The BioASQ challenges

BioASQ aims to push for a solution to the information access problem of biomedical experts through challenges on biomedical semantic indexing and question answering.

First Challenge

Task 1a . Large-scale online biomedical semantic indexing

Large-scale semantic indexing will be evaluated on the whole of PubMed. Participants will be asked to classify incoming documents before the human curators do:

- BioASQ will distribute new unclassified PubMed documents.
- Participants will have a limited response time to attach MeSH terms.

This task will start on April 15th, 2013.

Task 1b . Biomedical Semantic Question Answering

The systems will be evaluated against gold answers created by a team of biomedical experts from research teams across Europe. The task will run in two phases:

- Phase A: BioASQ will transmit simultaneously questions from the benchmark. Participants will have limited time to respond with concepts, snippets, triples.
- Phase B: BioASQ will distribute questions + concepts, snippets, triples. Participants will respond with facts, summaries, etc.

This task will begin on June 3rd, 2013.
A second version of the challenge will run in the second year of the project. All details can be found on the project website.

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Support Action **2012 – 2014**
in Information and Communication Technologies

A challenge on **large-scale biomedical semantic indexing** and question answering

http://bioasq.org

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Aims

BioASQ is driven by a central information management problem that biomedical knowledge workers face: to synthesise and filter information from multiple, extremely large and fast-growing sources. Existing search engines (e.g., PubMed, GOPUBMED, EBIMED) only partially address this need. They focus on a limited range of resources (e.g., only PubMed articles and concepts from the Gene Ontology or MeSH), whereas multiple sources (e.g., including specialised drug databases and ontologies) often need to be combined to produce satisfactory answers.

Semantic indexing, i.e., annotating resources with concepts from established semantic taxonomies or, more generally, ontologies, provides a means to combine multiple sources and facilitates matching questions to answers. Current semantic indexing, however, is largely performed manually, and needs to be automated to cope with the vast amount of new information that becomes available daily.

At the same time, current semantic indexing and Question Answering (QA) methods require a significant push to reach a level of quality and efficiency acceptable to biomedical experts.

It is exactly this push that BioASQ aims to provide, by setting up ambitious, yet feasible and clearly defined challenge tasks, intended to lead to integrated, efficient, and effective semantic indexing and QA methods for the biomedical domain. Additionally, BioASQ will help towards establishing an evaluation framework for biomedical QA systems, by developing benchmark datasets and adopting (or refining) existing evaluation measures for its challenge tasks.

The BioASQ challenge will evaluate the ability of systems to perform various tasks in the biomedical QA process:

1. large-scale classification of biomedical documents onto ontology concepts (semantic indexing),
2. classification of biomedical questions onto relevant concepts,
3. retrieval of relevant document snippets, concepts and knowledge base triples, and
4. delivery of the retrieved information in a concise and user-understandable form.

One of BioASQ's main goals is to make the challenge sustainable after the end of the project. For this purpose, a special BioASQ social network will be developed, supporting the construction of new benchmarks and evaluation campaigns.

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

BioASQ is funded by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Programme (Grant Agreement No. 318652)

http://bioasq.org

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