

Ontologies in Various Domains: A New Perspective of Ideas

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Introduction

The term ontology came from two Greek words i.e., “Onto” and “logos”. It denotes “study or knowledge about everything that actually exists”. Philosophers defined the word “Ontology” in their own way. It is discipline of philosophy [1] that deals with structures of things, events, processes, and relations in every aspect of reality. In recent years, research in multidisciplinary fields has exploded in various sectors or domain. “Ontology” term from philosophy was adapted and repurposed to fit the needs of sectors or domain. The core goal of ontologies is to provide a vision of a domain. Ontologies consist of all relevant domain-specific terminologies and connections that help to identify core concepts and accumulate critical information related to the domain. Nowadays, ontology is deployed in various fields to capture the domain knowledge. The use of ontology in various sectors is shown in Fig.1 and explained further.

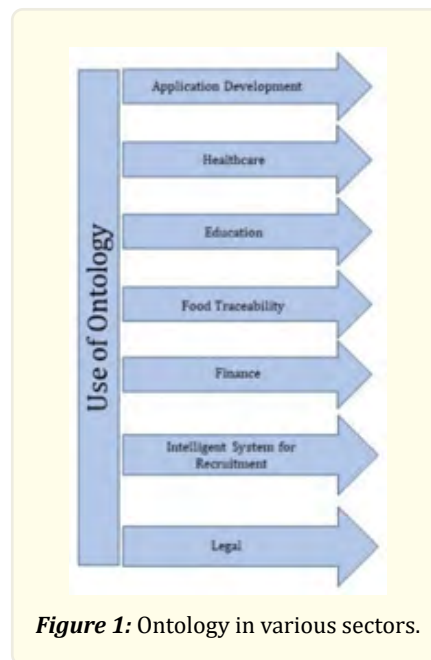


Figure 1: Ontology in various sectors.

Ontology for Application Development

An overview of various applications sectors [2] where ontology along with their usefulness have potential to deal with real issues. These sectors are knowledge management, semantic web, grid computing, multimedia and various pervasive computing environments.

Ontology for Food Traceability

Nowadays, food ontology [3] are created to serve the purpose of food traceability. Its major purpose is to bring together the most representatives food concepts in a supply chain and trace their service items, processes, food, etc.

Ontology for Healthcare

In recent decades, advancement in medical treatment and information technologies have broadened the scope of traditional medical practices. It opened new possibilities for speedy, diversified and dynamic enterprise level applications. Healthcare domain ontology helps to build these applications at the time of need. Domain ontology for healthcare [4] discussed and handled challenges particularly during an emergency.

Ontology for Intelligent system for Recruitment

In today's era, Employment is one of the major areas that require attention. Few available technologies provide simplifying job searches. The study discussed in [5] shows creation of an intelligent website that would function as a service provider for recruiters. In this study the recruitment domain is shown in ontological form that provides some matching of searches between candidate resume and job offers.

Ontology for Education

Ontology for education domain resolves many issues of designing courses. Using ontology, minute details of various courses can be precisely represented. These course ontologies [6] can be given to students to choose their future courses based on their qualifications.

Ontology for Legal

Legal ontologies are useful to create legal knowledge bases. Legal ontologies play a key role in representing and processing legal information. legal ontologies [7] used by practitioners are required for major purposes like organizing and structuring information present in legal documents, reasoning and problem solving, searching of the legal content, and understanding the domain knowledge.

Future Scope

As explained above, ontologies are being used in various domains for many purposes. It can be used to understand some issues and structure those issues to find real solutions. It plays a key role in developing knowledge bases. Still, ontologies in various sectors are somewhat unexplored territory. Solutions are there, but there is no clear insight regarding how the ontologies can be used. When should we use ontologies, instead of databases? These questions enumerate several future research directions for preparing ontologies in domains like Pharmacy, Transport, Justice Delivery, etc.

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