The Visualization Ontology (VISO) aims at formalizing knowledge from the domain of visualization. This supports the interoperability of visualization systems, allows for reusing existing knowledge and helps users to talk about common concepts.

**VISO**

**A Shared, Formal Knowledge Base as a Foundation for Semi-automatic InfoVis Systems**

The Visualisation Ontology (VISO) is a composite of seven ontologies, each focusing on a different field of visualization. It represents shared knowledge and helps users to talk about common concepts. VISO is modeled using the Semantic Web standards RDF(S) and OWL. It is designed to be human-readable and -understandable, to be used in combination with other tools, and to be discoverable and reusable. VISO is modularized into seven ontologies, each focusing on a different field of visualization. VISO is released under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 license.

**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

As ontologies represent shared knowledge, we encourage other researchers to contribute to the VISO development process by criticizing, suggesting new extensions or joining the developers. A beta version of VISO and our blog can be found at: [http://purl.org/viso/](http://purl.org/viso/)

**VISÖ USE CASES**

- Classify visualizations
- Support the search for visualizations and papers
- Discover neglected research areas
- Offer knowledge for semi-automatic visualization design systems
- Machine-readable and -understandable
- Shareable and based on Semantic Web standards
- Consolidate visualization vocabulary
- Clarify synonyms, homonyms and term overlap

**REFERENCES**