Package 'ontologics'

July 22, 2025

```
Title Code-Logics to Handle Ontologies
Version 0.7.4
Description Provides tools to build and work with an ontology of linked (open)
      data in a tidy workflow. It is inspired by the Food and Agrilculture
      Organizations (FAO) caliper platform
      <https://www.fao.org/statistics/caliper/web/> and
      makes use of the Simple Knowledge Organisation System (SKOS).
URL https://github.com/luckinet/ontologics
BugReports https://github.com/luckinet/ontologics/issues
Depends R (>= 3.5.0)
License GPL (>= 3)
Encoding UTF-8
RoxygenNote 7.3.2
Imports checkmate, rlang, tibble, dplyr, tidyr, tidyselect, magrittr,
      purrr, stringr, readr, httr, methods, rdflib, fuzzyjoin, utils,
      beepr
Suggests knitr, rmarkdown
VignetteBuilder knitr
NeedsCompilation no
Author Steffen Ehrmann [aut, cre] (ORCID:
       <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2958-0796>),
      Arne Rümmler [aut, ctb] (ORCID:
       <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8637-9071>),
      Carsten Meyer [ctb] (ORCID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3927-5856">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3927-5856</a>)
Maintainer Steffen Ehrmann < steffen . ehrmann@posteo . de>
Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2025-01-17 16:50:02 UTC
```

2 edit_matches

Contents

edit_matches	2
export_as_rdf	3
get_class	4
get_concept	
get_source	
load_ontology	7
make_tree	8
new_class	
new_concept	
new_mapping	11
new_source	
onto-class	
show,onto-method	
start_ontology	15
	17

edit_matches

Edit matches manually in a csv-table

Description

Allows the user to match concepts with an already existing ontology, without actually writing into the ontology, but instead storing the resulting matching table as csv.

Usage

Index

```
edit_matches(
  new,
  topLevel,
  source = NULL,
  ontology = NULL,
 matchDir = NULL,
  stringdist = TRUE,
  verbose = TRUE,
  beep = NULL
)
```

Arguments

new data.frame(.)

> the new concepts that shall be manually matched, includes "label", "class" and "has_broader" columns.

topLevel logical(1)

whether or not the new concepts are at the highest level only, i.e., have to be matched without context, or whether they are contain columns that must be matched within parent columns.

export_as_rdf 3

source character(1)

any character uniquely identifying the source dataset of the new concepts.

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.

matchDir character(1)

the directory where to store source-specific matching tables.

stringdist logical(1)

whether or not to use string distance to find matches (should not be used for

large datasets/when a memory error is shown).

verbose logical(1)

whether or not to give detailed information on the process of this function.

beep integerish(1)

Number specifying what sound to be played to signal the user that a point of

interaction is reached by the program, see beep.

Details

In order to match new concepts into an already existing ontology, it may become necessary to carry out manual matches of the new concepts with already harmonised concepts, for example, when the new concepts are described with terms that are not yet in the ontology. This function puts together a table, in which the user would edit matches by hand. Whith the argument verbose = TRUE, detailed information about the edit process are shown to the user. After defining matches, and even if not all necessary matches are finished, the function stores a specific "matching table" with the name *match_SOURCE.csv* in the respective directory (matchDir), from where work can be picked up and continued at another time.

Fuzzy matching is carried out and matches with 0, 1 or 2 differing charcters are presented in a respective column.

Value

A table that contains all new matches, or if none of the new concepts weren't already in the ontology, a table of the already successful matches.

export_as_rdf

Export an ontology as RDF

Description

Export an ontology as RDF

Usage

```
export_as_rdf(ontology, filename)
```

get_class

Arguments

ontology ontology(1)

an already loaded or created ontology object.

filename character(1)

the filename of the exported ontology. The format of the exported ontology is guessed by the extension of the filename. The guessing is performed by the rdflib package. Valid extensions are ".rdf" for "rdfxml", ".nt" for "ntriples", ".ttl"

for "turtle" or ".json" for "jsonld".

Value

No return value, called for the side effect of exporting an ontology.

