

Semantic Faceted Search in a Citizens' Health Portal

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Abstract

This paper presents TerveSuomi.fi, a prototype of a national semantic health portal in Finland. TerveSuomi.fi aggregates ontological metadata created by various Finnish health organizations in a distributed environment. The portal provides a faceted search user interface created from the perspective of ordinary citizens and cross-links documents from multiple sources with recommendations based on ontological knowledge.

1 Introduction

TerveSuomi.fi is a national health portal under construction that provides citizens with reliable and up-to-date health information created by the National Health Institute¹ and affiliated health organizations in Finland. The content includes metadata of thousands of web documents such as web pages, articles (e.g., “Dangers of smoking”), reports, campaign information (e.g., “National non-smoking week”), news, services, and other information related to health. Our technical challenge is to develop methods and tools 1) for creating and annotating the content by distributed information providers, 2) for aggregating the semantic content and making it semantically interoperable, and 3) for providing the citizens with easy to use semantic search and browsing of the content.

2 Ontological Metadata

The portal requires the web documents to be described in a uniform and machine-readable manner. A metadata schema specifies what information has to be expressed about each document and ontologies define the shared concepts by which the information is given. The metadata schema is based on the the Dublin Core Element Set², along with refinements introduced in DCMI Terms³. We have also created some additional refinements to DCMI elements. For example, the *dc:type* field has been refined with a *genre* field, with values such as *News item*, *Organizational information* and *Research*.

The ontologies are based on freely available thesauri that are widely used by health organizations in Finland: 1) The

Finnish version of the international Medical Subject Headings⁴ (FinMeSH), which includes approximately 23 000 concepts. 2) The Finnish General Upper Ontology (YSO)⁵ that includes approximately 23 000 concepts. 3) The Finnish version of the European Health Promotion Thesaurus⁶ (HP-MULTI). HPMULTI includes approximately 1200 concepts, which are all mapped to YSO and FinMeSH.

3 Distributed Semantic Content Creation

All content providers commit to the following rules when creating content for the portal: All content must be 1) identified by unique URIs, 2) be available on the web, 3) be described with metadata, using 4) concepts from the given ontologies.

Ordinary content management systems (CMS) do not currently support ontological metadata, only freetext and controlled vocabularies. In our case, four different ways for creating and storing ontological metadata are supported:

1) The ontologies can be used like traditional controlled vocabularies in existing CMSs as long as the source vocabulary for each concept is indicated. Human-readable concept labels are used in indexing, and the CMS does not have to support ontologies or URIs. The mapping of the labels to concept URIs is done outside of the CMS. The CMS must be able to export the metadata as RDF or HTML meta tags.

2) Ontological functionalities such as concept search and storing of ontological metadata can be added to an existing CMS. The ontology server ONKI provides, e.g., a web service interface, an HTML/Ajax component which can be included in the editing page of a CMS, and an HTML-based user interface for looking up concepts [Komulainen *et al.*, 2005]. The ontology files can also be downloaded from ONKI, if the content provider chooses to implement the ontological services inside the CMS. In all cases, the CMS must store the concept URIs as a part of the metadata. The CMS must be able to export the metadata, preferably as RDF.

3) The semantic annotation editor SAHA can be used for storing document metadata either combined with an existing CMS or as an independent system [Valkeapää *et al.*, 2007]. This solution can be used if the content provider does not have a CMS, the CMS cannot be used for storing metadata

¹<http://www.ktl.fi>

²<http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/>

³<http://dublincore.org/documents/dcml-terms/>

⁴<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>

⁵<http://www.seco.tkk.fi/ontologies/ys/>

⁶<http://www.hpmulti.net/>

or the content is created by a third party. SAHA supports exporting the metadata in RDF.

4) Semantically rich content metadata may be transformed automatically to the ontological metadata format used in the health portal. The transformation is done in two steps: First the ontologies, classifications, thesauri etc. are mapped to the health portal ontologies. Then the metadata is transformed using these mappings.

4 User-centric Faceted Search

The user interface of the portal (Figure 1) is based on the view-based semantic search paradigm [Hyvönen *et al.*, 2004]. A special problem in TerveSuomi.fi is that the ontologies used for annotating the health content are intended for health information professionals to use, whereas the portal is mainly targeted at the general public. This means that the annotation ontologies and their concept hierarchies cannot be used directly for querying in navigational facets, as in semantic portals such as MuseumFinland⁷. Instead, we have constructed new, citizen-centric facets and mapped these to the underlying ontologies [Suominen *et al.*, 2007]. The primary navigational facets are Topic, Life event, Group of people and Body part. The interface also has secondary (drop-down) facets for specifying Document type, Publisher, Publication year and Audience.

In addition to faceted search (Figure 2), the portal provides recommended links based on ontological knowledge (e.g. "smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer"), a concept browser (Figure 3), and an alphabetical index of concepts (Figure 4).



Figure 1: TerveSuomi portal

⁷<http://www.museosuomi.fi>

5 Conclusions and Future Work

The main contributions of this work are the use of semantic web technologies for 1) distributed content creation and aggregation, 2) building user-centric faceted navigation and 3) mapping of facet categories to annotation ontologies.

We are currently also investigating how ontologies could be used to model health care services. In the future, the portal may be extended to incorporate access to personal medical records and health care services.

