond to RDF triple structure, but have variable at:
 - Subject: `?company` `ex:hasHeadquarterLocation` `ex:NewYork`.
 - Predicate: `ex:IBM` `?whatislocatedin` `ex:NewYork`.
 - Object: `ex:IBM` `ex:hasHeadquarterLocation` `?location`.
- Result of SPARQL query is list of values – values can replace variable in query pattern

SPARQL: Query Patterns

- An example query pattern

PREFIX ex:<http://www.eecs600.case.edu/>

SELECT ?company ?location WHERE

{?company ex:hasHeadquarterLocation ?location.}

- Query Result

company	location
IBM	NewYork
Oracle	RedwoodCity
MicorosoftCorporation	Bellevue

Multiple
Matches

SPARQL: Query Forms

- **SELECT**: Returns the values bound to the variables
- **CONSTRUCT**: Returns an RDF graph
- **DESCRIBE**: Returns a description (RDF graph) of a resource (e.g. IBM)
 - The contents of RDF graph is determined by SPARQL query processor
- **ASK**: Returns a Boolean
 - True
 - False

Semantic Web + Clinical Research Informatics =
Physio-MIMI

Physio-MIMI Overview

- Physio-MIMI: Multi-Modality, Multi-Resource Environment for Physiological and Clinical Research
- NCRR-funded, multi-CTSA-site project (RFP 08-001) for providing informatics tools to clinical investigators and clinical research teams at and across CTSA institutions to enhance the collection, management and sharing of data
- Collaboration among Case Western, U Michigan, Marshfield Clinic and U Wisconsin Madison
- Use Sleep Medicine as an exemplar, but also generalizable
- Two year duration: Dec 2008 – Dec 2010

Features of Physio-MIMI

- Federated data integration environment
 - Linking existing data resources without a centralized data repository
- Query interface directly usable by clinical researchers
 - Minimize the role of the data-access middleman
- Secure and policy-compliant data access
 - Fine-grained access control, dual SSL, auditing
- Tools for curating PSGs

Data Access, Secondary Use

Measure not by the size of the database, but the number of secondary studies it supported

Query Interface – driven by access

- Visual Aggregator and Explorer (VISAGE)
- Federated, Web-based
- Driven by Domain Ontology (SDO)
- PhysiMap to connect autonomous data sources

- GQ Zhang et al.
VISAGE: A Query Interface for Clinical Research, Proceedings of the 2010 AMIA Clinical Research Informatics Summit, San Francisco, March 12-13, pp. 76-80, 2010

Physio-MIMI Components

VISAGE screenshot

Components of VISAGE

Physio-MIMI - Query Builder

https://mimi.case.edu/ Google

PHYSIO-MIMI GQ@CASE.

QUERY | INBOX (1) | DATA SOURCES | ONTOLOGY | ADMINISTRATION | STATISTICS | H

BUILDER | MANAGER | EXPLORER

Query Builder

Select Data Source Query Specification and

☒ Case CFS HBA Group Selected Un

More Data Sources

☐ APPLES-TEST	☒ Case CFS HBA	☐ Case SHHS HBA
☐ Case Test 5k HBA	☐ Demo Database 100k	☐ Demo Database 5
☐ hb2-dev-adapter	☐ Marshfield HBA w/SSL	☐ No-role-test

Case Control Study Design

- Case-control is a common study design
- Used for epidemiological studies involving two cohorts, one representing the **cases** and the second representing the **controls**
- Adjusting matching ratio to improve statistical power

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://mimi.case.edu/queries/explorer>. The page title is "PHYSIO-MIMI" and the user is logged in as "GQ@CASE.EDU [GQ ZHANG] | CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY". The navigation bar includes links for "QUERY", "INBOX (1)", "DATA SOURCES", "ONTOLOGY", "ADMINISTRATION", "STATISTICS", "HONEST BROKER", "DOWNLOADS", and "HELP". The "INFORMATION" section is active, and the "Controls" tab is selected. The interface includes a "Previous Explorations" section with a dropdown menu to "Select a Previous Exploration". Below this is an "Exploration" section with two dropdown menus: "Select a Query for Cases:" and "Select a Query for Controls:". A "Generate New Exploration" button is located at the bottom of the exploration section.

