

# Digital Libraries and Web 3.0. The CallimachusDL Approach

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## Abstract:

The constantly increasing volume of information available on the Internet is changing the forms of classification and access to data. Given the immense collection of information stored

on the Internet, Digital Libraries constitute a fundamental subject of research. Among the challenges of classifying, locating and accessing knowledge in Digital Libraries tackling with the huge amount of resources the Web provides, improving Digital Libraries by means of different strategies, particularly, using semantics remains a promising and interesting approach. In this paper, CallimachusDL is presented, a semantics-based Digital Library which provides faceted search, enhanced access possibilities and a proof-of-concept implementation. CallimachusDL represents a novel approach to Digital Libraries, integrating social web and multimedia elements in a semantically annotated repository. The results of the implementation indicate that the features proposed in CallimachusDL are encouraging and extendable in the use of Digital Libraries.

## **Keywords:**

Digital Library; Semantic Web; Ontologies; Faceted Search

## **1. Introduction**

Digital Libraries represent a new breed of software applications whose aim encompasses categorizing, classifying, archiving and providing access to the vast constellation of Web resources. Currently, Digital Libraries (DL for short) are facing a new paradigm shift coping with various challenges which include overcoming traditional browsing or keyword-based strategies. Fundamentally, DL infrastructure improvement attempts have been trying to increase the quality of information retrieval, from query expansion to collaborative filtering or multi-faceted browsing (Kruk & Decker, 2007). However, current approaches are still not fulfilling expectations, leading the user in many cases to frustration.

On the other hand, the Semantic Web has emerged to be a new and highly promising context for knowledge and data engineering (Vossen, Lytras & Koudas, 2007). The term "Semantic Web" was coined by Berners-Lee, Hendler and Lassila (2001), to describe the evolution from a

document-based web towards a new paradigm that includes data and information for computers to manipulate. The Semantic Web enables automated information access based on machine-processable semantics of data. This means that this data will be available for providing precise and exhaustive information retrieval. Thus, the Semantic Web provides a complementary vision as a knowledge management environment (Warren, 2006) that, in many cases has expanded and replaced previous knowledge and information management archetypes (Davies, Lytras & Sheth, 2007). Semantic Web has been named as Web 3.0 (Lassila & Hendler, 2007; Hendler, 2008) as a new version of Web 2.0 in which web has advanced to become what Tim Berners-Lee (2007) has termed the "Giant Global Graph".

According to Lytras and García (2008), in recent years, Semantic Web research has resulted in significant outcomes and the adoption of this technology from the market and the industry is becoming closer. Thus, the application of semantics to knowledge management is not new (e.g. Collazos & García, 2007; Colomo-Palacios et al., 2008; García-Crespo et al., 2009; Gómez-Berbís et al., 2008). Ontologies (Fensel, 2002) are the technological cornerstones of the Semantic Web, because they provide structured vocabularies that describe a formal specification of a shared conceptualization. Ontologies were developed in the field of Artificial Intelligence to facilitate knowledge sharing and reuse (Fensel et al., 2001). Ontologies provide a common vocabulary for a domain and define, with different levels of formality, the meaning of the terms and the relations between them. Knowledge in ontologies is mainly formalized using five kinds of components: classes, relations, functions, axioms and instances (Gruber, 1993). Ontologies support the necessary semantics to describe text strings (Gruber, 1993; Studer et al., 1998).

The domain of DL has not been ignored during the growth of the Semantic Web. The use of semantics in DL can outperform the current endeavors that require finding data spread out across the DL structure and dynamically drawing inferences, something continually hampered

by their reliance on ad-hoc, task specific frameworks in present DL technologies. In this paper, CallimachusDL is presented, a semantics-based DL which uses semantic information gathering and browsing to enhance search and retrieval. One of the originalities of our work is to include social web multimedia content semantic annotation as a part of the digital library.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 an overview of the state of the art is provided. In Section 3, a number of requirements are discussed and the benefits of tackling them with a semantically-enhanced approach are presented. In Section 4 CallimachusDL is described in detail, as well as its architecture and proof-of-concept implementation. Section 5 provides an experimental setup for CallimachusDL. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper providing a number of conclusions and summarizes future work.