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⁸<http://www.seco.tkk.fi/projects/finnonto/>

Secondary facets: Type, Publisher, Publication year, Audience

Topic facet
selected category: Diet
(Ruokavalio)

Recommended
links

Life event facet
selected category:
Pregnancy (raskaus)

Group of people
facet

Search results
about diet and pregnancy

The screenshot shows the website interface for 'terveysuomi.fi'. The main content area displays search results for 'Ruokavalio ja raskaus'. The results are filtered by 'Diet (Ruokavalio)' and 'Pregnancy (raskaus)'. The search results list several articles, including 'Raskaana olevien ja imettävien äitien rokottaminen', 'Taulukko 7. Tilanteita, jotka eivät ole vasta-aiheisia rokottamiselle', 'Ravitsemus', 'Raskauden aikainen ruokavalio / Ravitsemus', and 'Sosiaali- ja terveysministeriön antama D-vitamiinivalmisteiden käyttösuositus'. The interface includes a search bar, navigation menu, and various facets for filtering results.

Figure 2: Semantic faceted search



Hae

 koko sivustolta
 näistä tuloksista

ETUSIVU | UUTISET
HAKEMISTO A-Ö | SIVUKARTTA | PALAUTE | OHJE

Sijainti: Käsitteet > Tobacco

Ravinto ja ruoka

Liikunta

Painonhallinta

Seksuaalisuus

Perhe ja lapset

Päihteet ja nautintoaineet 1

Katastrofit

Epidemiat ja tarttuvat taudit

Mielenterveys, uni ja jaksaminen

Väkivalta ja kriisit

Sairaudet ja oireet

Tapaturmat ja ensiapu

Mistä apua? 1

Ympäristö

Työkyky ja työterveys

Tobacco ja...

Elämäntilanne

eläkkeelle siirtyminen

ikäntyminen

imetys

isvvs

Käsite: Tobacco

Päätermi Tobacco

Muut termit Nicotiana

Laajemmat käsitteet [\(nautintoaineet\)](#) (2)
[Solanaceae](#) (1)

Suppeammat käsitteet [Tobacco](#), [Smokeless](#) (0)

Rinnakkaiset käsitteet [\(tupakkatuotteet\)](#) (0)
[Nicotine](#) (0)
[Nicotine dependency](#) (0)
[Smoking](#) (0)
[Tobacco consumption](#) (0)

Vastaavat käsitteet <http://www.yso.fi/onto/hpmulti/T01172>
<http://www.yso.fi/onto/mesh/D014026>
http://yso.fi/YSO#tupakka_2

Hakutulokset 1 kpl Sivut 1

Tyyppi	Julkaisija	Vuosi	Yleisö
<input type="text" value="mikä tahansa"/>	<input type="text" value="mikä tahansa"/>	<input type="text" value="mikä tahansa"/>	<input type="text" value="mikä tahansa"/>

[Decree on Measures to Reduce Tobacco Smoking \(päihteet\), \(tupakka\), \(yrityspalvelut\), Health, Tobacco FINLEX / Ministry of Social Affairs and Health 1977 → \(asiantuntijat\)](#)



1 kpl Sivut 1

Testaa itsesi

[Tupakoinnin lopettamista harkitsevan testi](#)

[Stunppi.fi:n testi](#)

[Tupakkaverkon testi](#)

Terveyspalveluita

[Stunpin maksuton neuvontapuhelin](#)

[Stunpin keskustelut](#)

[Tupakkaverkon keskustelut](#)

Tutkimustietoa

[Suomalaisten tupakointi](#)


[Tupakoinnin vaikutus keuhkosyövän yleisyyteen](#)

[Elintavat ja elinikä](#)

Opetusmateriaalia

[MC Urho](#)

Figure 3: Concept browsing

tervesuomi.fi 

ETUSIVU | UUTiset | HAKEMISTO A-Ö | SIMUKARTTA | PALAUTE | OHJE

Sijainti: Hakemisto > U

Hakemisto: U

[0-9](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) **U** [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) [Å](#) [Ä](#) [Ö](#)

U	ulkomaat (45)	uranvalinta (2)
kts. uraani (5)	ulkosuomalaiset (8)	uranvalinta
UKK-kävelytesti (14)	ulkukset	kts. ammatinvalinta (4)
UV	kts. haavat (3)	urheilijat (5)
kts. ultraviolettisäteily (1)	ulosotto (16)	urheilu (87)
UV-säde	ulosteet (2)	urheilu-doping
kts. ultraviolettisäteily (1)	ulseraatio	kts. (Doping in Sports) (1)
UV-säteily	kts. haavat (3)	urheilukilpailut (1)
kts. ultraviolettisäteily (1)	ultraviolettisäde	urheilulajit (2)
uhanalaiset lajit (2)	kts. ultraviolettisäteily (1)	urheiluvammat (2)
uimahallit (1)	ultraviolettisäteily (1)	urtikaria
uimarannat (1)	ummetus (2)	kts. nokkosihottuma (5)
uimataito (1)	unenaikaiset hengityshäiriöt	urtikariapaukama
uimavesi (3)	kts. uniapnea-oireyhtymä (1)	kts. nokkosihottuma (5)
uiminen	unettomuus (3)	uskomukset (1)
kts. uinti (2)	uni (3)	uskonnot (10)
uinti (2)	uni (1)	uskonto (11)
ulkoilu (16)	uniapnea-oireyhtymä (1)	uupumus (4)
ulkoilualueet (3)	uniapnea-syndroomat	uusiutuva rasitusvamma
ulkoinen laskentatoimi	kts. uniapnea-oireyhtymä (1)	kts. rasitusvammat (3)
kts. kirjanpito (16)	unihäiriöt (6)	uusperheet (2)
ulkomaalaiset (30)	unilääkkeet (1)	uutiset (22)
ulkomaankauppa (37)	unkarilaiset (1)	
ulkomaanmatkailu (4)	uraani (5)	
ulkomaantyö		
kts. työskentely ulkomailla (23)		

Katso myös

- ▣ [Sivukartta](#)

Figure 4: Alphabetical concept index