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Preface

The annual Text, Speech and Dialogue Conference (TSD), which originated in 1998, is now starting its second decade. So far almost 900 authors from 45 countries have contributed to the proceedings. TSD constitutes a recognized platform for the presentation and discussion of state-of-the-art technology and recent achievements in the field of natural language processing. It has become an interdisciplinary forum, interweaving the themes of speech technology and language processing. The conference attracts researchers not only from Central and Eastern Europe, but also from other parts of the world. Indeed, one of its goals has always been to bring together NLP researchers with different interests from different parts of the world and to promote their mutual cooperation. One of the ambitions of the conference is, as its title says, not only to deal with dialogue systems as such, but also to contribute to improving dialogue between researchers in the two areas of NLP, i. e., between text and speech people. In our view, the TSD conference was successful in this respect in 2008 as well.

This volume contains the proceedings of the 11th TSD conference, held in Brno, Czech Republic in September 2008. Following the review process, 79 papers were accepted out of 173 submitted, an acceptance rate of 45.7%. We would like to thank all the authors for the efforts they put into their submissions and the members of the Program Committee and the reviewers, who did a wonderful job helping us to select the most appropriate papers. We are also grateful to the invited speakers for their contribution. Their talks provided insight into important current issues, applications and techniques related to the conference topics.

Special thanks are due to the members of the Local Organizing Committee for their tireless effort in organizing the conference. Dagmar Janoušková and Dana Komárková carried the main administrative burden and contributed in many other ways to the preparation of the conference. The T_EXpertise of Petr Sojka resulted in the production of the volume that you are holding in your hands.

We hope that you benefitted from the event and that you also enjoyed the social program prepared by the Organizing Committee.

July 2008

Aleš Horák
Ivan Kopeček
Karel Pala
Petr Sojka

Organization

TSD 2008 was organized by the Faculty of Informatics, Masaryk University, in cooperation with the Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň. The conference webpage is located at <http://www.tsdconferences.org/tsd2008/>

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