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Preface

The International Conference on Case-Based Reasoning (ICCBR) is the pre-eminent reasoning (CBR). international meeting on case-based (http://www.iccbr.org./iccbr07/) was the seventh in this series, presenting the most significant contributions in the field of CBR. The conference took place in Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK, during August 13-16, 2007. ICCBR and its sister conferences ECCBR (European Conference on Case-Based Reasoning) alternate every year. ICCBR 2007 followed a series of six successful international conferences previously held in Sesimbra, Portugal (1995); Providence, Rhode Island, USA (1997); Seeon, Germany (1999); Vancouver, Canada (2001); Trondheim, Norway (2003); and Chicago, Illinois, USA (2005). The European Conferences on Case-Based Reasoning (ECCBR) were held as European workshops in Kaiserslautern, Germany (1993); Chantilly, France (1994); Lausanne, Switzerland (1996); Dublin, Ireland (1998); and Trento, Italy (2000); and as European conferences in Aberdeen, UK (2002); Madrid, Spain (2004); and Lykia World, Turkey (2006).

Days one, two, and four comprised presentations and posters on theoretical and applied CBR research. In order to emphasize the importance of applications, the traditional industry day was converted into an Industry Program held on the second day, in the middle of the conference. Day three was devoted to five workshops: Case-Based Reasoning and Context-Awareness; Case-Based Reasoning in the Health Sciences; Textual Case-Based Reasoning: Beyond Retrieval; Uncertainty and Fuzziness in Case-Based Reasoning; and Knowledge Discovery and Similarity.

There were four distinguished invited speakers. Two speakers from the CBR community, David W. Aha (Naval Research Laboratory, USA) spoke about perceptions of CBR, while Eva Armengol (IIIA-CSIC, Spain) talked about usages of generalization in CBR. Hans-Dieter Burkhard (Humboldt University, Germany) described the use of cases in robotic soccer, and Larry Kershberg (George Mason University, USA) presented the role of XML databases in CBR. Thanks to their commitment and ideas.

The presentations and posters covered a wide range of topics, including adaptation, planning, learning, similarity, maintenance, textual CBR, and recommender systems. This volume includes 15 papers from oral presentations and 18 from posters. These were chosen from a total of 64 submissions originating from 25 different countries. In addition, the volume contains three papers from invited speakers. The accepted papers were chosen based on a thorough and highly selective review process. Each paper was reviewed and discussed by four reviewers and revised according to their comments.

There were many people who participated in making ICCBR possible. First of all, David W. Patterson (University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, UK) –the Conference Chair who had the initiative to propose ICCBR 2007. The organization team was very diverse, having David C. Wilson (University of North Carolina, USA) and Deepak Khemani (IIT Madras, India) as coordinators of the Workshop Program. Thomas Roth-Berghofer (DFKI, Germany) chaired a Steering Committee for the Industry Program that included Kareem S. Aggour (General Electric CRD, USA), Bill

Cheetham (General Electric CRD, USA), Mehmet H. Göker (PricewaterhouseCoopers, USA), and Kalyan Moy Gupta (Knexus Research Corp., USA).

Mirjam Minor (University of Trier, Germany) coordinated the contacts with CBR researchers who have published work outside ICCBR and ECCBR conferences. We invited those researchers because we wanted to bring to the ICCBR audience a complete view of recent advances in CBR.

This diverse team together with the authors, the Program Committee, and additional reviewers are the stars of the CBR community in 2007. They made the conference happen and we want to thank them for their brilliant performances that are recorded in this volume.

We would also like to acknowledge the thoughtfulness of David W. Aha, whose constant leadership and concern for the community are crucial to the success of ICCBR and ECCBR conferences.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the sponsors of ICCBR 2007 and their, partly long-time, sponsorship of ICCBR and ECCBR.

Additional help was given by doctoral students from the iSchool at Drexel University. Thanks to Caleb Fowler for serving as webmaster and to Sidath Gunawardena and Jay Johnson for their help with this volume. In support of local arrangements, thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee from the University of Ulster: Patricia Kearney, Niall Rooney, Mykola Galushka, and Juan Carlos Augusto.

The submission and reviewing process was supported with the use of Conf Master.net - The Conference Management System. We would like to express our gratitude to Thomas Preuss. Finally, we thank Springer for its continuing support in publishing this series of conference proceedings.

June 2007

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