Example (CFS)

- Suppose we are interested in the question of whether sleep parameters (EEG) differ by obesity in age and race matched males
- **Case:** adult 55-75, male, BMI 35-50 (obese)
- **Control:** adult 55-75, male, BMI 20-30 (non-obese)
- **Matching** 1:2 on race (minimize race as a factor initially)

Adult 55-75, male, BMI 35-50

Query Specification and Results

Group Selected | Ungroup Selected | Flip Ands and Ors | ! Negate Query

Age	years	55 to 75	578
AND			
Body Mass Index (BMI) finding	kilogram per square meters	35 to 50	126
AND			
gender finding	Female sex Hermaphrodite ☒ Male sex Pseudohermaphrodite	Female pseudohermaphrodite Male pseudohermaphrodite	506
			Unique Patients Found: 40
NAME Cases-GQ			
DESCRIPTION			

Adult 55-75, male, BMI 20-30

Physio-MIMI - Query Builder - Controls-GQ

<https://mimi.case.edu/queries/351/edit>

Query Specification and Results

Group Selected | Ungroup Selected | Flip Ands and Ors | ! Negate Query

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☒ age at time of procedure	 0 years 120 55 75 55 to 75	578
AND		
☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☒ Body Mass Index (BMI) finding	 0 kilogram per square meters 100 20 30 20 to 30	664
AND		
☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☒ gender finding	☐ Female sex ☐ Hermaphrodite ☒ Male sex ☐ Pseudohermaphrodite ☐ Female pseudohermaphrodite ☐ Male pseudohermaphrodite	506
Unique Patients Found: 201		
NAME <input type="text" value="Controls-GQ"/>		
DESCRIPTION <input type="text"/>		

Set up 1:2 Matching

https://mimi.case.edu/queries/explorer

PHYSIO-MIMI GQ@CASE.EDU [GQ ZHANG] | CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY | SETTINGS | LOGOUT

QUERY | INBOX (1) | DATA SOURCES | ONTOLOGY | ADMINISTRATION | STATISTICS | HONEST BROKER | DOWNLOADS | HELP

USERS | INSTITUTIONS | CERTIFICATE AUTHORITY GENERATION CLOSE

Controls

Previous Explorations Select a Previous Exploration

GQ Zhang - Mon Jan 10 11:30:36 -0500 2011

Exploration

	Query	Data Set
Select a Query for Cases:	Cases-GQ	Jan 10, 2011 at 11:29 AM
Select a Query for Controls:	Controls-GQ	Jan 10, 2011 at 11:20 AM

Generate New Exploration

▼ Exploration Save |

Name GQ Zhang - Mon Jan 10 11:30:36 -0500 2011

Description case-control-test

Matching Algorithm Frequency Matching

Number of Controls For Each Case 2

Get Matched Controls!

▼ Matching Criteria

1:2 Matching Result

Stratum	Details	Cases	Available Controls	Matched Controls
1	Race finding: African	5	16	10
2	Race finding: Caucasian	34	162	68
3	Race finding: Unknown	1	16	2
Total		40	194	80

https://mimi.case.edu/queries/explorer

Matching Algorithm: Frequency Matching

Number of Controls For Each Case: 2

Get Matched Controls!

Stratum	Details	Cases	Available Controls	Matched Controls
1	Race finding: African	5	16	10
2	Race finding: Caucasian	34	162	68
3	Race finding: Unknown	1	16	2
Total		40	194	80

▼ Matching Criteria

☒ Race finding

Case

Control

Matched

Cases
(n = 40)

African: 5 (12.5%)
Caucasian: 34 (85.0%)
Unknown: 1 (2.5%)

Cases [Race finding]

☐ African ☐ American Indian
☐ Asian or Pacific islander ☐ Caucasian
☐ Mixed race ☐ Pacific islander

Available Controls
(n = 201)

African: 16 (8.0%)
Asian or Pacific islander: 7 (3.5%)
Caucasian: 162 (80.6%)
Unknown: 16 (8.0%)

Available Controls [Race finding]

