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Preface

The understanding of data semantics in Web-based information systems is the object of intensive research efforts. The large volume of data on the Internet originates a need for accessing the semantic content of that information. Furthermore, it requires the personalizing of its search and integration to various types of users. Two approaches have been proposed in the research literature: integration of Web technologies with database technologies and use of meta-languages such as XML. These solutions offer highly structured or semi-structured data that allow users to perform queries at a higher semantic level. These also facilitate the dynamic personalization of Web-based applications. Therefore, it is now important to address the question of how one can efficiently query and search large collections of XML documents. And it is also necessary to find new solutions, both to support dynamic architectures for Web-based applications and to model users' search and result presentation criteria.

The third international workshop on Databases in Networked Information Systems (DNIS 2003) was held on September 22–24, 2003 at the University of Aizu in Japan on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. The workshop program included research contributions, and invited contributions. The session on *Web Intelligence* included invited papers by Professor Jiming Liu and Professor Cyrus Shahabi. The session on *Information Interchange and Management Systems* included invited papers by Professor Toshiyasu L. Kunii, Professor Elisa Bertino, and Professor Marc Sifer. The session on *Information Interchange Among Cyber Communities* had invited papers by Professor Toyoaki Nishida, Professor Masaru Kitsuregawa, and Dr. Umeshwar Dayal. Finally the session on *Knowledge – Annotation and Visualization* included the invited contribution by Professor Daniel Keim.

The sponsoring organizations and the organizing committee deserve praise for the support they provided. I would like to thank the members of the program committee for their support and all the authors who submitted the results of their research to DNIS 2003.

The workshop received invaluable support from the University of Aizu. In this context, I would like to thank Professor Ikegami, President of the University of Aizu, and Professor Mirenkov, Head of the Department of Computer Software, for making the financial support available. I would like to express my gratitude to the members and chairman of the International Affairs Committee, for supporting the workshop proposal, as well as to the faculty members at the university for their cooperation and support.

Organization

The DNIS 2003 international workshop was organized by the Database Systems Laboratory, University of Aizu, Aizu-Wakamatsu City, Fukushima, 965-8580 Japan.

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