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Elena García-Barriocanal Zeynel Cebeci
Mehmet C. Okur Aydın Öztürk (Eds.)

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Elena García-Barriocanal
University of Alcalá
28871 Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), Spain
E-mail: elena.garciab@uah.es

Zeynel Cebeci
University of Cukurova, Balcalı, Adana, Turkey
E-mail: zcebeci@cukurova.edu.tr

Mehmet C. Okur
Yasar University, Bornova, Izmir, Turkey
E-mail: mehmet.okur@yasar.edu.tr

Aydın Öztürk
Yasar University, Bornova, Izmir, Turkey
E-mail: aydin.ozturk@yasar.edu.tr

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Preface

Metadata and semantics are undoubtedly one of the cornerstones of the Web and its future applications. The wide range of ways to enhance the current Web using metadata and ontologies moves many researchers and enterprises worldwide to the creation and use of conceptual, theoretical and methodological frameworks to offer innovative computational solutions in that direction. Further, metadata in its various forms can be considered the fabric of a new concept of digital library, which spans across systems, and the efforts of the European Union on the creation of the Europeana digital library are a prominent example of this emergent idea. Now the concept of "linked data" has become a key driver of innovation that promises a reorganization of metadata to allow for direct linking between collections, avoiding information silos and enabling a new range of applications that are able to benefit from direct interlinking between resources.

In Accordance with the principles of the original Metadata and Semantics Research Conference (MTSR) event in 2005 and following the steps of its successors MTSR 2007 (Corfu, Greece), MTSR 2009 (Milan, Italy) and MTSR 2010 (Alcalá de Henares, Spain), MTSR 2011 was conceived as a meeting point for researchers in the field and to discuss specialized results as general contributions to the state of the art. The conference attempts to gather a truly multi-disciplinary audience, with research papers coming from different IT-related fields, such as information science and computing (in all its areas, including information systems), but also from application-specific areas.

The conference, as in previous years, was organized in a general/main track and several others: a track on Metadata and Semantics for Open Access Repositories and Infrastructures, a second on Metadata and Semantics for Learning Infrastructures, a third on Metadata and Semantics for Cultural Collections and Applications and finally one on Metadata and Semantics for Agriculture, Food and Environment. All the papers underwent a thorough and rigorous peer review process. The review and selection this year was highly competitive to guarantee that only papers containing substantial novel research results of relevance for the international R&D audience were accepted for publication. Only 36 of 118 submissions were accepted in the category of full research paper, representing around a 30% of the total. Other papers covering interesting and insightful results were accepted in the category of short research paper or project/experience report, totalling 52 contributions accepted.

This proceedings book collects the papers presented in the MTSR 2011 event, which was held at Yaşar University, in the city of İzmir, Turkey. We would like to give our sincere thanks to the administrative staff of the university and the local organizers for their professional and hard work, which made the event a reality. Also, we would like to mention the important support of several sponsors, including Netsis in Turkey, Bilgitürk Teknoloji in Izmir, Agro-Know Technologies

in Greece and TSRI (Technology and Sustainability Research Institute) in Spain. Further, the VOA3R project (http://voa3r.eu/ funded by the European ICT PSP program) provided support for the organization and co-located a project meeting at İzmir just a few days before the conference, allowing for the creation of synergies between conference attendants and project partners' representatives.

The conference this year invited five extraordinary keynote speakers: Rob Davies, Yannis Ioannidis, Bram Luyten, Marcia Zeng and Charalampos Karagiannidis. All of them increased the quality of the conference and contributed to discussions on the latest advances in the field. The conference organization is grateful for their willingness to participate.

In addition, attendants to the conference were able to participate in two highly relevant tutorials conducted by Nikos Korfiatis and Hannes Ebner respectively. Korfiatis discussed the use of experimental methodology as a way to learn more about the users, and also the statistical methodologies and techniques that are needed to conduct an online experiment. Ebner discussed Linked Data and some areas of application such as educational metadata and learning repositories, as well as Linked Data in the context of environmental information.

We would like to finish by thanking the people that made the conference possible: the members of the Program Committees (track committees included), the Steering Committee and the Organization Committees (both general and local). Special thanks to Miguel-Angel Sicilia (once again!) and Fernando Álvarez for managing the online submission system and supporting the preparation of the camera-ready version of the proceedings.

August 2011

Elena García-Barriocanal
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