☐ African ☐ American Indian
☐ Asian or Pacific islander ☐ Caucasian
☐ Mixed race ☐ Pacific islander

Matched Controls
(n = 80)

African: 10 (12.5%)
Caucasian: 68 (85.0%)
Unknown: 2 (2.5%)

Matched Controls [Race finding]

☐ African ☐ American Indian
☐ Asian or Pacific islander ☐ Caucasian
☐ Mixed race ☐ Pacific islander

▼ Available Concepts

☐ Adenosine diphosphate (ADP) receptor inhibitor

Concept

Cases
(n = 40)

False: 39 (97.5%)
True: 1 (2.5%)

Available Controls
(n = 201)

False: 199 (99.0%)
True: 1 (0.5%)

Matched Controls
(n = 80)

False: 80 (100.0%)

1:5 Matching?

https://mimi.case.edu/queries/explorer

Matching Algorithm: Frequency Matching
 Number of Controls For Each Case: 5
 Get Matched Controls!

Stratum	Details	Cases	Available Controls	Matched Controls
1	Race finding: African	5	16	16
2	Race finding: Caucasian	34	162	162
3	Race finding: Unknown	1	16	5
Total		40	194	183

▼ Matching Criteria

▼ ☒ Race finding

Concept

Cases (n = 40)

African: 5 (12.5%)
 Caucasian: 34 (85.0%)
 Unknown: 1 (2.5%)

Cases [Race finding]

Stratum	Details	Cases	Available Controls	Matched Controls
1	Race finding: African	5	16	16
2	Race finding: Caucasian	34	162	162
3	Race finding: Unknown	1	16	5
Total		40	194	183

Available Controls (n = 201)

African: 16 (8.0%)
 Asian or Pacific islander: 7 (3.5%)
 Caucasian: 162 (80.6%)
 Unknown: 16 (8.0%)

Available Controls [Race finding]

Matched Controls (n = 183)

African: 16 (8.7%)
 Caucasian: 162 (88.5%)
 Unknown: 5 (2.7%)

Matched Controls [Race finding]

African ■ American Indian
 Asian or Pacific islander
 Asian ■ Caucasian
 Mixed race ■ Pacific islander

► ☐ Adenosine diphosphate (ADP) receptor inhibitor

Concept

Cases (n = 40)

False: 39 (97.5%)
 True: 1 (2.5%)

Available Controls (n = 201)

False: 199 (99.0%)
 True: 1 (0.5%)

Matched Controls (n = 183)

False: 181 (98.9%)
 True: 1 (0.5%)

1:5 Matching – CFS+SHHS

Sleep Domain Ontology (SDO)

- Standardize terminology and semantics (define variations) [RO]
- Facilitate definition of data elements
- Valuable for data collection, data curation
- Data integration
- Data sharing and access
- Take advantage of progress in related areas (e.g. Gene Ontology)
- Improving data quality – provenance, reproducibility

Sleep Domain Ontology (SDO)

<https://mimi.case.edu/concepts>

Physio-MIMI - Ontology

https://mimi.case.edu/concepts?search=age

Google

PHYSIO-MIMI LOGIN | SIGN UP

Ontology

UNIQUE NAME	LABELS	DATA TYPE	UNITS	RANGE
DrugOntology:abciximab	Abciximab			
SDO:AbdominalRespiratoryExcursionFinding	Abdominal respiratory excursion finding			
	<i>A respiratory finding representing the amplitude of movement of the abdomen on inhalation and exhalation</i>			
SDO:Absence	Absence			
DrugOntology:acarbose	Acarbose			
DrugOntology:acetoexamide	Acetoexamide			
DrugOntology:adenosine_diphosphate_receptor_inhibitor	Adenosine diphosphate (ADP) receptor			

Sleep Domain Ontology (SDO)

<https://mimi.case.edu/concepts>

Physio-MIMI – Concept SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex

https://mimi.case.edu/concepts/5841

PHYSIO-MIMI LOGIN | SIGN UP

Concept SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex [view all concepts](#)

