

Papers:

Knowledge Management from the Ontological Standpoint

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What is an adequate philosophy for knowledge management for an ontologist working in information science? I will contend that the relevant part of knowledge management, namely the theory of knowledge representation, lacks proper foundations. In particular, I will criticize the traditional philosophical approach to knowledge representation, which I call pragmatist conceptualism. I argue on the one hand that its emphasis on pragmatism falls short of providing a reflective and principled methodology, and that on the other hand conceptualism is doomed by its neglect of reality. This paper outlines and defends a clear standpoint of philosophical realism together with a commensurate methodology for the task of the knowledge engineer.

Theses 1

To become familiar with the shadows is the beginning of all knowledge and its management.

Buzzwords

- real processes, e.g. business processes

Theses 2

However, Plato refers to the fact that a theory of the shadows always remains a shadow theory: Not the reorganization of the representation brings us knowledge, but the uncovering of the intrinsic structures of the underlying reality. We are not talking about the restructuring of texts. We are talking about the necessity of strengthening the position of the objects.

Buzzwords

- The objects of knowledge vs. Texts
- knowledge as beliefs that are formulated, true and proven