## **2. Digital libraries: been there, done that**

Digital libraries provide high quality and well-organized information. Many of the powerful characteristics of Digital Libraries rely on Metadata. Librarians describe the resources of catalogues and other collections through metadata in order to facilitate efficient delivery of information. The use of metadata in its formats and functionalities has been an object of study in the past in the field of Digital Libraries, for example the use of XML (Kim & Choi, 2000) and RDF (e.g. Baruzzo et al., 2009; Bygstad et al., 2009; Han, 2006; Isaac et al., 2008). The use of ontologies in the context of Digital Libraries (e.g. Schreiber et al., 2008; Prasad & Madalli, 2008) could be interesting in order to incorporate new functionalities by describing the relationships between elements. The concept of ontology introduced by the Semantic Web is a promising path to extend Digital Library formalisms with meaningful annotations (Kruk, Decker, & Zieborak, 2005). Several authors have proposed ontologies for describing the relationships between all the elements which comprise a digital library scenario (Ferrán, Mor & Minguillón, 2005) which go beyond different standards of digital libraries description formats such as MARC21, Dublin Core and BibTeX.

The new and promising digital libraries content management tool generation comes from the combination of the Semantic Web and the new social aspects of what has been termed the Social Web. Here several initiatives can be found such as the ambitious JeromeDL project (Kruk & Decker, 2007) or DLibra (Mazurek & Werla, 2005). JeromeDL uses MarcOnt Ontology (Kruk, Synak & Zimmermann, 2005) which uses several legacy metadata standards (MARC21, BibTeX and Dublin Core) and offers a number of search and retrieval services based on Semantic technology.

Fundamentally, the CallimachusDL approach is radically different to the ones detailed before since semantic navigation is proposed, along with faceted search and browsing, metadata representation format and usability as the main building principles of the entire approach. Those features are detailed in the next Section.

### **3. Using semantic information gathering and browsing to enhance search and retrieval**

Since the first initiatives for their development, Digital Libraries on the Web had to strive for classifying, locating and accessing resources. However, the advantage of the simplicity in DL leads to their great drawback, the increasing volume of information being stored without a clear structure. Actually, most current DL cannot be used as fully-fledged environments to create and search knowledge in an efficient way, since the information collected in these systems lies unused by computers, mainly due to the human language in which the resources are written. As further processing is needed, new formal approaches are used to make computers "understand" the Web content or, more precisely, the application of semantics.

The Semantic Technologies paradigm is based on this statement, where the traditional Web is enhanced with formal knowledge placed below the current information. This is possible thanks to the extensibility of the Web with metadata and metadata processing, which allows computational reasoning and intelligent capabilities. In the following, the problems which arise

when developing a semantically-enhanced DL environment are analyzed, including technical and social factors:

- Metadata representation format: Metadata support for the actual information within DL resources must be explicitly declared. Some of the current social tools such as the emerging Web 2.0 applications like Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com>) or del.icio.us (<http://del.icio.us/>) apply the so called "folksonomies" (a term derived from the merging of the words 'folk' and 'taxonomy'.) to add meta-information in form of tags chosen by the user. In this case, tags are different among different users, because they are chosen freely, so they cannot be fully exploited in a community. However, unfortunately this type of metadata is not supported by Semantic Web technology.
- Navigation. Ordinary DL base the relationship between pages in explicit hyperlinks. These links relate one page to another basically according to user considerations. If the relation between DL resources were represented by means of semantics, the application would be able to provide mechanisms to semantically navigate between related resources with real meaning.
- Search. Given a set of resources, the basic type of querying in current DL is the keyword-based search. Structured requests for more advanced information retrieval are needed to make a DL a really useful knowledge repository. In addition to simple full-text searches, users would recover information by querying or selecting the semantic knowledge.
- Usability. Communities need a critical mass of users. Not only the number of users is crucial, but also their participation in the communities. The Semantic Web community has to grasp this principle and develop it. For that purpose, applications enhanced with semantic functionalities have to be designed with

maximum usability and minimum cognitive load for every user, including both Semantic Web experts and Internet users with no knowledge about semantics.

The motivation for this work proposes a solution to these requirements. CallimachusDL is focused on the aforementioned requirements, solving them, and proposes an integrated solution that uses semantic information gathering and browsing to enhance search and retrieval. In the next Section, the approach for CallimachusDL will be discussed.

