Enriching Webpages with Semantic Information

Norbaitiah Ambiah MIMOS BHD, Malaysia norbaitiah.ambiah@mimos.my

Dickson Lukose MIMOS BHD, Malaysia dickson.lukose@mimos.my

Abstract

This paper proposes a tool to automatically enrich webpages with semantic information by annotating keywords in the document with microdata markup. There are two case studies described and implemented in this paper. The first case study focuses on generating new webpages with microdata and the second case study focuses on enriching existing webpages with microdata. This paper also demonstrates the practicality of using schema.org terms in constructing a referenced ontology. Finally, a comparative study is conducted and the result shows that the proposed tool is more reliable in terms of performance and advanced features compared to other existing automatic microdata generator tools.

Keywords: microdata; Schema.org; schema.rdfs.org; keyword extraction; semantic annotation; semantic webpage; html5.

1. Introduction

In the current practice, most of the conventional webpages display information in HTML markup tags where this information is usually stored in a structured repository (e.g. database or knowledge base). The HTML tags in the webpages remove the structure of the data which actually reflects the important meaning of the represented data. Due to this limitation, search engines such as Bing, Google and Yahoo! have to rely only on a keyword-based approach during the searching process. This approach, however, is subject to some significant drawbacks. The search results are not 100% accurate and may not be relevant to the user's actual request. Therefore, the effort to enrich webpages with semantic information is highly needed for search engines to not only return more accurate results but also return meaningful information.

Some notable efforts in enriching web pages with semantic information are that of Dobrev and Strupchanska (2005) which perform semantic annotation of web pages in a semi-automated manner, and the works of Kudelka et al. (2006, 2009) that generates semantic annotation of web pages using web patterns. In June 2011, Google, Bing, and Yahoo! introduced Schema.org, a collection of terms for structured data markup on web pages to improve the display of search results (Hausenblas and Cyganiak, 2011). The latest HTML (i.e., HTML5) is an impressive version where it improves the HTML presentational elements to have a new lightweight semantic meta-syntax called microdata. Microdata attributes are defined in nestable groups of name-value pairs of data and together with Schema.org terms, give a new way to add semantic information in the webpages (Studholme, 2011). The structure of semantic information embedded in a webpage gives an important meaning to the data it represents. Moreover, this metadata can be described logically in a graph notation and can enrich the data by linking the resources to Linked Open Data (LOD).

In this paper, we propose a tool called Schema.org Microdata Creator (ScheMicCr) for automatically generating microdata syntax to build semantically annotated webpages. Our main objective is to enrich webpage with semantic information so that it easier for search engines like Google, Bing and Yahoo! to create semantic indexes. ScheMicCr tool is designed to be flexible so it can be applied in any domain. However, in this paper, the experiment focuses on constructing semantic annotated webpages of patent information.



This paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we explain the methodology and the sample result of the experimental work. In Section 3, we highlight the result of the comparative studies between our proposed tool and other available existing tools. Finally, in Section 4, we conclude the paper and state the future work for the proposed tool.

2. Methodology

The research methodologies for enriching webpages with semantic information are divided into two studies. The first study investigates a method for generating a new webpage with microdata; and, the second study investigates a method for enhancing an existing webpage with microdata.

In the first study, we generate a new webpage with microdata. We begin by modeling patent information and representing the patent metadata in the RDF formalism. This is followed by information extraction from patent knowledge base, metadata generation and webpage annotation. Finally, a new HTML webpage is composed with microdata to produce a semantically annotated webpage.

In the second study, we aim to enrich an existing webpage with microdata. The processes involved include: entity recognition, metadata generation and webpage annotation. The entity recognition process uses a Text Annotation Engine called T-ANNE (Xian et al., 2012) that utilizes the Named Entity Recognition technique developed by Nadeau (2007), to identify any semantic entities in the webpage that match the entities from the patent knowledge base. In general, T-ANNE is a knowledge-based solution for entity recognition that is able to identify any semantic entities from a given knowledge base. It matchs semantic entities that occur in the text with the resources stored in knowledge base and returns the references (URI) of the identified resources (Xian et al., 2012).

