Research Paper Critique

This assignment is due at the beginning of class on **Thursday, December 4**. It will count for 10% of your overall grade.

An important skill for any graduate student is the ability to independently read and critique research papers. In this assignment, you are to choose a research paper related to the Semantic Web, thoroughly read it, and write a critique of the paper. This critique should be between 3 and 6 pages long, double-spaced.

The critique should summarize the paper and then provide your opinion on it. It should give the motivation for the work (i.e., why they wrote it), the methods they used (i.e., what they did and how they did it), and their conclusions (i.e., what they proved or found out). As for critiquing the paper, you should state whether you think the paper is valuable and why, and whether you think the methodology was sound (e.g., did they make unrealistic assumptions?). You should also point out anything you would have done differently, and also discuss what other research questions and problems the paper raises. Few published papers are perfect, so you should be able to find something to criticize.

I have provided a Semantic Web "Reading List" on the course home page (see http://www.cse.lehigh.edu/~heflin/courses/sw-2008/readlist.html). Any *research* paper from this list (i.e., not a language specification or tutorial) that has not been assigned as class reading is acceptable. Note, I only provide links to some of the papers, but most of them can be found on the Web. Here are some hints for how to locate a paper given its citation:

- Use CiteSeer, a special search engine for Computer Science articles. Available from http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/
- Use Google Scholar: http://scholar.google.com/
- Many authors publish their articles on the Web. Use your favorite search engine to try to find the home page of one of the authors directly.
- If the paper is in a journal, Lehigh may have electronic access to it. Check http://www.lehigh.edu/library/ejournals/ejournals.html
- If all else fails, try Lehigh's library and see if you can find the article in print. The online catalog can be found at http://asa.lib.lehigh.edu/uhtbin/webcat

Please try to find a paper that actually interests you. If you do not see one, good sources of Semantic Web papers include the International Semantic Web Conference, the Journal of Web Semantics and the Semantic Web track of the World Wide Web Conference. If you would like to choose a paper from one of these (or other) sources, please check with me first.