## **4. CallimachusDL: bringing the library mess into order**

The current section describes the structure and features of CallimachusDL, outlining the resources used which comprise its components. These include metadata representation format, multi-ontologies, semantic navigation, usability, and faceted search.

### **4.1. The CallimachusDL description**

Given the aforementioned problems that traditional DL cope with, the CallimachusDL approach is based on several design principles to avoid these drawbacks, and built as a kernel to develop a fully-fledged semantic working environment for the final users. These design principles are as follows:

- **Metadata Representation Format:** Bearing in mind that metadata processing requires a controlled and well-defined vocabulary, the Semantic Web adopted and developed ontologies as the best mechanism to represent, share and reuse the knowledge hidden within data. An ontology is a formal specification of a shared conceptualization. Since semantic knowledge must be represented in the form of well-designed ontologies, the models and language which actually realize the representation of the knowledge must be selected. In order to construct an accurate representation, the different World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) proposed standards are recommended. Resource Description Framework (RDF,

<http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-primer/>) and RDF Schema (RDFS, <http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-schema/>) can be perfectly suitable for defining the semantic information needed. Other languages such as the Web Ontology language (OWL) can also be suitable, but its additional inference mechanism is not required for the real necessities of the application.

- Multi-ontology approach for defining DL resources: Once the ontologies representation has been defined, the scope of the ontologies used must be explicitly declared. Since DL resources are basically resources on the Web, they should initially be described this way. For this, the Dublin Core initiative (DC, <http://dublincore.org/>) fits perfectly as the main ontology for describing the wiki pages. Once identified, the DL resources must be described with regard to content. Therefore, a second ontology or several ontologies must be used for formalizing the real domain of the DL resources content.
- Semantic Navigation: As ordinary hyperlinks are not enough to show the related information in a DL, another approach is needed to offer the user all the information semantically when viewing data. This is mainly due to the fact that the user interface must enable navigation to semantically related items (Teevan et al., 2005). For that, semantic links, semalinks are proposed in Fuentes-Lorenzo et al. (2009). Semalinks are ordinary hyperlinks in appearance but built upon semantic information. This semantic information, consisting both of the ontology concept to which a particular part of the content is referring and its value, will lead the user to pages with content semantically similar to the semalink. That is, if a set of words have been used to form a semalink, with a property x and a value, when a mouse is placed over this link, the nodes appearing will make reference to other pages with

the same property x and value, and many more references as properties directly related to property x which exist in the repositories, with the same value.

- Usability: Authoring a semantic wiki must be made just as easy as authoring a traditional wiki. For that purpose, editing the semantic links must be done at the same time and in the same view as editing the rest of the page. Semantic annotations are the answer to fill this gap. Annotating a document means adding semantic data to these documents (McEnery & Wilson, 2001). Users will be provided with semantic information to add; therefore, while editing a page, they will be able to annotate a word or a set of words with semantic data, just as easy as marking the selected words and associating them with a property or vocabulary concept from the ontology domain. Usability is also reflected in the functionalities of browsing and searching seen in the previous subsections.
- Faceted Search: As keyword-based searches or other different syntactical queries are not an efficient retrieval mechanism, and providing that semantic information is underlying the system, a more advanced search is required. A facets-based search is the solution. With faceted metadata (Ranganathan, 1962), the information space is partitioned using orthogonal conceptual dimensions of the data. These dimensions are called facets, and represent the characteristics of the information elements. These facets are used then to select or filter the relevant elements in a certain information space, leading users to the exact information needed. These facets are the properties defined in the domain ontologies. Technological solution for faceted search is used in previous works by authors (Fuentes-Lorenzo et al., 2009).

The main features of CallimachusDL have been described above. In the subsequent Section, CallimachusDL itself is detailed.

## 4.2. Architecture

The CallimachusDL architecture is heavily based on the SWAN architecture (Fuentes-Lorenzo et al., 2007). Taking into account these apparently different levels of knowledge (ontologies, resources and semantic information), this knowledge can be divided into three layers:

- Resource layer: This layer stores the DL resources and all the objects related to those resources.
- Domain layer: This layer deals with the ontologies used for formalizing the semantic information for both the DL pages (DC vocabulary) and contents (RDFS vocabulary or vocabularies).
- Application layer: This layer is supported on top of the previous one and will be built with the domain ontologies the CallimachusDL system requires, and applied to the resources in the first layer.

