

Semantic Web for the Working Ontologist

***Effective Modeling for Linked Data,
RDFS, and OWL***

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Working Ontologist LLC

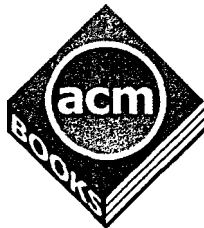
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Preface

It has been nearly a decade since the second edition of *Semantic Web for the Working Ontologist* came out, and we are pleased to now be able to present the third edition. While we are gratified to find that a book about technology is still in demand after such a long time (and the first edition was 12 years ago!), some explanation is in order as to why it took so long for a third edition to be written.

For much of the intervening time, we would be occasionally be asked about a third edition. At first, our answer was that the standards had not progressed enough to warrant a third edition. But after the ratification of the Shapes Constraint Language (SHACL) for RDF, the release of Schema.org, and the settling down of a protocol for sharing data on the web (the Linked Data Protocol), this answer became disingenuous at best. The truth of the matter was that we had both moved on to other projects, and were not feeling energetic about updating the material.

Until one day, it was Fabien Gandon who asked the question. Jim told him that we were both over-committed, and hinted that perhaps what we needed was a third author, to bring a new viewpoint and energy to the project. With a little bit of arm-twisting, Fabien agreed to take on that role. So we welcome Fabien as a new author. Without his energy and initiative, this project would never have happened.

In writing this edition, we realized that the experiences we have gained, both positive and not, in working on real projects for government and industry, as well as in large academic networks, had helped us to develop a more mature understanding of what role the Semantic Web stack really can play in much larger scale projects. Further, we have been seeing the role of semantics on the web not just expand, but become crucial to the modern web ecosystem which increasingly includes artificial intelligence, large-scale E-commerce, and an increasing ubiquity of knowledge graph systems. The new examples and modeling techniques discussed in this edition, are motivated by many of the projects we have been