Examples

```
ontoDir <- system.file("extdata", "crops.rds", package = "ontologics")
onto <- load_ontology(path = ontoDir)

## Not run:
    export_as_rdf(ontology = onto, filename = "onto.ttl")

## End(Not run)</pre>
```

get_class

Get class(es) in an ontology

Description

Get class(es) in an ontology

Usage

```
get_class(..., regex = FALSE, external = FALSE, ontology = NULL)
```

Arguments

... combination of column name and value to filter that column by. The value to

filter by can be provided as regular expression, if regex = TRUE.

regex logical(1)

whether or not the value in . . . shall be matched in full, or whether any partial

match should be returned.

external logical(1)

whether or not the external classes (TRUE), or the harmonized classes should

be returned (FALSE, default).

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.

get_concept 5

Value

A table of the class(es) in the ontology according to the values in . . .

Examples

```
ontoDir <- system.file("extdata", "crops.rds", package = "ontologics")
onto <- load_ontology(path = ontoDir)

# exact classes from a loaded ontology ...
get_class(label = "class", ontology = onto)

# ... or one stored on the harddisc
get_class(id = ".xx.xx", ontology = ontoDir)

# use regular expressions ...
get_class(label = "ro", regex = TRUE, ontology = onto)

# get all sources
get_class(ontology = onto)</pre>
```

get_concept

Get a concept in an ontology

Description

Get a concept in an ontology

Usage

```
get_concept(..., external = FALSE, matches = FALSE, ontology = NULL)
```

Arguments

... combination of column name and value to filter that column by.

external logical(1)

whether or not to return merely the table of external concepts.

matches logical(1)

whether or not to include external concepts as label instead of id in the match columns of the harmonised concepts; this allows querying the external concepts

in the harmonised concepts (only if external = FALSE).

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.

Value

A table of a subset of the ontology according to the values in . . .

get_source

Examples

```
ontoDir <- system.file("extdata", "crops.rds", package = "ontologics")
onto <- load_ontology(path = ontoDir)

# exact matches from a loaded ontology ...
get_concept(label = "FODDER CROPS", ontology = onto)

# ... or a path
get_concept(label = c("FODDER CROPS", "CEREALS"), ontology = ontoDir)

# ignore querries that would not be valid in filter()
get_concept(label != 'Bioenergy woody' & has_broader == '.01', ontology = onto)

# extract concepts based on regular expressions
library(stringr)
get_concept(str_detect(label, "crop") & str_detect(id, ".03$"), ontology = ontoDir)</pre>
```

get_source

Get source(e) in an ontology

Description

Get source(e) in an ontology

Usage

```
get_source(..., regex = FALSE, ontology = NULL)
```

Arguments

... combination of column name and value to filter that column by. The value to

filter by can be provided as regular expression, if regex = TRUE.

regex logical(1)

whether or not the value in . . . shall be matched in full, or whether any partial

match should be returned.

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.

Value

A table of the source(s) in the ontology according to the values in . . .

load_ontology 7

Examples

```
ontoDir <- system.file("extdata", "crops.rds", package = "ontologics")
onto <- load_ontology(path = ontoDir)

# exact sources from a loaded ontology ...
get_source(label = "harmonised", ontology = onto)

# ... or one stored on the harddisc
get_source(version = "0.0.1", ontology = ontoDir)

# get all sources
get_source(ontology = onto)</pre>
```

load_ontology

Load an ontology

Description

Load an ontology

Usage

```
load_ontology(path = NULL)
```

Arguments

path

character(1)

the path where the ontology to load is stored.

Value

A table of the full ontology (i.e., where attribute and mapping tables are joined).

```
# load an already existing ontology
load_ontology(path = system.file("extdata", "crops.rds", package = "ontologics"))
```

8 new_class

make_tree Ma	ake a tree of an ontology
--------------	---------------------------

Description

Make a tree of an ontology

Usage

```
make_tree(..., reverse = FALSE, ontology = NULL)
```

Arguments

... character(1)

the concepts that shall be the target, combination of 'column name = value'.

reverse logical(1)

whether or not to make a tree that gives the parents, instead of the children, of

target concepts.

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.

new_class Add a new valid class to an ontology

Description

Add a new valid class to an ontology

Usage

```
new_class(new, target, description = NULL, ontology = NULL)
```

Arguments

new character(1) the new class label.

the new class label

target character(1)

the class into which the new class shall be nested.

description character(1)

a verbatim description of the new class.

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.

new_concept 9

Value

the updated ontology that contains the new class(es) defined here.