Keeping these knowledge layers conceptually separated, implementation will guarantee the flexibility and reusability of the CallimachusDL application for every type of domain. Figure 1 shows the framework of this approach, along with named examples for better understanding.

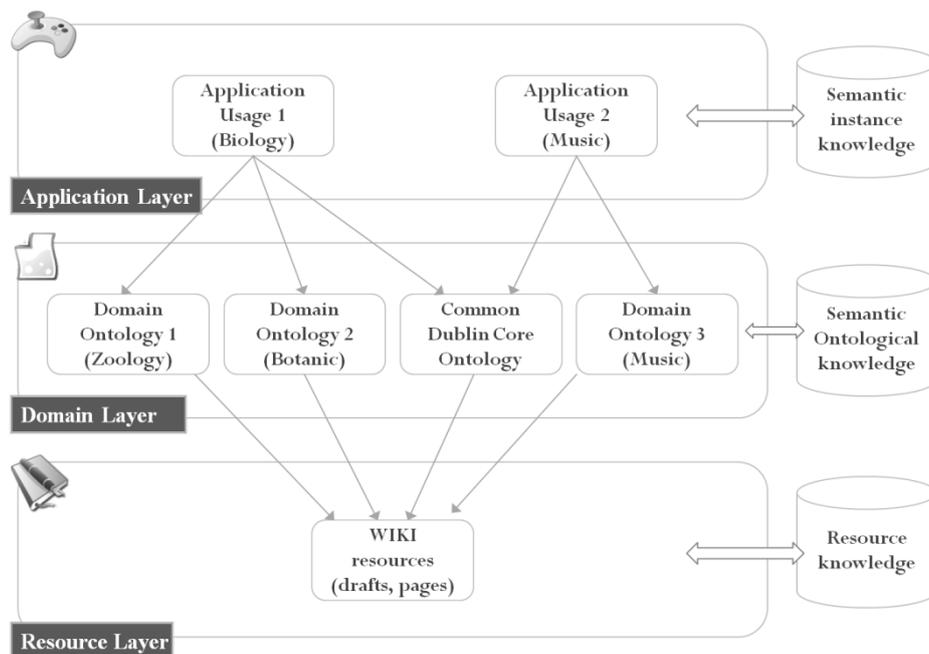


Fig. 1. The SWAN architecture as a basis for the CallimachusDL architecture.

The domain layer holds the different domain ontologies that can be used. The application layer will use one or more domain ontologies depending on the sort of topics the DL application is going to deal with. The Dublin Core Ontology will always be used to represent the basic metadata concepts of every resource.

### 4.3. Using CallimachusDL

The CallimachusDL implementation is based on the SWAN architecture successfully deployed on CoolWikiNews, a Semantically-enhanced Wiki devoted to online news publishing (Fuentes-Lorenzo et al., 2007). CallimachusDL implements the Model-View-Controller (MVC) architectural pattern by means of Ruby on Rails (RoR, <http://www.rubyonrails.org>), a MVC-based framework which eases the task of building this architectural pattern. The common ontology used for describing the resources is Dublin Core. Its terms allow defining the metadata related to the whole page. The MarcOnt ontology is used for the annotation of more complex data. Both ontologies are developed with RDF Schema, and serialized in N-Triple syntax (<http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-testcases/#ntriples>). The DL pages are presented to the user in XHTML 1.0 syntax (<http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/>), and visual graphics for navigation are made with JavaScript libraries such as CoolTip (<http://www.acooltip.com>). Persistence repositories are MySQL server for resources information and SQLite-based RDFLite for semantic information. Finally, CoolWikNews uses ActiveRDF (Oren, Delbru & Decker, 2006), a library for abstracting the queries for RDFLite within the implementation in RoR.

A motivating scenario will now be presented to illustrate how CallimachusDL can be used. Recently, a new breed of user generated content aware technologies which have been encompassed by the “Web 2.0” buzzword have turned up to provide a huge amount of metadata and information about the user as a particular entity.

