INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LIBRARIANSHIP, 3(1), 105-106
ISSN:2474-3542

Practical Ontologies for Information Professionals. By David Stuart. Chicago, IL: ALA Neal-Shuman, 2016. 184 p. $88. ISBN-13: 9780838915110

In recent years, there has been an increase of interest in ontologies in the information profession that leads to a good number of articles and books published on this topic. For many years, librarians and other information professionals have been working with the semantic web which is the major driving force of the increasing attention in ontologies that involve in bringing data from various places to a dataset. The author of this book, David Stuart, explains the importance of ontologies for information discovery, introduces how information professionals can develop new ontologies and interrogate existing ontologies.

Stuart introduces ontologies with 7 chapters. Firstly, he defines the concept of ontologies. "An ontology is a formal representation of knowledge with rich semantic relationships between terms." He clarifies the differences between ontology and comparable terms that are often not differentiated to those who are new to the field. Those terms are taxonomies, thesaurus, and vocabularies. Readers can learn the concepts and terminology of the information organization through the book. The author also explains the functions of ontologies. With more and more data being created in the digital world, ontologies will help aid information retrieval, information management, and discovery of new information. Stuart proceeds to explain the relationships between ontologies and the semantic web. The library community has been engaged in publishing bibliographic metadata with linked data. The book provides librarians with ideas of how ontologies can be utilized to empower the linked data and the semantic web. In Chapter 3, he introduces some existing ontologies, their application, and roles for the digital world. The ontology languages discussed in the book include Resource Description Framework Schema (RDFS), Web Ontology Language (OWL) and Simple Knowledge Organization System (SKOS) which are extensively used for the semantic web and adopted by the library community.

In Chapter 4 and 5, Stuart introduces how to adopt ontologies, the tools for examining ontologies, the techniques for selecting ontologies and the approaches to reuse ontologies to accommodate one's own needs or to build new ontologies. He explains the steps for the librarians and information professionals to develop ontologies. In the following chapter, Stuart provides an insightful analysis on some interrogating tools such as RDF Query Language (SPARQL) and semantic web crawlers. The last chapter is a prospective conclusion on ontologies. Stuart is optimistic about the future of ontologies and thinks that ontologies will continue to come in a variety of forms, "open or closed, formal or informal, centralized or distributed." Stuart states that library and information professional should recognize the values of ontologies in data sharing, the possibility of the semantic web and the expansion of the library and information professional's work in the use of existing ontologies, or the development of new ontologies. With the new development of technology in the information profession, librarians no longer solely work with the library bibliographic metadata. There is a need for librarians to get familiar with the new trends

in the information age. Linked Data has been the hot topic of the web technologies in the library profession in recent years, and library professionals have been actively working in the areas. Librarians or information professionals will have many opportunities to work in these areas in the future. Nevertheless, ontologies are only one of the tools for semantic web in the information technology.

This book will be useful for LIS students, librarians and information professionals who do not have much background information about ontology and would like to get some basic concepts on ontologies and on how to build ontologies. The structure of the book is straightforward with main topics clearly laid out. The ideas and information are conveyed concisely. The limitation is that the book does not cover comprehensive hands-on practice with particular pieces of software for the development of ontologies. It focuses more on the principles and strategies of many aspects of ontologies. Besides, the book emphasizes informal ontologies rather than formal ontologies. To develop more formal and professional ontologies, one needs more extensive knowledge of computer science in addition to knowledge and skills on ontologies.

The book provides many resources about ontology if readers would like to explore this area in depth. Finally, it inspires some ideas for librarians to develop subject-specific ontology beyond creating bibliographic data.

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