Dear Readers:

We are convinced that Semantic Web has a broad impact, and that this impact will redefine how we interact at a personal level using the Web-centric technologies as well as how business is conducted in a networked global economy. Several recent blogs address the issue of why Semantic Web technologies increasingly are more pervasive and why the industry needs them (see www.sigsemis.org for pointers). This is an effort to address the larger ecosystem for realizing the vision of the Semantic Web, providing a high-quality forum for sharing fundamental research and theories, models and methodologies, applications and evaluations, and studies of effectiveness. In this context, we have taken a lead to go beyond the computer science and technological issues and involve members of the broader Information Systems community who bring with them economic and management perspectives. Having been simultaneously involved in academic research as well as technology development and industrial application activities, this attempt to marry theory and practice is personally appealing to me. However, this is a challenging task; I am sure we will need to be somewhat flexible and agile, and adapt as we grow deeper roots. At the same time, we subscribe to the principles of developing a high-quality journal. This means we will strive to reach the quality and selectivity so that we are in the top one-third in terms of citation index in a three-year time frame. Achieving this objective while being currently relevant and serving the broader community will be a challenge. We also are going to attempt occasionally to bring vision-oriented as well as high-quality surveys or tutorially oriented papers, when they help organize this emerging field or have a value added contribution in terms of methodologies and architectures.

This journal brings three refereed papers. The first, by Bry et al., is titled “Querying the Web Reconsidered: Design Principles for Versatile Web Query Language.” In this paper the authors provide a milestone based on an experience with research, standardized query languages for the conventional Web, and the emerging query languages for the Semantic Web. They offer a reconsideration of design principles for Web and Semantic Web query languages. They present features of “versatile query languages that can cope up markups and rep-
resentations used for traditional Web and Semantic Web. One key aspect they argue for is the support for incomplete data specifications ("incomplete queries") and incomplete data selections ("incomplete answers").

The second paper titled “A Layered Model for Building Ontology Translation Systems” is authored by Corcho and Gómez-Pérez. It presents a model for building ontology translation systems between ontology languages and/or ontology tools.

Although there is a growing literature on ontology translation (and significant earlier literature on related topics of schema mapping and translation), the broader perspective of this chapter comes from considering four different layers: lexical, syntax, semantic, and pragmatic. This issue also proposes a method that guides in the process of developing ontology translation systems based on four main activities: feasibility study, analysis of source and target formats, design, and implementation of the translation system, and recommends the techniques to be used inside each of them.

The third and final paper of this issue is one of our occasional survey papers presenting the state of the art of an over rapidly evolving field. The paper is titled “A Survey on Ontology Creation Methodologies” and is authored by Cristani and Cuel. The key value-add of this survey paper is in the form of offering a systematic analysis of current approaches in developing domain ontologies that can be used to understand the inspiring motivation, the applicability context, and the structure of the approaches. The paper also presents a classification identifying bottom-up and top-down methodologies that are claimed to be useful both from theoretical and deployment practice perspectives.

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