The intention of this paper is to expose the results concerned to the automatic extraction of ontologies from semi-structured and structured sources of information. This work is part of a project, which objective is to expand the Knowledge Management System (KMS) of an enterprise specially improving its flexibility in terms of user queries and its auto-maintenance.

Although ontologies technology has been used in a considerable amount of knowledge management projects, its application has been limited to the definition of a common organizational language, often using manual methods. In this project we use ontologies to describe automatically the information available in the different sources of information of an enterprise and use it to improve the richness of the queries into the system. First we introduce the general architecture of the KMS, then we describe in detail the method of extraction of application ontologies from semi-structured (eg. html documents) and structured (eg. databases or xml documents) sources, then we make the description of the components developed for this purpose and some issues of its construction. Next, there is an analysis of the results of the tests using information sources of a real enterprise and finally we present the conclusions and future works.

The development and application of this work was made in a group of research institutions that wants to improve its collaboration processes throw a KMS. The analysis and design of the components were made taking into account their particular needs, but also through an extensive research in automatic and semi-automatic methods for extraction of ontologies in different projects (that are briefly described in the paper), not only those concerned to KMS. The result is a group of components that can be configured and incorporated in any context for automatic extraction of ontologies from structured and semi-structured sources.