

Preface

Common benchmarks, established evaluation procedures, comparable tasks, and public datasets are vital to ensure reproducible, evaluable, and comparable scientific results. To assess the current state of the art and foster the systematic comparison of contributions to the Semantic Web community, open challenges are now a key scientific element of the Semantic Web conferences. Following the success of the previous years, reflected by the high number of high-quality submissions, we organized the fourth edition of the “Semantic Web Challenges” as an official track of the ESWC 2017 conference (held in Portoroz, Slovenia, from May 28 to June 1, 2017), one of the most important international scientific events for the Semantic Web research community. The purpose of challenges is to validate the maturity of the state of the art in tasks common to the Semantic Web community and adjacent academic communities in a controlled setting of rigorous evaluation, thereby providing sound benchmarks, datasets, and evaluation approaches, which contribute to the advancement of the state of the art. This fourth edition included four challenges: Open Knowledge Extraction (OKE 2017), Semantic Sentiment Analysis (SSA 2017), Question Answering over Linked Data (QALD 7), and The Mighty Storage Challenge (MOCHA 2017). A total of 11 teams competed in the different challenges. The event attracted attendees from across the conference, with a high attendance for all challenge-related activities during ESWC 2017. This included the dedicated conference track and participation of challenge candidates during the ESWC poster and demo session. The very positive feedback and resonance suggests that the ESWC challenges provided a central contribution to the ESWC 2017 program.

This book includes the descriptions of all methods and tools that competed at Semantic Web Challenges 2017, together with a detailed description of the tasks, evaluation procedures, and datasets, offering to the community a snapshot of the advancement in those areas at that moment in time and material for replication of the results. The editors have divided the book content into four chapters, each dedicated to one area or challenge. Each chapter includes an introductory section by the challenge chairs providing a detailed description of the challenge tasks, the evaluation procedure, and associated datasets, and peer-reviewed descriptions of the participants’ methods, tools, and results.

We would like to thank all challenge chairs, whose hard work during the organization of the 2017 edition of the Semantic Web Challenges helped in making it a fruitful event. Thanks to their work, we experienced a successful and inspiring scientific event, and we are now able to deliver this book to the community.

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