Elicitation of Specific Requirements of Data Quality during the Web Portal Development

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1 Introduction

During the last years, the number of organizations and enterprises which have developed Web portals have increased considerably [1]. This applications enable to users the access to large amounts of data and information on line [2], through different data resources [3]. Web portals have provided users with a more intuitive and simple work environment, allowing users to find the data they need to perform their tasks in a better way. However, the apparition of problems due to inadequate levels of data quality (DQ) has been proven to negatively affect the tasks performed by people, and consequently the performance of organizations. These problems can cause a negative impact with a substantial cost, and not only in economic terms but also social in the organizations [4]. The concept of DQ should not be longer understood only as "zero defects" in the data, but "*fitness for use*" of data for a task for a specific user, that is, the ability of a data set to satisfy user's requirements [5]. In this sense, a DQ software requirement supplied by a user can be specified, in which indicates the characteristics of DQ required or needed to some data when they are

specified by each user, at the moment to perform a function with the system.

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used in certain specific task. The focus of this research is centred on how to elicit and introduce in the stage of requirements analysis, the corresponding software requirements for the management of DQ as a new kind of requirements. With this in mind, in this paper we describe the work made. Firstly, it was carried out a systematic review of the literature related with the purpose of getting a list of works done [6], which could be presumably related both methodologic focus as technologic into the area of DQ requirements specification. We have only found few proposals, as shown by [7], [8] and [9] for the relational model, or these related to semantic technology showed in [10] and [11], but none specifically related to deal with DQ requirements management. Due to this reason, as part of the methodologic focus of the research, it was designed a strategy of work in which the first step was relate the DQ problems (potholes) identified in Information Systems (IS) described by Strong et al. in [12] to the specific Web portal functionalities defined by Collins in [13]. In order to identify the DQ characteristics that could be critiques at the moment to implement each one of Web functionalities. Within this strategy, we got a list with a generic set of DQ software requirements that any development team would like to include into a System Requirements Specification (SRS) document. These requirements should guide to the analyst in the identification of software requirements related to DQ from the viewpoint of each role performing a task. Due to the above, the first objective of this work is DAQUA-VORD, a methodology aimed to identify and elicit both kinds of software requirements for Web portal development: those focused to functionalities,

and those ones oriented to DQ management. The second objective is included as part of the technological approach, in which a UML profile is proposed in order to model in a clear way, all DQ requirements related to each one of Web functionalities.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows: Section 2 reviews the three pillars in which our proposal is grounded: data quality measurement, Web portal functionalities and the requirements elicitation method. Section 3 presents our proposal: firstly the list of DQ software requirements, immediately the methodology DAQUA-VORD, and finally the UML profile. In Section 4 an example of application is shown. Finally in section 5 we introduce some conclusions.

2 Revision of Related Areas

2.1 Data Quality

In order to reduce the negative impact of problems (technical, organizational or legal) due to inadequate levels of DQ [14], it is paramount that companies can have a quantitative perception of their actual importance. So, they must assess how good their organizational data resources are for the tasks at hand. Organizations have to deal to the DQ, both in subjective perceptions by individuals that use the data, as objective measures based on a set of data. An assessment of DQ in a subjective way can reflect the needs and experiences of users with a set of data [8]. If the users assess the quality of data as poor, their tasks could be influenced by this assessment [15]. As mentioned, the most accepted definition for the concept "Data Quality" is *"fitness for use"* [16]. This means that a user typically evaluates the quality of a set of data for a particular task, which it is done in a specific context according to a set of criteria or

dimensions of DQ. An user performing a role within a IS can specify for a piece of data different DQ software requirements as be necessary, specifying the DQ dimensions that better represent this kind of requirements for a determined task. So, *the perception about the DQ level of a set of data could be different for diverse tasks, even for the same user performing different roles.* For measuring the level of DQ of a piece of data, it is necessary to identify several DQ dimensions (known the set as "*DQ model*") which can characterize the DQ requirements in a better way. Although there exists many DQ models most of them are quite domain dependant, which diminishes their applicability. In order to get a broader perspective as possible, we chose for our research the generic DQ model proposed in the standard ISO/IEC 25012 [17]. This international standard brings together fifteen DQ dimensions from two points of view: *Inherent* and *System dependent*.

