Reviewer's report

Title: QL4MDR: A GraphQL Query Language for ISO 11179-based Metadata Repositories

Version: 1 Date: 17 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Jürgen Stausberg

Reviewer's report:

The reviewer expected information about software development methods and software engineering principles in the first version of the manuscript. The authors correctly note in their response to the reviews that respective information is not requested by BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making. Nevertheless, the authors extended the background section with information about the state-of-the-art and the motivation behind their solution. Now, the idea behind the software development is better understandable. Only one minor concern remains. In the revision, the authors add a remark about the utilization of the object class slot to cover semantic annotations. This is not congruent with ISO 11179. ISO 11179 offers explicit options to represent codes or to represent relationships between concepts with the concept metamodel region and the classification region. Unfortunately, Samply.MDR supports a very limited implementation of ISO 11179 without these important parts of ISO 11179. Therefore, the authors should make clear, that ISO 11179 does not use slots to cover semantic annotations.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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