2.1 Generating new Webpages with Semantic Information

2.1.1. Patent Information Knowledge Modeling

The modeling of patent knowledge begins with the conceptualization of the patent information concepts, properties and individuals and representing them using semantic technology—i.e., RDF (Manolo et al., 2004), RDFS (Brickley et al., 2004) and OWL¹ (Smith et al., 2004). The Spiral Modeling technique (Mohamed et al., 2010) is used to model the ontology and Top-Braid Composer (TopQuadrant, 2007) is used to engineer the ontology. The Schema.org terms are represented using RDFS vocabulary in schema.rdfs.org (Hausenblas and Cyganiak, 2011). We use schema.rdf.org in our ontology to represents the metadata about patent information. Figures 1 and 2 depict some of the resources in the ontology.

The patent knowledge base stores three main groups of information. They are patent document, assignee, and inventor. Patent document has the following set of properties: *title*, *abstract*, *claims*, *description*, *patent number*, *application number*, *filing date*, *publication date*, *copyright year*, *creator (inventor)*, *copyright holder (assignee)*, *examiner*, *attorney*, *reference cited*, and *patent classification*. Assignee, has a set of properties: *company name*, *company address*, *patent owned* and *co-filing activity*, while the properties such as *inventor name*, *inventor address*, *coauthorship*, and *patent invented* is associated with the inventor group. Although we use a lot of schema.org terms in the patent knowledge base, there are still a few specific terms that do not exist in schema.org, but are necessary for our modeling purpose. For instance, we define a *hasClaim* property to describe patent claims and a *hasReferenceCited* property to describe patent citation.



¹ We use OWL version 2 - http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl

Figure 3 depicts an example of patent information and how the data is structured and represented in our Patent knowledge base².



FIG.1. Overview of the Classes in Patent Ontology

FIG.2. Overview of the Properties in Patent Ontology



FIG.3. Metadata of Patent Number 8068613

2.1.2. Generating new webpage with Microdata

The ScheMicCr tool is made up of two main components. The first component, which is used for generating a new webpage with microdata, has two processes: information extraction and semantic annotation process. Figure 4 illustrates these processes. The first process extracts the candidate items and their attributes from Patent Knowledge Base. For example, the system



² Only partial information is depicted in the diagram for simplified illustration. Other information that is not depicted in the diagram are patent number, examiner, attorney , filing date and copyright year, reference cited, co-filing, coauthorship, and cooperationship.

extracts each patent document and the associated attributes such as title, description, creator, copyright holder, claims and publication date. Next, in the second process, these data are passed to the Microdata Generator, which generates microdata tags. Then, the Webpage Annotation Processor renders predefined html with the microdata tags to produce a semantically annotated webpage.

We execute the process using the example shown in Figure 3. Figure 6 depicts the result: a partial html source annotated with microdata tags. The information in a web browser will not be affected, as illustrated in Figure 5, although the html source has been enriched with microdata.



FIG.4. Overall process of generating new webpage with microdata

| Patent No 8068613 | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Title | Method and apparatus for remotely provisioning software-based security coprocessors | | | | |
| Abstract | A virtual security coprocessor is created in a first processing system. The virtual security coprocessor is then transferred to a second processing system, for use by the second processing system | | | | |
| Inventor | Vincent R Scaralata | | | | |
| Assignee | Intel Corporation | | | | |
| Publication Date | 29/11/2011 | | | | |
| Application Number | 12/563,212 | | | | |

FIG.5. Information for Patent No 8068613 displayed in a web browser





FIG.6. A generated HTML source with microdata

2.2. Enriching existing webpage with Microdata

To enrich an existing webpage with microdata, we developed another component that performs semantic annotation, as illustrated in Figure 7. The process starts with T-ANNE. It identifies semantic entities that occur in the existing webpage (text); associates these entities to the resources stored in patent knowledge base and returns the references (URI) of the identified entities. Next, these references (URI) are passed to the Microdata Generator to generate the microdata tags. Finally, Webpage Annotation Processor replaces the identified entity in the existing webpage with the microdata tags to produce a semantically annotated webpage.