2.2 Web Portal Functionalities

In stated in the introduction, our first step is to associate the relationships between Web portal functionalities and those DQ dimensions, which would best represent the various roles' DQ software requirements. So, we must first enumerate and review these functionalities as described by Collins [13]. We have reordered them in base to our experience and knowledge in both data quality and web development areas: *Content Management, Process and actions, Search capabilities, Administration, Security, Data points and integrations, Communication and collaboration, Presentation, Taxonomy, Personalization* and *Help features.* This reordering was taking as criterion the following: a greater probability of using of a Web functionality, a greater probability of being susceptible of finding inadequate levels of DQ.

2.3 Requirements Elicitation Method

The Requirements Elicitation is perhaps the activity most often regarded as the first step in the Requirements Engineering process, this activity is responsible to identify the stakeholders of the system and discover the requirements from them [18]. The viewpoint-oriented approach takes into consideration the different viewpoints of the different roles to structure and organize the requirement elicitation process [19]. The key point of the viewpoint-oriented analysis takes into account the existence of several perspectives and provides a framework to discover conflicts between the requirements proposed by different viewpoints. The viewpoint can be used as a form to classify the stakeholders. The VORD (*Viewpoints-Oriented Requirements Definition*) method proposed in [19] was designed to guide the process of elicitation and analysis of requirements having into account the different point of views of a system. The steps of this method are: *VI-1.Viewpoints Identification, VS-2.Viewpoints Structuring, VD-3.Viewpoints Documentation* and *VL-4.Viewpoints Layout*.

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3 A Methodology for the Elicitation of DQ Software Requirements

3.1 Relation between DQ Dimensions and Web Portal Functionalities

Once presented in section 2.1 the DQ dimensions, and listed the Web functionalities in section 2.2, we performed an analysis in both areas, it getting a matrix of relationship between the DQ dimensions and Web portal functionalities. Considering these relations at the moment to develop every one of Web functionality, it would be possible to ensure that the data that will be stored and manipulated by the functionalities have an acceptable level of DO. Therefore, it is necessary to describe the DQ requirements that can be drawn to avoid or minimize the effect of the common source of problems, as those described by Strong et al. in [12]. So the main challenge is not only to specify the relations itself, but also to express them through of the specification of DQ software requirements. Once defined these kinds of requirements the analyst will be able to specify the DQ dimensions that should be observed and implemented for each one of the Web functionalities. In this sense, we made an analysis about what kind of problems (defined by Strong et al. in [12]) could be related to each one of the Web portal functionalities, it getting as result the next matrix (see Table 1). Once completed the matrix, it was performed an analysis and comparison of each one of DQ dimensions described both in the model proposed by Wang and Strong [20] as in the standard ISO/IEC 25012. The aim of this comparison was to resolve possible conflicts in the description of the different DQ dimensions, either the existence of dimensions with the same name and different meaning, or dimensions with different name but the same meaning.

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Table 1. Matrix of relationship between web functionalities and problems identified by [12].

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Finally, taking as reference the research published by Strong et al. in [12], where the DQ dimensions that affect each one of the problems ("*potholes*") were classified based on their model [20], it was obtained the next matrix of relation (see Table 2). In this matrix, the DQ dimensions established in the Wang's model were changed by their similar described in the standard ISO/IEC 25012.

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DQ Dimensions (ISO 25012)	racy	teness	tency	oility	tness	bility	iance	ntiality	ency	sion	bility	dability	bility	oility	ability		
Web Portal functionalities	Accuracy	Completeness	Consistency	Credibility	Currentness	Accesibility	Compliance	Confidentiality	Efficiency	Precision	Traceability	Jnderstandability	Availability	Portability	Recoverability		
Content Management		\checkmark															
Process and Action		\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark										
Search capabilities		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark									
Administration																	
Security								\checkmark		line.							
Data points and integration		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	X									
Collaboration and Communication		V	\neg		\checkmark	\checkmark	V										
Presentation																	
Taxonomy																	
Personalization						V											
Help features	Ar	JD	Т	e	=+	ÍN	O	_0	G	31	Ρĩ				97	101	J

Table 2. Matrix of relationship of web functionalities and DQ dimensions.

