Brief Bio and (PR)²: Problems & Pitches – Rants & Raves by Jim Onken

Dr. James Onken is Special Assistant to the Acting Deputy Director for Extramural Research, NIH. He is responsible for analysis and presentation of data on NIH research programs and research personnel for use in program evaluation and policy studies. He also is program manager for the NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool (RePORT) web site at http://RePORT.nih.gov/, the RePORT Expenditures and Results (RePORTER) system, and the companion ExPORTER site, where users can download databases of NIH-funded projects and publications and patents citing support from NIH. Previously, Jim worked at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) for over 17 years, most recently as NIGMS's Planning and Evaluation Officer and Assistant Director for Resource Allocation and Analysis for NIGMS's Division of Extramural Activities. Earlier in his career he conducted research on human information processing, cognitive performance, mathematical models of decision-making; performed decision analysis for several federal agencies; and designed and developed computerized decision support systems. Jim holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in psychology from Northwestern University, and an MPH with a concentration in biostatistics from George Washington University.

Data and Software:
http://report.nih.gov/
http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm
http://projectreporter.nih.gov/exporter/

General Questions

1) What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop?
   I am interested in learning more about current research and development in the analysis of textual information and tools to analyze and present these data. I am also hoping to contribute to collaborations that will advance this area of research and generate useful applications to address issues of research policy.

2) What mapping of science or semantic web expertise do you have?
   I enjoy looking at the maps very much. (Seriously, very little.)

3) What is the most insightful mapping of science or semantic web technique or knowledge you know?
   On the face of it, science mapping appears to have a lot of potential to generate insights. I haven’t seen enough examples of the application of these methods to identify anything particularly insightful.

4) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?
   I would like to see state-of-the-art examples of semantic analysis and science mapping, and hope to see any applications of these methods to address research policy issues. I would also like to identify opportunities where the NIH Office of Extramural Research can contribute to efforts to develop new tools and apply them.