

Contents

Preface ix

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction xiii

1 What Is an Ontology? 1

2 Kinds of Ontologies and the Role of Taxonomies 27

3 Principles of Best Practice I: Domain Ontology Design 43

4 Principles of Best Practice II: Terms, Definitions, and Classification 59

5 Introduction to Basic Formal Ontology I: Continuants 85

6 Introduction to Basic Formal Ontology II: Occurrents 121

7 The Ontology of Relations 131

8 Basic Formal Ontology at Work 151

Appendix on Implementation: Languages, Editors, Reasoners, Browsers, Tools for Reuse 173

Glossary 177

Web Links Mentioned in the Text Including Ontologies, Research Groups, Software, and Reasoning Tools 187

Notes 189

Bibliography 201

Index 215