3.2 DAQUA-VORD Methodology

As one result of this research, the DAQUA-VORD methodology is proposed, it can guide developers in the specification of DQ requirements, it identifying for each one of the functionalities selected, those DQ dimensions that have to be considered (and implemented) according to previous matrix (Table 2). The specification of these DQ dimensions from different perspectives (*viewpoints*) of the users performing a specific task should be introduced as new software requirements. The reason why we decided to use the "*VORD*" method as reference is that it allows the incorporation of DQ management aspects during the requirement elicitation process. In this way, DQ software requirements can be introduced as normal ones, but always taking into account the diverse viewpoints of the different kind of users performing a task. It is important assuring that techniques to be used can adequately capture and organize all kind of requirements (e.g. functional requirements together with specific DQ requirements). Descriptions of the stages of *DAQUA-VORD* methodology, mapped from those one from *VORD*, as well as its subactivities, its input and output products, and techniques/tools related will be next shown.

1. *IWPV. Identification of the Web Portal Viewpoints.* This stage is analogous to the step VI-1 of VORD method. It implies to discover the different viewpoints that will receive the functionalities of the Web Portal, besides the identification of the Web Portal functionalities together with the DQ dimensions associated (see Table 3).

2. *VS. Viewpoints Structuring*. It is aimed at grouping the viewpoints related in a suitable hierarchy. The main functionalities are located at the top levels of the hierarchy, once done that, these functionalities are inherited to the viewpoints of low level, besides the DQ dimensions are hierarchized in the same context (see Table 4).

Table 3. Artefacts and subactivities for the IWPV.

	- List of identified viewpoints being able to propose software requirement			
Input Product	for the system.			
	- List of all Web Portal functionalities [13].			
Output Product	- List of chosen functionalities for satisfying requirements of each viewpoint.			
Tools and techniques	- Interviews - Study of documentation - Questionnaire - Brainstorming			
IWPV.2. Identification	of the Data Quality Dimensions (IDQD), it implies to identify the different DQ			
dimensions related to e matrix of Table 2.	ach one of the functionalities described for each viewpoint, taking as base the			
	- List of viewpoints identified being able to propose DQ requirement for the			
Input Product	system.			
Input i louuet	- List of chosen functionalities for satisfying requirements of each viewpoint.			
	- List of DQ dimensions (see Table 2) for each functionality.			
Output Product	 List of DQ dimensions associated to the different functionalities. 			
1	- Document of System Requirements Specification.			
Tools and techniques	- Interviews - Work sessions - Brainstorming			
	Table 4. Artefacts and subactivity for the VS.			
VS.1. Choose a DQ M	odel (CDQM), it consists of classifying the DQ dimensions according to the			
hierarchy, in base at the priority level that the Web Portal functionalities have (listed in section 2.2).				

3. *DV. Documentation of the Viewpoints.* It encompasses the refinement of the description of the viewpoints and the functionalities identified, adding the DQ dimensions (Table 5).

- List of classification of DQ dimensions (DQ Model).

Tools and techniques - Work sessions - Judgment of experts

Table 5.	Artefacts	and	subactivity	for the	DV.
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<i>DV.1. Documentation of the Data Quality Dimensions (DDQD)</i> , it consists of documenting or modeling if possible, the DQ dimensions identified (e.g. through use cases diagram).					
Input Product - List of classification of data quality dimensions. - Document of System Requirements Specification.					
Output Product - Document of System Requirements Specification (SRS) augmented v Requirements Specification.					
Tools and techniques - Work sessions - Judgment of experts - Tools like Word processors - Modelin tools for UML					

4. *LVS. Layout of the Viewpoints of the System.* It encompasses identifying the main objects in an object-oriented design using the information of the functionality encapsulated in the viewpoints (see Table 6).