FIG.7. Overall process of enriching existing webpage with Microdata

We are using two types of webpage for our experimental work. The first type is a structure-text webpage from the freepatentonline³ website. Figure 8 depicts a snapshot of a structured webpage for Patent Number 8068613 displayed in a web browser. For the purpose of a simplified illustration, we only show the information about the title, abstract, inventor, application number,

³ www.freepatentonline.com

publication date, filing date, and assignee. The snippet of partial original HTML source is depicted in Figure 9 and the result of annotated webpage is depicted in Figure 10.

| Home | Search Communities Products & Services About Us Help Login | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Title: | Method and apparatus for remotely provisioning software-based security coprocessors | | | |
| Abstract: | A virtual security coprocessor is created in a first processing system. The virtual security coprocessor is then transferred to a second processing system, for use by the second processing system. For instance, the second processing system may use the virtual security coprocessor to provide attestation for the second processing system. In an alternative embodiment, a virtual security coprocessor from a first processing system is received at a second processing system. After receiving the virtual security coprocessor from the first processing system, the second processing system uses the virtual security coprocessor. Other embodiments are described and claimed. | | | |
| Inventors: | Scaralata, Vincent R. (Beaverton, OR, US) | | | |
| Application Number: | 12/563212 | | | |
| Publication Date: | 11/29/2011 | | | |
| Filing Date: | 09/21/2009 | | | |
| Assignee: | Intel Corporation (Santa Clara, CA, US) | | | |

FIG.8. Snapshot of structure-text webpage for Patent No 8068613 from www.freepatentonline.com



FIG.9. Snippet of original structure-text HTML Source (without microdata)



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| <pre><itemscope itemtype="http://schema.org/Sculpture"></itemscope></pre> |
|---|
| TITLE |
| <div class="disp_doc2"> <div class="disp_elm_title">Title:</div></div> |
| <pre><div class="disp elm text"> Method and apparatus for remotely provisioning software-based security coprocessors </div></pre> |
| Document Type |
| <pre><div class="disp_doc2"> <div class="disp_elm_text" style="clear: none;"> United States Patent 8068613</div></div></pre> |
| |
| Abstract |
| <div class="disp doc2"> <div class="disp elm title">Abstract:</div></div> |
| <pre><div class="disp elm text"></div></pre> |
| A virtual security coprocessor is created in a first processing system. The virtual security coprocessor |
| is then transferred to a second processing system, for use by the second processing system. For instance, |
| the second processing system may use the virtual security coprocessor to provide attestation for the second processing system. In an alternative embodiment, a virtual security coprocessor from a first processing system is received at a second processing system. After receiving the virtual security coprocessor from the first processing system uses the virtual security |
| oprocessor. Other embodiments are described and claimed. |
| Inventors |
| <pre><div class="disp doc2"> <div class="disp elm title">Inventors:</div></div></pre> |
| <pre><div class="disp elm text"> <itemscope itemtype="http://schema.org/Person"></itemscope></div></pre> |
| Application Number |
| <div class="disp_doc2"> <div class="disp_elm_title">Application Number:</div></div> |
| <pre><div class="disp_elm_text"> 12/563212 </div></pre> |
| Publication Date |
| <pre><div class="disp_doc2"> <div class="disp_elm_title">Publication Date:</div></div></pre> |
| <pre><div class="disp_elm_text"> 11/29/2011 </div></pre> |
| Filing Date |
| <pre><div class="disp_doc2"> <div class="disp_elm_title">Filing Date:</div></div></pre> |
| <pre><div class="disp_elm_text"> 09/21/2009 </div></pre> |
| Assignee |
| <div class="disp_doc2"> <div class="disp_elm_title">Assignee:</div></div> |
| <pre><div class="disp_elm_text"> <itemscope itemtype="http://schema.org/Organization"></itemscope></div></pre> |

FIG.10. Snippet of enriched structure-text HTML Source (with microdata)

The second type of experimental webpage used is the free-text (natural language) webpage. Figure 11 depicts the snippet of original HTML source while the result of the annotated webpage is shown in Figure 12.



