Position Statement

The spatial patterns and relationships expressed through formal ontologies, concept networks, term spaces and topic spaces are today exploited in numerous ways, from search engines to recommender systems. Spatialization aims to make the underlying spaces more accessible to human cognitive abilities and much progress has since been made in this regard, namely:

1. approaches have been put forth that explicitly combine methods from cartography, information science, network science, text mining, and machine learning,

2. a robust empirical body of evidence regarding the cognitive mechanisms of spatialization has emerged,

3. the visual mapping of knowledge spaces has been widely popularized, such as through the “Places & Spaces—Mapping Science” exhibit (http://scimaps.org/), which has been shown at 200+ venues world-wide and is now in its 15th annual iteration, and

4. efforts at applying geographic thinking and spatial computing to knowledge spaces have moved beyond academia into the commercial realm, based on diverse scenarios of use.