
Editorial

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Editors

Welcome to the first ORI Issue of 2008, in which we hope you will enjoy the wide variety of papers presented.

Firstly, Benjamin Smith provides an approach to forecasting used by the state child protection agency in New South Wales, Australia. Benjamin has looked at ways of forecasting the population of children in care, in order to assist planning and funding of “out-of-home” care services and expenditure. This is a fascinating paper on a valuable subject, and has resulted in spin-off benefits such as the finding that children stay longer in relative/kinship care compared to foster care.

Noelia Oses provided an earlier contribution to ORI on gaming, and this paper picks up on some of the issues left open by the earlier analysis. We have taken the unusual step with this paper of leaving in rather more analytical/statistical material than would normally be acceptable to ORI. We hope that this does not interfere with your enjoyment of the paper, but it is our view that it will be of value to those interested in Markov Chain Analysis, and can be easily ignored without detriment to the general understanding of the paper. The paper analyses the different types of slot features modelled as Markov chains, discusses their particular characteristics,

illustrates the type of problems that one might encounter in practice and provides suggestions for developing implementations of the models. The cases studied are games that have already been released and are commercially available.

David Groves shows how Chernoff Face Plots can be used to summarise data collected. Face plots rely on the concept that humans have a highly developed ability to recognise and distinguish faces, and David develops this within the paper by applying the technique to matching burglary suspects to crimes.

Finally, Simon Burtonshaw-Gunn presents a consultant perspective on the way in which the contractual relationship between client and customer can offer benefits for both parties in addition to those traditionally anticipated. Drawing on his personal consultancy experience, Simon suggests that these added-value benefits rely on the consultant’s ability to engage in networking in a focused way and actively utilise a formal Knowledge Management process. Each of the topics of Added-value, Networking and Knowledge Management are regarded as key competencies in contributing to Management Consultancy performance and are discussed in the article which concludes with some personal observations on these related topics.