Web 2.0 technologies as outlined in (Laudon & Laudon, 2006) are exemplified by blogs, namely easy to update websites about a particular subject where entries are written in chronological order, picture-sharing environments such as Flickr or Photobucket, social bookmarking sites such as Del.icio.us, video-sharing such as YouTube or music preferences such as Last FM. Web 2.0, social software, social computing, online communities, peer networking, immersive web... Their meanings overlap, and definitions are somewhat fluid (Parameswaran & Whinston, 2007). But according to O'Reilly (2007) the term Web 2.0 is slightly different in that it includes more technologies within its scope and does not bind itself closely with the social aspect, as shown in several recent works (e.g. Correa et al., 2010; Kwon & Wen, 2010). This Web 2.0 user generated content is a perfect scenario to demonstrate the use of CallimachusDL, which also follows previous efforts in which multimedia contents are classified using semantics (e.g. Labra Gayo et al., 2010).

For example, a user called John Smith has uploaded a number of videos in You-Tube about his stay in Norway. In particular, the videos are about Norwegian fjords so he tags them with the "fjord" and "Norway" tags. However, tags are freely chosen keywords describing a particular resource. They offer a simple way of retrieving content but they are subjective conceptualizations, being potentially aggregated to a flat bottom-up categorization or folksonomy. In Shadbolt, Hall & Berners-Lee (2006), folksonomies have been claimed to be an interesting emergent attempt for information retrieval but serve different purposes to ontologies, the latter are attempts to more carefully define parts of the data world and to allow mappings and interactions between data held in different formats. In this scenario folksonomies had been used for creating semantic metadata (Al-Khalifa & Davis, 2007) or as a support to learning (Lux & Dosinger, 2007). Hence, ontologies are defined through a careful, explicit process that attempts to remove ambiguity, whereas the definition of a tag is a loose and implicit process where ambiguity might well remain. Finally, the inferential process

applied to ontologies is logic based and uses operations such as join. The inferential process used on tags is statistical in nature and employs techniques such as clustering.

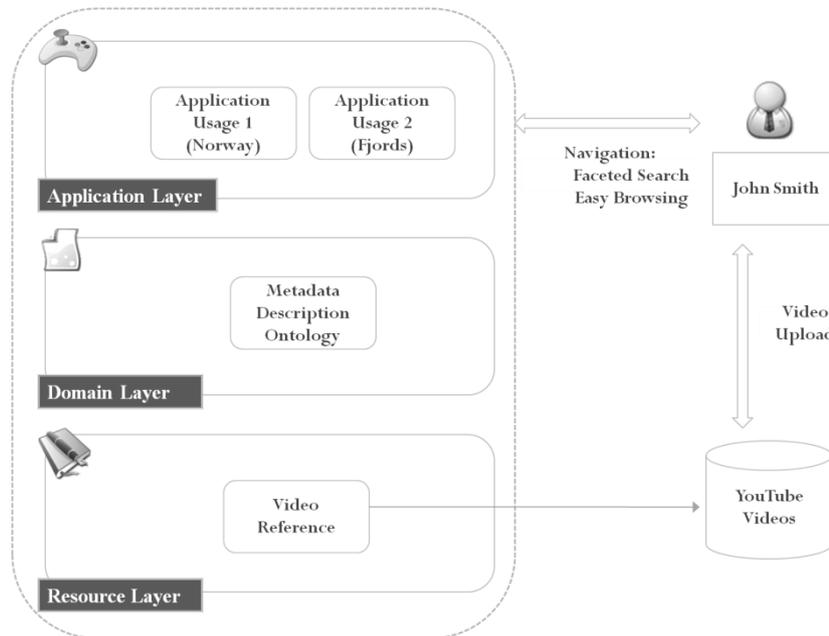


Fig. 2. John Smith videos in CallimachusDL.

If John Smith chooses any traditional DL, he will face a number of problems, as shown in Section 3. First of all, there is no metadata description, no chance of faceted browsing and problems to locate and retrieve his YouTube videos. Nevertheless, CallimachusDL offers a completely different situation. Using the three-layered architecture described in Section 4.2, the Resource Layer would store references to the videos in YouTube or the videos as such. In the Domain Layer, there are metadata formally describing the videos by means of ontologies, mostly DC and the MarcOnt ontology. After that, the Application Layer will use domain ontologies (for example, those referring to Norway and Fjords).