3.3 UML Profile to Management of DQ Software Requirements

In this section we show the proposal for modeling of DQ software requirements, by using a UML profile. Unlike of the proposals founded in the systematic review [21], this profile is focused in modelling DQ software requirements from the perspective of each user (*viewpoint*) at the moment to perform a specific task. The motivation of this

Output Product

LVS.1. Modeling of	LVS.1. Modeling of Data Quality Requirements (MDQR), it consists of modeling the different DQ					
requirements (DQ dimensions) in a data model and later on, in a process model.						
Input Product	- Document of SRS augmented with DQ Requirements Specification.					
Output Product	- Document of high level design with awareness of data quality (data model and process).					
Tools and	- Object oriented modeling tools (Rational Rose, Visual Paradigm, Poseidon,					
techniques	ArgoUML, etc.).					
LVS.2. Validation of	Model (VM), it consists of validating the complete model with the stakeholders.					
Input Product	 Document of System Requirements Specification augmented with DQ Requirements Specification. Document of high level design with awareness of data quality. 					
Output Product	 Final Document approved of "System Requirements Specification augmented with DQ Requirements Specif". Final Document approved of "High level design with awareness of data quality". 					
Tools and techniques	- Work sessions - Interpersonal negotiation techniques					

Table 6. Artefacts and subactivities for the LVS.

proposal appears from the necessity of allowing analysts and designers specifying in a more clear way, which DQ dimensions (related each Web functionality) should be implemented from the specification of user requirements. For this reason, both functional requirements (*information requirements*) as DQ software requirements should be considered from the earliest stages of development, because it will allow to designer to model all the requirements through the convenient extensions (e.g. use case diagrams). This UML profile specifies how the concepts of the Web functionalities and the DQ dimensions are related and represented, through stereotypes of UML language. The package that contains the stereotypes defined into



Fig. 1. Profile to specification of DQ requirements.

4 Example of Application

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In Table 7, a typical problem statement for developing a Web portal is showed.

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The ACME Realtors company would like to create an e-development solution that will replace the home listing catalogs that are printed on a monthly basis. The new system will allow to any user doing search in the property's database for current listings or find a Realtor, but only users registered (prospective buyers) will be able to initiate the loan process. Realtors will be able to list their properties on the ACME Realtor system and update the pictures of every property. A prospective buyer will be able to log on to the system and set up a personal profile. This profile will allow the buyer to enter a set of personal preferences and search requirements. Buyers will also be able to bookmark properties to the personal planner for easy reference the next time they log on. After a buyer has logged on to the system they may choose to search for a home, find a Realtor, or apply for a mortgage loan. The buyer and Realtor should be able to search for a home in a geographic area by city, zip code, or the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) number. The buyer should be able to further narrow their search through a series of filter criteria until they find a number of homes they are interested in. Any user and buyer should be able to view a picture of the home and see a full text description on all the amenities and features that the home has to offer. Finally, if the buyer is interested in receiving more information on the home, the buyer will be able to send an e-mail to the listing broker. The prospective buyer has the option to apply for a mortgage loan using the ACME Realty System. ACME Realtors has an existing Loan System that communicates with a number of partner lenders to gain loan pre-qualification approvals. This system should continue to be used for sending loan requests to potential lenders. The Realty System will ask the prospective buyer a series of questions about their current financial standing. After the prospective buyer has answered all questions, the system will send the data to the Loan System and receive a list of possible offers for a loan. If the buyer chooses to select one of the pre-qualification offers, the system will inform the customer that a credit report must be generated. The Administrator will be responsible to generate the Credit Reporting. Realtors subscribe to a Credit Reporting service, and the existing interface to this system should be used to provide this service. The buyer should be allowed to view the broker's personal profile that may contain any type of information that the broker enters and also a summary of all the properties that the broker currently has listed. Realtors must be able to access the on-line system to modify their personal profiles that are displayed to buyers. The Administrator will be responsible to create a new listing of properties and assign them to every Realtor. Besides, the Administrator will assign the nominal fee of each property and he will be able to update some pictures.



Once shown the problem statement, we can begin with the application of the methodology as follows:

1. *IWPV. Identification of the Web Portal Viewpoints.* One of main output product of this stage is identifying the viewpoints, which are: (a) *Buyer*, (b) *Realtor*, (c) User, and (d) *Administrator.*

IWPV.1. Identification of the Web Portal Functionalities (IWPF) to be implemented. The output product consists of a list of requirements and functionalities identified (see Table 8).

