

Introduction to Ontonomy

March 14, 2022

For people working in the domain of knowledge management, it is common to use Ontologies as a way to represent and exploit this knowledge.

Today we can see how ontologies are used to represent the qualities of various materials and the properties of a supply chain such as quality, availability and price, in order to ask an ontological engine which is the best supplier and material for a given use.

In a way, the original concept of ontology, as a system of representation of knowledge, has been bastardized in favor of its practical usefulness, and the current use does not correspond to the profound questions posed by philosophy since Aristotle.

Obviously, it is good that both knowledge and the forms we use to represent it evolve, but from time to time we have to make a stop along the way to reevaluate what separates us from the origin and consider if it is necessary to formalize the changes.

Formalizing the changes has the first obvious advantage of making us more aware of the new uses. This allows us to focus ourselves on them and squeeze the most out of the advantages of the new perspective.

This is the case of ontologies, which are no longer ontologies even though they remain a representation of a certain type of knowledge, but no longer of a metaphysical nature.

It is time to introduce and clearly define a new science of knowledge representation: Ontonomy.

What is Ontonomy? Perhaps the simplest explanation is that Ontonomy is to Ontology what Economics is to Ecology: Just as Ecology studies resource management in the natural realm while Economics studies it in the realm of human needs, Ontology studies categories, objects, properties, and universal relationships while Ontonomy studies it in the domain of human capabilities.

This differentiation is not a matter of cosmetics, it is a new discipline with its own corpus. In an ontonomic representation, for example, there are no absolute and imperishable properties. It can be absolute and perishable (as in "I'm alive", which won't always be true) and relative and imperishable (as in "injustice is bad" that depending on the context, it can stop being so unfair).

Ontonomic expressions can also be recursive, in the sense of, for example, the expression:

"One statement is truer than another, if it has been fulfilled so far more times than the second"

In this case, this expression, which is not always fulfilled, is usually fulfilled more than:

"One statement is truer than another, if it has been fulfilled so far fewer times than the second."

So it can be understood that Ontonomy is not only limited to a way of representing human knowledge, but also to the way of constructing it.

In ontonomic constructions, the concept of experience can be represented in terms of statistical values and dependency relations also statistically pondered.