Finally, Faceted Search and Browsing would make the life of John Smith very easy when retrieving his videos, since he can navigate through the categories and also view related videos thanks to the semalinks, as explained in Section 3.

## 5. Evaluation

The subsequent section describes the empirical evaluation of CallimachusDL, carried out using the application of established statistical tests.

### 5.1. Research Design

Evaluation of the proposal was required in order to determine the level of acceptance of the proposal. With the objective of calculating the grade of adjustment of the proposal, a study was designed which was aimed towards students in the final year of the Computer Science degree of the University Carlos III, specifically, those undertaking the subject “Software Engineering III”. Among its learning objectives, this subject has the aim that the students are capable of extracting the requirements of a software application of a client, with the final objective of being able to construct it according to a defined methodology. Therefore, the students were requested to use CallimachusDL to categorise distinct contents generated by the students themselves during the course of completion of the subject. In the first place, the students carried out two interviews with the final clients (a role represented by one of the lecturers). The multimedia formats generated were uploaded to YouTube. In the second place, the students visited one of the work locations of the client, where they photographed the installations as part of the modeling of the current system. The photographs were uploaded to Flickr for sharing among the members of the work team. Thirdly, the students were instructed to share the links which were Internet resources related to Software Engineering using the tool Del.icio.us. The use of these three Web 2.0 related technologies were the basis for the evaluation of CallimachusDL.

Once the students had completed the subject, they were requested to respond to a questionnaire in which they were asked to provide their opinion about the tool in relation to different aspects. Firstly, they were asked about their user experience of Callimachus DL. Secondly, the user provided his opinion about the performance of the framework. The

responses to these questions were coded using a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 4 points, with the following values. 1: Limited, 2: Regular, 3: Good, 4: Very Good. Lastly, it was suggested that each user carried out two types of search. The first search required the user to perform a keyword search, and the second search proposed to the user was to perform a search using the interface which implements faceted search. Upon examining the results of the search, the user could quantify the result using a Likert scale with the following values: 1: Unsolved, 2: Low Matching, 3: Near Matching, 4: Correct Matching.

## 5.2. Sample

The sample was composed of students in the final year of the Computer Science degree of the University Carlos III. The students, as part of their tasks within the subject “Software Engineering III”, used CallimachusDL as support for the classification and annotation of diverse contents, related to the themes of the subject.

The sample was composed of 17 women (32%) and 35 men (68%), with an average age of 25.6. During the administration of the questionnaire, the subjects were aided by a research assistant with the objective that the coding of the questionnaire was carried out accurately, eliminating any student doubts or errors.

## 5.3. Results

The results of the surveys, which were performed using printed copies, were subsequently coded in the statistical analysis tool SPSS. In the tables displayed below, the average and standard deviation of the responses offered by the students are shown in relation to the questionnaire applied, and the two groups of questions formulated.

Table 1. Evaluation Statistical Results

	Average	Std. Deviation
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User Experience	3.04	0.59
Faceted Search Experience	2.75	0.76
Performance	2.94	0.49
Keyword Search	1.96	1.00
Faceted Search	2.85	0.74

Figure 3 shows the relative importance of the scores by factor and value in the Likert scale.

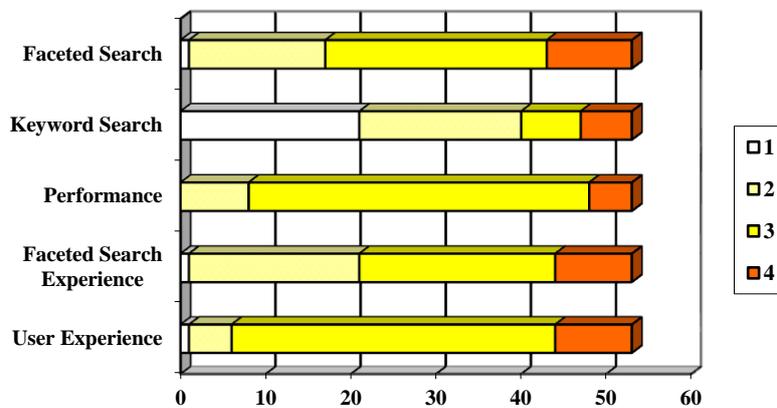


Fig. 3. Scores bar chart.