FIG.11. Snippet of original free-text HTML Source (without microdata)







2.3. Microdata Validation

There exist a few tools that can perform microdata validation such as Validatornu⁴ and RDFa 1.1 Validator⁵. For our experiment, we utilize Validatornu to determine if valid syntax was used in the generated microdata. Figure 13 shows the validation result of generated microdata depicted from Figure 12 (free-text webpage)⁶. It shows that the microdata syntax is valid.

| 1. | . Info: The Content-Type was text/html. Using the HTML parser. |
|----|--|
| 2. | . Info: Using the schema for HTML5 + SVG 1.1 + MathML 2.0 + RDFa Lite 1.1. |
| Th | he document validates according to the specified schema(s) and to additional constraints checked by the validator. |

FIG.13. Microdata validation result from Validatornu

Although we do not focus on how the semantic information can be extracted from the annotated HTML webpage, there are a lot of publically available software libraries that can be used to extract the semantic details. These libraries and plugin serve as Microdata parser and are able to process the resulting RDF. Some of these libraries are listed in the Table 1.

| Library Name | Script Language | Reference URL |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|
| AnythingToTriples (Any23) | Java | http://developers.any23.org/ |
| MicrodataJS | Javascript | http://gitorious.org/microdatajs |
| MicrodataPHP | PHP | https://github.com/linclark/MicrodataPHP |
| RDF-MicrodataGem | Ruby | https://github.com/gkellogg/rdf-microdata |
| Mida | Ruby | http://lawrencewoodman.github.com/mida/ |
| rdflib | Python | https://github.com/edsu/rdflib-microdata |

TABLE 1: Microdata parser library

3. Comparison Studies

The comparative studies outlined in this section have been carried out from the perspective of generating webpages with semantic information. We conducted two comparative studies between ScheMicCr and five existing tools. The first study is related to the functionality coverage of the tools. The features we explored include ability to generate new webpages with semantically annotated information, ability to annotate existing webpages, to utilise elements from Schema.org in the microdata generation, to perform RDF to Microdata conversion and to perform Named Entity Recognition. Table 2 lists down the results of the comparative study on functionalities of the tools. From the result, all tools have a feature to generate new webpages with semantic information and utilize schema.org in microdata generation. However, none of the tools, except ScheMicCr, are able to annotate existing webpages and utilise entity recognition technique to identify the entities that will be used for annotation purpose.



⁴ http://validator.nu/

⁵ http://www.w3.org/2012/pyRdfa/Validator.html

⁶ All the generated microdata has been tested and validated. We only show the result of free-text microdata in the diagram for illustration purpose.

| Feature/ Tool | New webpage generation | Existing webpage enrichment | SchemaOrg- Microdata generation | RDF to Microdata conversion | Utilize Named Entity Recognition |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ScheMicCr | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| microDATA Generator ⁷ | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| RDF2Microdata Converter ⁸ | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| SchemaCreator ⁹ | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| SchemFied ¹⁰ | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| HTML5 Microdata Template ¹¹ | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |

TABLE 2: Feature Comparison

The second study focuses on the qualitative features among the six tools. The qualitative areas that we look into are flexibility, expressiveness, performance, accuracy, and advanced features as shown in Table 3 where the feature metrics are based on our impression scale rating generated based on analyzing 7050 data items in 65 patent documents. For example, the "expressiveness" feature is rated 1 for any tool that has *very poor functionalities* in expressing information, 2 for tools that have *poor functionalities* for the same, 3 for tools with *limited functionalities*, 4 for tools with *adequate functionalities*, while a rating of 5 is given to any tools with *extensive functionalities* to express information.