Qualified Name	SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex
URI	http://mimi.case.edu/ontologies/2009/1/SDO.owl#ApneaHypopneaIndex
Labels	Apnea hypopnea index (AHI)
Status	✓
Description	Calculation: total number of apneas and hypopneas divided by the number of hours of sleep.
Unit type	UnitsOntology:event_frequency
Units	UnitsOntology:events_per_hour
Range	0 : 250
Data Type	XMLSchema:integer
Formula	$\frac{\text{SDO:NumberOfSleepApneaFindings} + \text{SDO:NumberOfSleepHypopneaFindings}}{\text{SDO:TotalSleepTime}}$
Formula Concepts	SDO:NumberOfSleepApneaFindings SDO:NumberOfSleepHypopneaFindings SDO:TotalSleepTime
Relations	SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex <i>hasDataValue</i> XMLSchema:integer SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex <i>hasUnit</i> UnitsOntology:events_per_hour SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex <i>http://purl.org/cpr/includes</i> SDO:NumberOfSleepApneaFindings SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex <i>http://purl.org/cpr/includes</i> SDO:NumberOfSleepHypopneaFindings SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex <i>http://purl.org/cpr/includes</i> SDO:TotalSleepTime SDO:ApneaHypopneaIndex <i>statisticalMeasureOf</i> SDO:Index

Lineage

... Polysomnography measure										
Apnea hypopnea index (AHI)										
Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with 2% or more HbO2	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with 3% or more HbO2	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with 4% or more HbO2	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with 5% or more HbO2	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with Arousals or 2% or more	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with Arousals or 3% or more	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with Arousals or 4% or more	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) with Arousals or 5% or more	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) in supine position	Apnea Hypopnea Index (AHI) in supine position with 2% or

VISAGE Query Builder showing a data query on Parkinsonian Disorders and REM sleep behavior disorder with race demographics

Semantic Web + Provenance + Bench Research =
T.cruzi Semantic Problem Solving Environment

Semantic Problem Solving Environment for *T. cruzi*

Search and Retrieval System

Result

1. Trypomastigote
2. Amastigote

Result browser

Related PubMed articles

Correia-Pedrosa, M., Ramos, P., Caceres, S., 1999. Cyclic AMP and adenosine diphosphate stimulate *Trypanosoma cruzi* differentiation. Exp. Parasitol. 88, 203-212.
Hamer, J.J., Granger, S., Krasner, S.M., 1999. Some data indicating the isolation of metacyclic stages of *Trypanosoma cruzi*. J. Parasitol. 85, 130-139.

Search and Retrieval System

List names of *T. cruzi* lifecycle stages in human

☐ Perform exact search

Search

Web based user interface

Ontological Infrastructure

Data and Information sources

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Provenance in Scientific Experiments

Provenance in Scientific Experiments

Provenance in Scientific Experiments

- Provenance from the French word “*provenir*” describes the lineage or history of a data entity
- For Verification and Validation of Data Integrity, Process Quality, and Trust
- Semantic Provenance Framework addresses three aspects [Prov]
 - Provenance Modeling
 - Provenance Query Infrastructure
 - Scalable Provenance System

Domain-specific Provenance ontology

- Total Number of Classes - 118
- DL Expressivity – ALCHQ(D)

Provenance Query Classification

Classified Provenance Queries into Three Categories

- **Type 1: Querying for Provenance Metadata**
 - Example: *Which gene was used create the cloned sample with ID = 66?*
- **Type 2: Querying for Specific Data Set**
 - Example: *Find all knockout construct plasmids created by researcher Michelle using “Hygromycin” drug resistant plasmid between April 25, 2008 and August 15, 2008*
- **Type 3: Operations on Provenance Metadata**
 - Example: *Were the two cloned samples 65 and 46 prepared under similar conditions – compare the associated provenance information*

Provenance Query Operators

Four Query Operators – based on Query Classification

- *provenance* () – Closure operation, returns the complete set of provenance metadata for input data entity
- *provenance_context*() - Given set of constraints defined on provenance, retrieves datasets that satisfy constraints
- *provenance_compare* () - adapt the RDF graph equivalence definition
- *provenance_merge* () - Two sets of provenance information are combined using the RDF graph merge