IWPV.2. Identification of the Data Quality Dimensions (IDQD). List of DQdimensions identified for each one of the web functionalities (see Table 9). This listwill be useful to analyst, since they will be able to select whatever of them.

2. VS. Viewpoints Structuring. The level of importance of each proposed requirement, taking into account in this example the number of times that every requirement is related to each viewpoint, it is as follow: (1) Login to the system, (2) Search of properties, (3) Send an email, (4) Update pictures of properties, (5) Subscribe to Credit Reporting Service, (6) See full description of properties, (7) Find a realtor, (8) View a picture, (9) Initiate a loan process, (10) Setup a personal profile, (11) Permit to mark properties to the personal planner, (12) Respond questions about financial standing, (13) Choose a pre-qualification offer, (14) View the broker's personal profile, (15) View summary of properties assigned to realtors, (16) List their properties assigned, (17) Modify personal profile, (18) Generate a credit report, (19)

Create a new list of properties, (20) Assign the nominal fee of each property. Taking as basis the importance level of each requirement, we can hierarchize the viewpoints in the next order: *1. Realtor, 2. Buyer, 3. Administrator, 4. User.*

VS.1. Choose a DQ Model (CDQM). The output product is a hierarchized list of DQ dimensions identified (taking as base Table 4): *1. Accessibility, 2. Compliance, 3. Confidentiality, 4.Completeness, 5.Consistency, 6.Currentness, 7.Credibility.*

	Viewpoint	Functional Requirement	Web functionality described by [13]
-		FR1. Search of properties.	Search capabilities
		FR2. Initiate a loan process.	Process and actions
		FR3.Login to the system.	Security
		FR4. Setup a personal profile.	Content Management
		FR5. Permit to mark properties to the personal planner.	Personalization
		FR6. Find a realtor.	Search capabilities
		FR7. View a property's picture.	Search capabilities
	Buyer	FR8. See full description of properties.	Presentation
		FR9. Send an email.	Collaboration & Communication
	ENCE	FR10. Respond questions about financial standing.	Process and actions
		FR11. Choose a pre-qualification offer.	Process and actions
		FR12. View the broker's personal profile.	Collaboration & Communication
		FR13. View summary of properties assigned to realtors.	Search capabilities
		FR14. List their properties assigned.	Search capabilities
		FR15. Update pictures of properties.	Content Management
		FR16. Subscribe to Credit Reporting Service.	Process and actions
	Realtor	FR17. Modify personal profile.	Content Management
	Realion	FR9. Send an email.	Collaboration & Communication
		FR3. Login to the system.	Security
		FR1. Search of properties.	Search capabilities
		FR18. Generate a credit report.	Administration
		FR19. Create a new list of properties.	Content Management
		FR20. Assign the nominal fee of each property.	Administration
	Administrator	FR3. Login to the system.	Security
	Administrator	FR9. Send an email.	Collaboration & Communication
		FR16. Subscribe to Credit Reporting Service.	Process and actions
		FR15. Update pictures of properties.	Content Management
		FR1. Search of properties.	Search capabilities
	User	FR7. View a property's picture.	Search capabilities
	User	FR8. See full description of properties.	Presentation
-		FR6. Find a realtor.	Search capabilities

Table 8. Identification of the Web Portal Functionalities (IWPF).

3. *DV. Documentation of the Viewpoints.* We use the following templates to conveniently document the different viewpoints and requirements. The results are gathered in Tables 10 and 11 (due to pages restriction of the paper, we only describe some of them). This documentation is a key part of a *System Requirement Specification document augmented with DQ Requirements Specification.*

Table 9. Identification of DQ dimensions.

Web functionality	DQ dimensions related			
Administration	Completeness, Compliance.			
Security	Accessibility, Compliance, Confidentiality.			
Process and actions	Completeness, Currentness, Accessibility, Compliance.			
Search capabilities	Completeness, Consistency, Credibility, Currentness, Efficiency, Traceability, Understandability, Availability.			
Personalization	Completeness, Accessibility, Compliance, Confidentiality.			
Collaboration and Communication	Completeness, Consistency, Currentness, Accessibility, Compliance.			
Presentation	Completeness, Compliance.			
Content Management	Completeness, Consistency, Credibility, Currentness, Accessibility, Compliance, Confidentiality.			