Examples

new_concept

Add a new concept to an ontology

Description

This adds a new concept to an existing ontology to semantically integrate and thus harmonise it with the already existing ontology.

Usage

```
new_concept(
  new,
  broader = NULL,
  description = NULL,
  class = NULL,
  ontology = NULL
)
```

Arguments

new character(.)

the english label(s) of new concepts that shall be included in the ontology.

broader data.frame(.)

the english label(s) of already harmonised concepts to which the new concept

shall be semantically linked via a skos:broader relation, see Details.

description character(.)

a verbatim description of the new concept(s).

class character(.)

the class(es) of the new labels.

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.

10 new_concept

Value

returns invisibly a table of the new harmonised concepts that were added to the ontology, or a message that nothing new was added.

```
ontoDir <- system.file("extdata", "crops.rds", package = "ontologics")</pre>
onto <- load_ontology(path = ontoDir)</pre>
# add fully known concepts
concepts <- data.frame(</pre>
  old = c("Bioenergy woody", "Bioenergy herbaceous"),
  new = c("acacia", "miscanthus")
)
onto <- new_source(</pre>
  version = "0.0.1",
  name = "externalDataset",
  description = "a vocabulary",
  homepage = "https://www.something.net",
  license = "CC-BY-0",
  ontology = onto
)
onto <- new_concept(</pre>
 new = concepts$new,
  broader = get_concept(label = concepts$old, ontology = onto),
  class = "crop",
  ontology = onto
# add concepts where the nesting is clear, but not the new class
concepts <- data.frame(</pre>
  old = c("Barley", "Barley"),
 new = c("food", "bio-energy")
)
onto <- new_concept(</pre>
  new = concepts$new,
  broader = get_concept(label = concepts$old, ontology = onto),
  ontology = onto
)
# define that class ...
onto <- new_class(</pre>
  new = "use type", target = "class",
  description = "the way a crop is used", ontology = onto
# ... and set the concepts again
onto <- new_concept(</pre>
 new = concepts$new,
```

new_mapping 11

```
broader = get_concept(label = concepts$old, ontology = onto),
  class = "use type",
  ontology = onto
)
```

new_mapping

Add a new mapping to an ontology

Description

Extend an ontology by creating mappings between classes and concepts of external vocabularies and the harmonised classes and concepts.

Usage

```
new_mapping(
  new = NULL,
  target,
  source = NULL,
  lut = NULL,
  match = NULL,
  certainty = NULL,
  type = "concept",
  ontology = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE,
  beep = NULL
)
```

Arguments

new character(.)

the english external label(s) that shall be mapped to labels that do already exist

in the ontology.

target data.frame(.)

the already harmonised English label(s) to which the external labels shall be

mapped; derive with get_concept().

source character(1)

any character uniquely identifying the source dataset of the new label.

lut character(.)

in case the terms used for mapping are from a look up table (i.e. a standardised set of terms with a description), provide this table with column names 'label'

and 'description' here.

match character(1)

the skos mapping property used to describe the link, possible values are "close",

"exact", "broad" and "narrow".

12 new_mapping

```
integerish(1)
certainty
                  the certainty of the match. Possible values are between 1 and 4, with meaning
                     • 1 = probably unreliable
                     • 2 = unclear, assigned according to a given definition
                     • 3 = clear, assigned according to a given definition
                     • 4 = original, harmonised term (can't be assigned by a user)
type
                  character(1)
                  whether the new labels are mapped to a "concept", or to a "class".
ontology
                  ontology(1)
                  either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology.
verbose
                  logical(1)
                  whether or not to give detailed information on the process of this function.
beep
                  integerish(1)
                  Number specifying what sound to be played to signal the user that a point of
                  interaction is reached by the program, see beep.
```

