
This conference was organized by the International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS).

The mission of this Conference was to publish and integrate scientific results and act catalytically to the fast developing culture of web communities. It is increasingly important for our culture to bring people together and to promote dynamics in professional organizations, mutual understanding, learning and harmony. Creating "virtual communities" is one major way to do this. The conference called for original papers, review papers, technical reports and case studies on WWW in particular the emerging role of so-called WWW-based Communities. The submissions were accepted under the following main areas: The history, architecture and future of virtual communities; Group processes and self-organization; Cyborgs, teleworking, telemedicine, art games and learning communities, Expanding Markets through Virtual Communities and Virtual communities for people with special needs.

The Web Based Communities 2008 Conference had 87 submissions from more than 26 countries. All submissions had been anonymously reviewed by an average of five independent reviewers, to ensure the final high standard of the accepted submissions. The final result was the approval of 20 full papers, which meant that the acceptance rate was below 23 %. A few more papers had been accepted as short papers, reflection papers, doctoral consortium and posters.

Extended versions of the best papers were selected to be published in:

- the International Journal of "Web Based Communities" (IJWBC); ISSN: 1477 - 8394 (4 issues per year)

In addition to the 9 parallel sessions that included the presentation of fulls, shorts and reflections papers, posters and a doctoral consortium session, the conference offered two keynotes presentations from internationally distinguished research (Professor Jan van Dijk, University of Twente, Dep. of Media, Communication and Organization, Netherlands and Dr. Jalal Kawash, University of Calgary, Canada), two special talks (Dr. Virginia King, Coventry University, UK and Professor Nian-Shing Chen, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan) and, also, a panel session with the participation of Stephen Bronack, Amelia Cheney, Roni Linser and Maria Backe.
Keynote Presentation:
SOUNDS FROM UTOPIA CRITICAL ISSUES OF THE WEB 2.0 PERSPECTIVE FOR WEB-BASED COMMUNITIES

by Professor Jan van Dijk, University of Twente, Dep. of Media, Communication and Organization, Netherlands

Keynote Presentation:
VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES AND MOBILITY: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

by Dr. Jalal Kawash, University of Calgary, Canada

Special Talk:

I JWBC SPECIAL ISSUE: WEB BASED RESEARCH NETWORKS AND LEARNING COMMUNITIES

by Dr. Virginia King, Coventry University, UK

Special Talk:

BLENDDED SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING MODEL

by Professor Nian-Shing Chen, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan

Overall the targeted audience for this Conference was scientists and members and moderators of WWW communities who felt responsible for optimizing its quality and effect.


Program Committee Members:

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