

dblp Advisory Board meeting 2021-02-12

- February 12, 2021, 14:00 CEST
- via Zoom

Participants

- Hannah Bast (University of Freiburg, Germany)
- Guillaume Cabanac (University of Toulouse, France)
- Martin Fenner (DataCite, Germany)
- Silvio Peroni (University of Bologna, Italy)
- Lydia Pintscher (Wikimedia Deutschland, Germany)
- Ruzica Piskac (Yale University, CT, USA)
- 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)
- Christopher Michels (Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany)

Meeting minutes

item 1: opening remarks

Meeting notes of September 2020 have been approved without changes.

ToDo:

- Marcel R. Ackermann will publish approved minutes on the web pages

item 2: dblp user survey 2020

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

General Discussion:

- very high level of participation (760 fully answered survey forms), many textual comments
- high number of API and XML dump users is remarkable
- some (newer) dblp features are not widely known, FAQs may be too well hidden on the web page

References & Citation:

- a lot of references & citations feedback/criticisms
- the existence of dblp references & citations pages is not generally known, needs more advertisement
- service in dblp limited by the availability of open citation data, little we can do about that

dblp Search:

- a lot of comments about the search
- many simple problems/features probably easy to fix/extend
- search interface/API requires a major overhaul anyways, target time frame: second half of 2021

Rankings, Scientometrics, Indices:

- numerous requests for h-indices, impact statistics, rankings, etc.
- very complicated topic, plenty of opportunity of doing it wrong, might create wrong incentives
- scientific state-of-the-art knows plenty of arguments against the utility of the most popular indices
- the board advises against publishing indices or ranking
- dblp core mission should be accurate and comprehensive data, external scientometric services may build on that data

Communication with the Community:

- survey shows room for improvement, but does not look all too bad in general
- some people might not be aware of being able to contact the team
- we should build a simple guided interface for contacting dblp
 - required for maintaining e.g. affiliation data anyways (still open from Sep 2019 meeting)

Publication of Survey Results:

- Marcel R. Ackermann will write a blog post summary about the results
- aggregated survey answer statistics may be published as open data
- free text comments will not be published since it has not been communicated that those might go public

ToDo:

- Marcel R. Ackermann and Hannah Bast will coordinate about a search overhaul
- Marcel R. Ackermann will write a blog post summary about the results
 - finished draft to be sent to the board in advance
 - consider releasing aggregated survey answer statistics as open data

item 3: dblp and its “power user” community

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

Discussion:

- many community projects based on dblp out there, but often not stable over a longer time frame
- interesting concept: arXivLabs call for external tools
- the board advises to not rely on external services, and to currently prioritize consolidation over adding new features

Next meeting

- Friday, September 24, 2021, 14:00 CET
- via Zoom

To do

dblp team

- build guided interface for user requests, esp: affiliation changes (still open from Sep 2019 meeting)
- overhaul of the dblp search interface and search API

Marcel R. Ackermann

- publish approved minutes on the web pages
- write a blog post summary about the results of the survey
 - send finished draft to the board in advance

- consider releasing aggregated survey answer statistics as open data
- coordinate with Hannah Bast about a search overhaul