3rd Conference on Language, Data and Knowledge

LDK 2021, September 1–3, 2021, Zaragoza, Spain

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OASls – OpenAccess Series in Informatics

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ISSN 1868-8969

https://www.dagstuhl.de/oasics
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Preface

This volume presents the proceedings of the 3rd Conference on Language, Data and Knowledge (LDK 2021) held in Zaragoza, Spain from September 1–3, 2021. Language, Data and Knowledge is a biennial conference series on matters of human language technology, data science, and knowledge representation, initiated in 2017 by a consortium of researchers from the Insight Centre for Data Analytics at the National University of Ireland, Galway (Ireland), the Institut für Angewandte Informatik (InfAI) at the University of Leipzig (Germany), and the Applied Computational Linguistics Lab (ACoLi) at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany), and it has been supported by an international Scientific Committee of leading researchers in Natural Language Processing, Linked Data and Semantic Web, Language Resources and Digital Humanities. This initial conference was successfully continued in the second edition of LDK in Leipzig, Germany in 2019, organized by the Institut für Angewandte Informatik (InfAI) and co-organized by the Insight Centre for Data Analytics and the Applied Computational Linguistics Lab (ACoLi).

This third edition of the LDK conference is hosted by the University of Zaragoza in Zaragoza, Spain. Major support was provided by the NexusLinguarum COST Action CA18209 “European network for Web-centred linguistic data science”, the Prêt-à-LLOD project funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 825182, and the University of Zaragoza.

As a biennial event, LDK aims at bringing together researchers from across disciplines concerned with the acquisition, curation and use of language data in the context of data science and knowledge-based applications. With the advent of the Web and digital technologies, an ever increasing amount of language data is now available across application areas and industry sectors, including social media, digital archives, company records, etc. The efficient and meaningful exploitation of this data in scientific and commercial innovation is at the core of data science research, employing NLP and machine learning methods as well as semantic technologies based on knowledge graphs.

Language data is of increasing importance to machine learning-based approaches in NLP, Linked Data and Semantic Web research and applications that depend on linguistic and semantic annotation with lexical, terminological and ontological resources, manual alignment across language or other human-assigned labels. The acquisition, provenance, representation, maintenance, usability, quality as well as legal, organizational and infrastructure aspects of language data are therefore rapidly becoming major areas of research that are at the focus of the conference.

Knowledge graphs is an active field of research concerned with the extraction, integration, maintenance and use of semantic representations of language data in combination with semantically or otherwise structured data, numerical data and multimodal data among others. Knowledge graph research builds on the exploitation and extension of lexical, terminological and ontological resources, information and knowledge extraction, entity linking, ontology learning, ontology alignment, semantic text similarity, Linked Data and other Semantic Web technologies. The construction and use of knowledge graphs from language data, possibly and ideally in the context of other types of data, is a further specific focus of the conference.

A further focus of the conference is the combined use and exploitation of language data and knowledge graphs in data science-based approaches to use cases in industry, including biomedical applications, as well as use cases in humanities and social sciences.
In total, 71 papers were submitted and reviewed by 69 reviewers. Typically, at least 3 reviews per paper resulted in 38 accepted papers for oral and poster presentations. As a novel feature, LDK 2021 had a special track for “Crazy New Ideas”, that is, short abstracts that provide the occasion to present challenging research ideas that have not yet been fully explored or that the researchers would like to see in ten years from now. This category was decidedly aimed at research creativity and sparking interesting novel discussions within the LDK community. Three such crazy new ideas could be accepted for LDK and for publication.
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