Value

No return value, called for the side effect of adding new mappings to an ontology.

```
ontoDir <- system.file("extdata", "crops.rds", package = "ontologics")</pre>
onto <- load_ontology(path = ontoDir)</pre>
mapping <- data.frame(old = c("BIOENERGY CROPS", "Bioenergy woody",</pre>
                               "Other bioenergy crops"),
                       new = c("bioenergy plants", "Wood plantation for fuel",
                               "Algae for bioenergy"),
                       type = c("close", "broader", "broader"))
onto <- new_source(name = "externalDataset",</pre>
                    version = "0.0.1",
                    description = "a vocabulary",
                    homepage = "https://www.something.net",
                    license = "CC-BY-0",
                    ontology = onto)
onto <- get_concept(label = mapping$old, ontology = onto) %>%
  new_mapping(new = mapping$new,
               target = .,
              match = mapping$type,
              source = "externalDataset",
              certainty = 3,
              ontology = onto)
```

new_source 13

new_source

Add a new valid source to an ontology

Description

Add a new valid source to an ontology

Usage

```
new_source(
  ontology = NULL,
  name = NULL,
  version = NULL,
  date = NULL,
  description = NULL,
  homepage = NULL,
  uri_prefix = NULL,
  license = NULL,
  notes = NULL
```

Arguments

ontology ontology(1)

either a path where the ontology is stored, or an already loaded ontology into

which the new source should be included.

name character(1)

the name of the new source (must not contain empty spaces).

version character(1)

an optional version of the new source (any value is allowed, but should be a value that follows semantic versioning). Either version or date need to be given.

date character(1)

an optional date at which that version of an external vocabulary has been created. Should be a value of the form YYYY-MM-DD. Either version or date need to

be given.

description character(1)

a verbatim description of the new source.

homepage character(1)

the homepage of the new source, typically the place where additional informa-

tion or meta-data could be retrieved in a non-formalised way.

uri_prefix character(1)

the basic uniform resource locator (URL) all concepts of a new source have in

common and which is thus the basis to construct the concept specific URI.

license character(1)

the licenses under which the new source is published.

14 onto-class

notes

character(1)

any notes on the new source that don't fit into any of the other meta-data fields here.

Details

Fundamentally, there are two types of sources that can be defined with this function.

- attribute collections: where a collection of terms or concepts are associated as a descriptive attribute to the harmonised concepts, and
- *linked open data*: where the concepts that occur in another vocabulary or ontology and which are themselves part of linked datasets (and hence have a valid URI) are associated as related concepts to the harmonised concepts.

In the latter case, each mapped concept should be provided by its ID and the source needs to have a URL that allows in combination with the concept IDs to construct the URI under which the mapped concepts are stored in the semantic web.

Value

the updated ontology that contains the new source defined here.

Examples

onto-class

Ontology class (S4) and methods

Description

Ontology class (S4) and methods

Slots

```
sources data.frame(.)
classes data.frame(.)
concepts data.frame(.)
```

show,onto-method 15

show, onto-method

Print onto in the console

Description

Print onto in the console

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'onto'
show(object)
```

Arguments

object

object to show.

start_ontology

Start an ontology

Description

Start an ontology

Usage

```
start_ontology(
  name = NULL,
  version = NULL,
  path = NULL,
  code = ".xx",
  description = NULL,
  homepage = NULL,
  uri_prefix = NULL,
  license = NULL,
  notes = NULL
```

Arguments

```
name character(1)
the path of the ontology.

version character(1)
the version of the ontology.

path character(1)
```

the path where the ontology shall be stored.

start_ontology

code double(1)

format of a single code snippet that is concatenated for nested levels.

description character(1)

a brief description of the new ontology.

homepage character(1)

the URL to the homepage of the new ontology.

uri_prefix character(1)

the basic URL to construct URIs for all concepts.

license character(1)

any string describing the license under which this ontology can be (re)used.

notes character(1)

any notes that might apply to this ontology.

Value

it returns the new, empty ontology and also stores that within the directory specified in path.

```
start_ontology(name = "crops", path = tempdir())
```

Index

```
beep, 3, 12
character(.), 9, 11
character(1), 3, 4, 7, 8, 11–16
data.frame(.), 2, 9, 11, 14
double(1), 16
\verb|edit_matches|, 2
\texttt{export\_as\_rdf}, 3
get_class, 4
get_concept, 5
get_source, 6
integerish(1), 3, 12
load_ontology, 7
logical(1), 2-6, 8, 12
make_tree, 8
new_class, 8
new_concept, 9
{\tt new\_mapping}, {\color{red}11}
new_source, 13
onto (onto-class), 14
onto-class, 14
ontology(1), 3–6, 8, 9, 12, 13
show, onto-method, 15
start_ontology, 15
```