dblp Advisory Board meeting 2019-09-19

- September 19-20, 2019, 16:00
- Schloss Dagstuhl, Oktavieallee, 66687 Wadern, Germany

Participants on location

- Hannah Bast (University of Freiburg, Germany)
- Guillaume Cabanac (University of Toulouse, France)
- Martin Fenner (DataCite, Germany)
- Rüdiger Reischuk (University of Lübeck, Germany)
- Ralf Schenkel (University of Trier, Germany)
- Raimund Seidel (Saarland University and Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany)
- Michael Ley (Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany)
- Oliver Hoffmann (Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany)
- Marcel R. Ackermann (Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany)
- Florian Reitz (Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany)
- Michael Wagner (Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany)

Participants via Skype:

- Silvio Peroni (University of Bologna, Italy)
- Lydia Pintscher (Wikimedia Deutschland, Germany)

Absent with valid excuse

- Ruzica Piskac (Yale University, CT, USA)

Meeting minutes

Thursday, Sep 19, 2019

Item 0: Greetings and Introduction

Item 1: Overview presentation dblp

Presentation: Marcel R. Ackermann (slides can be found in shared folder)

Discussion:

- current WikiData integration: some publications do have WikiData items linked (mainly life sciences)
- Indexing of Science and Nature still a problem (mainly out-of-scope and hard to filter for CS)

Item 2: Upcoming improvements/tasks

Presentation: Florian Reitz (slides can be found in shared folder)

Discussion:

- Granularity of institution data still an open question
- No intention to do actual bibliometrics, we just provide data facts
- Citation data: cooperation with OpenCitations.net, arXiv?
- Need to distinguish between feedback and support
- Learn how dblp is actually used by its users
- dblp should be aware of their competition (eg: Semantic Scholar, Google Scholar, ResearchGate)

Priority next steps to do:

- Conceive a user survey and learn more about user's priorities (more discussion tomorrow)
- Build scalable infrastructure for user requests / error reports (prerequisite before launching institutional bibliographies)

Item 3: Mission of the board

- Earlier board was intended to act as a program committee, but this approach failed.
- We discussed the specification of the board's tasks.

The following has been agreed upon:

1. advise and prioritization w.r.t. the further development of dblp
2. bringing up new ideas and directions
3. helping with connections to other stakeholders and external projects
4. monitoring development and neutrality of the database and the transparency of our processes

Open questions to resolve:

- What statistics/figures will help the board to monitor dblp?

Friday, Sep 20, 2019

Item 4: Data license

- So far dblp metadata is published under ODC-by license
- License was chosen before CC 4.0 was appropriate for databases

Problems:

- ODC-by difficult to share with CC0 resources like WikiData
- Attribution cannot be enforced anyways
- Concerns about license compliance may hinder reuse

The board advises:

- Switch to CC0 license
- For a transition period, additionally publish under ODC-by license

Item 5: Ideas for a user survey

Goals:

- Most important question: Understand what users are doing
- Quantify feature requests
- Learn how dblp is cited in research papers

Methodology:

- Broad user survey, allow for opt-in to in depth questions (interviews?)
- Explore means for continuous feedback collection and starting a community discussion
- Study incoming links to dblp

To do:

- Prepare a concept to be discussed with the board

Item 6: dblp and GDPR

Presentation: current policy of handling deletion requests (slides can be found in shared folder)

Discussion:

- How WikiData handles GDPR (everyone can delete)
- Guillaume Cabanac will ask for advise from CNRS lawyer

The board advises:

- Keep using the current policy
- Write down policy and document handling of cases

Item 7: chair, rules of procedure, organization

Hannah Bast is elected as chair of the dblp Advisory Board.

Presentation: draft of updated bylaws (slides can be found in shared folder)

Discussion:

- The board agrees to most of the items in the bylaws
- The list of tasks needs a revision

To do:

- Hannah Bast will make a revision to the formulation of the tasks
- Marcel R. Ackermann will create a cloud folder and mailing list for the board
- A call for topics should be sent some weeks in advance before the next meeting

Item 8: Brainstorming for networking opportunities

- learned societies like Informatics Europe or ACM
- Software Heritage (also: WikiData for Digital Preservation)
- German National Library
- OpenAIRE
- Semantic Scholar
- Google Scholar
- Crossref
- ORCID
- WikiData
- other discipline's DBs like IDEAS or inSprire

Next meeting

- September 17-18, 2020
- at Schloss Dagstuhl

To do

dblp team

- prepare a user study
- infrastructure for user requests (esp: affiliation)
- license change to CC0

Marcel R. Ackermann

- create a cloud folder for board
- create mailing list for board
- reserve slot for next meeting in Dagstuhl

Hannah Bast

- revision to the formulation of the tasks in bylaws