Based on the qualitative Feature Metrics given in Table 3, a comparative study is conducted on all the tools. Results of this study are listed in Table 4. As shown in the spider chart in Figure 14, ScheMicCr performed reasonably well comparing with its counterparts in this study.

| Qualitative Feature | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Metrics | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Flexibility (Able to | n/a (not able to | n/a (not able to | Not Flexible and | Flexible and | Very flexible |
| process any type of | measure) | measure) | rigid (fixed type | accept any type of | |
| data) | | | of data) | data | |
| | Very poor | Poor functionality | Limited | Adequate | Wide range |
| | functionality to | to express | functionality to | functionality to | functionality to |
| | express | information | express | express all | express all |
| | information | | information | information | information and |
| Expressiveness (Express | | | | | can be extendable |
| information) | | | | | (inference) |
| | n/a (not able to | No performance | No | No performance | No performance |
| | measure) | issue to handle | performance | issue to handle | issue to handle |
| | | very small data | issue to handle | medium datasets | large datasets (|
| | | sets (<200 data) | small data | (500-999 data) | >1000 data) |
| Performance (Handling | | | sets(200-499 | | |
| large dataset) | | | data) | | |
| Accuracy (Correctness of | <20% correct | <50% correct | <70% correct | <90% correct | 100% correct |
| generated microdata) | | | | | |
| | n/a (not able to | No advanced | At least has one | At least has two | At least has three |
| Advanced | measure) | features | advanced | advanced features | advanced |
| Features(Named entity | | | features | | features or more |
| recognition, RDF to | | | | | |
| Microdata conversion | | | | | |
| and existing webpage | | | | | |
| enrichment feature) | | | | | |

⁸ RDF2Microdata Converter - http://www.ebusiness-unibw.org/tools/rdf2microdata/



⁷ microDATA Generator - http://www.microdatagenerator.com/

⁹ SchemaCreator - http://schema-creator.org

¹⁰ SchemaFied - http://schemafied.com/

¹¹ HTML5 Microdata Template - http://microdata.freebaseapps.com/

| Qualitative Feature | ScheMicCr | microDATA Generator | RDF2Microdata Converter | Schema Creator | SchemFied | HTML5 Microdata Template |
|---|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Flexibility | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Expressiveness | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Performance | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Accuracy | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Advanced Feature | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| (Pated 1 to E) where 1 is Lowest and E is Highest | | | | | | |

TABLE 4: Qualitative Feature Comparison

(Rated 1 to 5) where 1 is Lowest and 5 is Highest



FIG.14. Spider Chart depicting the Qualitative Feature Comparison

4. Conclusion and Future Works

In this paper, we first described how we modeled and engineered the patent knowledge based using the Schema.org terms. We then demonstrated and explained two case studies along with the approach to automatically generation of microdata with Schema.org annotation to enrich html webpages with semantic information. From the qualitative feature comparison, we find that, ScheMicCr significanty leads the other existing tools in terms of its ability to handle mass data (performance) and its advanced features including named entity recognition and existing webpage enrichment feature. For enriching existing webpages, we found our tool to perform adequately as long as the information it is seeking is in the knowledge base. In order words, our tool is totally depended on the knowledge base. Efforts in enriching the knowledge base specific to a particular domain are necessary to ensure high quality annotation.

As for the future work, we will be focusing on benchmarking ScheMicCr by performing deep analysis with large and complex datasets. We will also move from qualitative benchmarking to quantitative benchmarking. We plan to focus on evaluation metrics to improve the system performance by reducing erroneous detection of semantic entities, and incorporating linguistic processing techniques to detect relationships between these entities.

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