Answering Provenance Queries using *provenance()* Operator

Implementation: Provenance Query Engine

- Three modules:
 - Query Composer
 - Transitive closure
 - Query Optimizer
- Deployable over a RDF store with support for reasoning

Application in *T.cruzi* SPSE Project

- Provenance tracking for gene knockout, strain creation, proteomics, microarray experiments
- Part of the Parasite Knowledge Repository [BKR]

W3C Provenance Working Group

- Define a “provenance interchange language for publishing and accessing provenance”
- Three working drafts:
 - **PROV-Data Model**: A conceptual model for provenance representation
 - **PROV-Ontology**: An OWL ontology for provenance representation
 - **PROV-Access and Query**: A framework to query and retrieve provenance on the Web

Semantic Web + Clinical Practice Informatics =
Active Semantic Electronic Medical Record
(ASEMR)

Semantic Web application in use

In daily use at Athens Heart Center

- 28 person staff
 - Interventional Cardiologists
 - Electrophysiology Cardiologists
- Deployed since January 2006
- 40-60 patients seen daily
- 3000+ active patients
- Serves a population of 250,000 people

Information Overload in Clinical Practice

- New drugs added to market
 - Adds interactions with current drugs
 - Changes possible procedures to treat an illness
- Insurance Coverage's Change
 - Insurance may pay for drug X but not drug Y even though drug X and Y are equivalent
 - Patient may need a certain diagnosis before some expensive test are run
- Physicians need a system to keep track of ever changing landscape

System though out the practice

System though out the practice

System though out the practice

System though out the practice

Active Semantic Document (ASD)

A document (typically in XML) with the following features:

- Semantic annotations
 - Linking entities found in a document to ontology
 - Linking terms to a specialized lexicon [TR]
- Actionable information
 - Rules over semantic annotations
 - Violated rules can modify the appearance of the document (Show an alert)

Active Semantic Patient Record

- An application of ASD
- Three Ontologies
 - Practice

Information about practice such as patient/physician data
 - Drug

Information about drugs, interaction, formularies, etc.
 - ICD/CPT

Describes the relationships between CPT and ICD codes
- Medical Records in XML created from database

Practice Ontology Hierarchy

(showing is-a relationships)

Drug Ontology Hierarchy

(showing is-a relationships)

Drug Ontology showing neighborhood of *PrescriptionDrug* concept

Part of Procedure/Diagnosis/ICD9/CPT Ontology

Semantic Technologies in Use

- Semantic Web: OWL, RDF/RDQL, Jena
 - OWL (constraints useful for data consistency), RDF
 - Rules are expressed as RDQL
 - REST Based Web Services: from server side
- Web 2.0: client makes AJAX calls to ontology, also auto complete

Problem:

- Jena main memory- large memory footprint, future scalability challenge
- Using Jena's persistent model (MySQL) noticeably slower

Architecture & Technology

Benefits: Athens Heart Center Practice Growth

Chart Completion before the preliminary deployment of the ASMER

Chart Completion after the preliminary deployment of the ASMER

Benefits of current system

- Error prevention (drug interactions, allergy)
 - Patient care
 - insurance
- Decision Support (formulary, billing)
 - Patient satisfaction
 - Reimbursement
- Efficiency/time
 - Real-time chart completion
 - “semantic” and automated linking with billing

Demo

[On-line demo of Active Semantic Electronic Medical Record](#)

deployed and in use at Athens Heart Center

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Direction

Conclusions

Benefits of SW in Health Informatics:

- RDF a “universal” data model; Application-purpose agnostic (clinical care vs research)
- Integration “ready,” supporting distributed query out of box
- Semantic interoperability addressed at root level
- Better support of user interfaces for data capture, data query, data integration
- Scalability demonstrated

Challenges and Future Directions

- Design and implementation of health information systems with RDF as primary data store from ground up
- User-friendly graphical query interface on top of SPARQL
- Managing Protected Health Information (PHI) e.g. data encryption “at rest” for RDF store
- From retrospective annotation of data (with ontology) to prospective annotation of data: ontology-driven data capture with annotation happening at the point of primary source (eliminating the need to annotate data retrospectively)
- Let ontology drive “everything”

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