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Electronic Participation

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Proceedings

Volume Editors

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Preface

Welcome to the first in the ePart series of annual international conferences. ePart is dedicated to reviewing research advances in both social and technological scientific domains, seeking to demonstrate new concepts, methods and styles of eParticipation. ePart is dedicated to innovative and rigorous eParticipation research. It aims to bring together researchers from a wide range of academic disciplines and provide the scientific community with a platform for discussing and advancing research findings. The conference itself is preceded by a doctoral colloquium providing young researchers with the important opportunity to be part of the eParticipation research community.

This book brings together 16 papers representing the completed, comprehensive research of 41 authors with from countries ranging from Sweden to Australia. Reflecting on the highly complex and multi-faceted nature of eParticipation research undertaken by these authors, the papers are clustered under the three headings:

– Research Review and Outlook
– Evaluation and Assessment
– Tools, Techniques and Case Studies

Papers include those that consider future multi-disciplinary research directions, examine the potential contribution of social networking sites to political engagement, provide evaluation frameworks for both eParticipation policy and specific projects, and those that describe emerging tools and techniques with which to conduct and analyze eParticipation.

The ongoing research, projects, and general development issues, which have also been accepted for ePart 2009, are published in a complementary proceedings volume by Trauner Druck, Linz, Austria.

All papers were blind reviewed by at least three reviewers from the ePart 2009 Program Committee. We would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution that these reviewers have made to ePart 2009. They provided the authors with useful feedback to enable them to finalize their papers. We would also like to thank Gabriela Wagner of the DEXA organization and the DEXA staff for taking care of organizational issues of ePart. Thanks also to Konstantinos Parisopoulos of the University of Macedonia, who supported the administration of the review process, set up the program, coordinated author requests, and compiled the proceedings of ePart 2009.

ePart is closely aligned with the EGOV conference. The Program Chairs consider both conferences as sister conferences and are committed to co-locating the two events in the years to come. Our final thanks go to Maria Wimmer, without whose valuable support this conference would not have been possible.

The 2009 edition of DEXA and ePart was hosted by the Johannes Kepler University of Linz. We thank numerous local institutions for the support

provided in the organization of the event. It was a pleasure to visit the wonderful city of Linz, the 2009 European capital of culture.

September 2009   Ann Macintosh
                                                                   Efthimios Tambouris

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