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Ref: Letter of support for Alberto Tonon

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to show strong support for the nomination of Alberto Tonon for the SWSA Distinguished Dissertation Award. His PhD thesis makes a number of novel and important contributions regarding ranking entities and entity types, data quality in LOD, event detection, and continuous evaluation of retrieval systems.

It was my pleasure to serve on the PhD evaluation committee of Alberto, and therefore I am familiar with his PhD thesis. His dissertation builds on research that has been published at top Semantic Web and information retrieval conferences (SIGIR'12, ISWC'13, ISWC'15, and ISWC'16) and journals (Web Semantics and Information Retrieval Journal). The material is well organized and clearly presented. The novelty as well as the scientific level of the thesis is considered very good. I was also impressed by the remarkably comprehensive result analysis, which further extended the results presented in the original publications.

Alberto's work has also had considerable impact, as can be witnessed from the number of citations his SIGIR'12 and ISWC'13 papers have accumulated.
I might also add that I am the author of the book Entity-Oriented Search, to be published by Springer later this year, which is the first synthesis of research in the area of entity-oriented information access. I cover some of Alberto's work (specifically, his SIGIR'12 paper and Web Semantics journal paper) in my book, which is another testimony to the significance of his work.

In summary, I consider Alberto Tonon's thesis worthy of the SWSA Distinguished Dissertation Award, based on its innovativeness, significance, and impact. If you should you need any additional information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. Dr. Krisztian Balog

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