ALTERNATIVE SEARCH MECHANISM FOR WEB 2.0 RESOURCES

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Nowadays we are witnessing how ordinary citizens are willing to share geospatial information using the friendly and easy-to-use functionality provided by the web 2.0 platforms. These kind of social networks reflect events with big social impacts as is the case of forest fires, in particular when they occur close to urban areas. In these cases, social networks are invaded with volunteer information, mostly adding some location information, i.e., volunteered geographic information (VGI) sharing information about the forest fire evolution, which describes the forest fire extinction and impact. We discuss, how this information could be useful to complement other official sources with earth observation data and scientific information providing an alternative source. For the time being, in order to discover and access this VGI is necessary to deal with the different search mechanisms provided by the different web 2.0 services. This paper explores how to improve the interoperability of these platforms by providing a single service as a unique entry point with an interface that implements an standard specification: Open Search Geo-Time. This paper proposes the use of OGC Opensearch geospatial and time specification to discover and access information available in different web 2.0 services. As a proof of concept a web client is presented in a forest fire scenario. The intrinsically interoperability of the system is reflected in the collaborations cropped up with different disciplines such as the biodiversity and forestry department of the Joint Research Centre.

Keywirds: Web 2.0, VGI, Open Search