

# Preface

This book compiles the perspectives, approaches and results of the research associated with three current Semantic Web Service (SWS) evaluation initiatives, namely the Semantic Service Selection (S3) contest,<sup>1</sup> the Semantic Web Service Challenge (SWS Challenge)<sup>2</sup> and the Web Service Challenge (WS Challenge).<sup>3</sup> The book will contain an overall overview and comparison of these initiatives as well as chapters contributed by authors that have taken part in one or more of these initiatives.

In addition, the participants are given the opportunity to focus on a comparative analysis of the features and performance of their tools with respect to other contest entries.

The goals of this book are to:

- Report results, experiences and lessons learned from diverse evaluation initiatives in the field of Semantic Web Services.
- Enable researchers to learn from and build upon existing work (SWS technology) and comparative results (SWS technology evaluation).
- Provide an overview of the state of the art with respect to implemented SWS technologies.
- Promote awareness among users and industrial tool providers about the variety of current Semantic service approaches.
- Provide information to enhance future evaluation methodologies and techniques in the field.

This book is aimed at two different types of readers. On the one hand, it is meant for researchers on SWS technology. These researchers will obtain an overview of existing approaches in SWS with a particular focus on how to evaluate SWS technology. In this community, the book will also encourage more thorough and

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<sup>1</sup><http://dfki.uni-sb.de/~klusch/s3/index.html>

<sup>2</sup><http://sws-challenge.org>

<sup>3</sup><http://wschallenge.org/>

methodological evaluation of new approaches. On the other hand, this book is meant for potential users of Semantic Web service technology and will provide them with an overview of existing approaches including their respective strengths and weaknesses and give them guidance on factors that should play a role in evaluation.

We hope the broader community will benefit from the insights gained from the experimental evaluation of the presented technologies. This book will extend the state of the art, which is concerned with developing novel technologies but often omits the experimental validation and explanation of their merits.

We would like to thank all the participants of the evaluation initiatives, who through their contributions promoted advances in the Semantic Web Service area.

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