Table 10. Specification of viewpoint "Buyer".

-	Reference	Buyer.					
-	Focus	Viewpoint of the Buyer, he performs the main business functionalities of the					
		application.					
	Attributes	Name, address, telephone, email, salary.					
	Requirements	Search of properties, Initiate a loan process, Login to the system, Setup a personal					
		profile, Permit to mark properties to the personal planner, Find a realtor, View a					
		property's picture, See full description of properties, Send an email, Respond					
SCI	ENCE A	questions about financial standing, Choose a pre-qualification offer, View the broker's personal profile, View summary of properties assigned to realtors.	NS				
	Web	Search capabilities, Process and actions, Security, Content Management,					
	functionalities	Personalization, Presentation, Collaboration and Communication.					
-	Exceptions	None.					
-	History	No alterations.					
-							

Table 11. Requirement "Setup a personal profile".

Reference	Setup a personal profile.
Description	This requirement is related to manage and update of all the buyer personal information.
Data	Name, address, email, salary.
Viewpoints	Buyer.
Non-functional requirements	None.
DQ requirements	Completeness, Consistency, Credibility, Currentness, Accessibility, Compliance, Confidentiality.

DV.1. Documentation of the Data Quality Dimensions (DDQD). As part of the output product of this stage based on the Table 5, and with the goal of documenting and modeling the DQ dimensions, we apply in this point the UML profile proposed previously, this profile will permit us modeling DQ requirements (DQ dimensions) associated to the different functionalities that the system will provide, taking as basis this profile we can model an "*Information case diagram*", which is much more explicit that a common use case diagram. In this "*Information case diagram*" (see Fig. 2) we can see the requirements previously referred: "*FR4. Set up a personal profile*" and "*FR20. Assign the nominal fee of each property*", which can be modelled like "*Information cases*" (*IC*), they maintain a relation of type "*include*" with the use cases stereotyped like "*DQDim*", it means that data managed for each one of *Information cases* should satisfy the DQ dimensions specified. Thus, the developer

will have to consider the DQ dimensions at the moment of implementing the different functionalities of the application. In this diagram, the Information Case "Set up a personal profile" (associated with the Web functionality "Content Management") manages mainly the following pieces of data: name, address, email and salary. It means that these data should be compliant with the DQ dimensions of Completeness, Consistency, Credibility, Currentness, Accessibility, Compliance and Confidentiality. In this specific case, the analyst has chosen modeling only three of them. Similarly, the Information case "Assign the nominal fee of each property" (associated with the Web functionality "Administration") will manage the following pieces of data: ID property, nominal fee, Realtor in charge and address. So, these data should be compliant with the DQ dimensions of Completeness and Compliance.

4. *LVS.1. Modeling of Data Quality Requirements (MDQR).* The output product of this stage based on Table 6, it consists mainly in getting an object-oriented design, it should contains the main classes responsible for providing the functionalities of the Web portal, as well as the classes responsible for implementing the DQ dimensions. These diagrams are part of a *document of high-level design with awareness of DQ*.

LVS.2. Validation of Model (VM). Finally, the main documents obtained once applied the methodology ("Document of System Requirement Specification with DQ Requirements Specification" and "Document of high-level design with awareness of DQ") should be validated with the client.



Fig. 2. Information case diagram.

5 Conclusions

At present, data and information are fundamental assets of any organization. In the last years the Web portals has established as one of the main information sources in

Internet, and as means for allowing the access to information for all people. Nevertheless, the great majority of users who seek information needs to be sure that it has the adequate DQ level for the use that they require. A first solution to this problem is showed in this paper, where it is described which DQ dimensions are presumably related with the different Web functionalities. Immediately, we show a Methodology to elicit and define DQ requirements (*DAQUA-VORD*), besides a UML profile in order to modeling these kinds of requirements. Thus, we are able to encompass both approaches: methodological and technologic. These approaches could facilitate to the analyst and developers getting awareness about the DQ level that need to be implemented for each one of the functionalities during all Web development process.

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