With the objective of verifying whether faceted search obtained results significantly higher than those of keyword search, the statistical method Student's t-test (comparison of two means) was used to carry out one-way between-groups analysis of variance using the tool SPSS. The level of statistical significance was set at 0.05. The results of the test indicate that the Faceted Search tool presents significant differences with respect to Keyword Search indicated by the statistical value ( $t(52)=4.18, p<.05$ ). This circumstance implies that, from a statistical point of view, there is a difference between the faceted search and the keyword

search. In this case, this is represented as an improvement in the results of faceted search with respect to keyword search.

Additionally, it was attempted to establish whether the variables “Faceted Search Experience” and “Faceted Search” presented consistent results with respect to each other. “Faceted Search Experience”, obtained the opinion of the user in relation to the perception of the feature, and “Faceted Search” included the search results. Similarly to the statistical analysis previously mentioned, the Student's t-test was applied, setting the level of statistical significance at 0.05. By conventional criteria, the difference is considered to be not statistically significant ( $t(52)=0.65$ ,  $p>.05$ ). This circumstance indicates that the opinion of the users in relation to faceted search is coherent with the opinion expressed regarding the results of the search.

#### **5.4. Discussion**

From the perspective of the results, the implementation of CallimachusDL may be considered a success. The opinions of the user in relation to “User Experience”, “Faceted Search Experience” and “Performance” have displayed satisfactory results in average figures. In particular, the factor “User experience” displays a score of 3.04 points over 4, with a highly adjusted standard deviation of 0.59, which indicates that, apart from the scoring being high, the agreement between the subjects is acceptable. The attempts to develop the Graphical User Interface of CallimachusDL so that it would be attractive to users has been judged positively by test users.

In relation to the searches carried out by the subjects, the judgments of the faceted search present higher values than the keyword search. Taking into account that the users have experience with keyword search, the higher ranking of faceted search in comparison with keyword search is an extremely significant result. Apart from the statistical evidence provided by the statistical test which evaluated the improvement, it can be indicated that the

performance of faceted search, the differentiating element of CallimachusDL over other platforms, has been highly strengthened.

Lastly, it should be indicated that the results of the variables “Faceted Search Experience” and “Faceted Search” are very similar, not presenting significant differences between both. Evidently, the results are not identical, the second variable displaying a difference of 0.10 positive points with respect to the first. This circumstance can be explained by the differences of scales which both variables represent.

## **6. Conclusions and future work**

Callimachus (c.305-c.240 B.C.) was an ancient Greek poet, librarian, and scholar, a famous representative of the Alexandrian school of poetry. Following the works of Zenodotus of Ephesus, Alexandria Library’s first library director that began an inventory of the scrolls acquired by the Ptolemies, Callimachus created for the first time a subject catalog in 120,000 scrolls of the Library's holdings, called the Pinakes or Tables (Beban, 1968). Following the Callimachus efforts, the man that improved subject search in Alexandria, this paper presents a novel approach to improve browsing and searching in DL by adding semantics to the definition of resources, particularly multimedia resources. In a larger context, the problem of DL scaling may be multiplied by thousands of data structures located in hundreds of incompatible databases and message formats. The uses of semantic digital libraries and social networks have been identified as one of the most promising research line in the digital libraries field (Kruck & McDaniel, 2008). In this scenario, CallimachusDL can be seen as an original initiative to bridge the gap between digital libraries and social web.

Hence, future work will consist of evaluating the implementation and approach more carefully, validating CallimachusDL with a number of quality-aware case studies and using large DL resources where pooling out of results can determine more accurately if the effectiveness of

the breakthroughs of the approach detailed in Section 3 take place. In a more general view, future work should further integrate social networks full potential into Digital Libraries. In particular, the increasing organizational capacities of distinct Web 2.0 tools represent a challenge for CallimachusDL, which in the future should be able to combine different multimedia contents generated from various platforms, to act as support for various tasks such as Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Talent Management (TM) or Knowledge Management (KM).

The unlimited potential of the Web 2.0 is an open field for technology investigators around the globe, and it is also a great opportunity for Digital Libraries researchers to put together social features and limitless content into a single package.

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