Preface to WISM 2008

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The international workshop on Web Information Systems Modeling (WISM) aims at covering the latest developments for model-driven design of Web Information Systems (WIS). This is the fifth edition of the workshop, after four successful editions organized in Trondheim (2007), Luxembourg (2006), Sydney (2005), and Riga (2004).

The first paper, the invited paper, by Ma et al. discusses Abstract State Services as an abstraction of Web services. Abstract State Services use a hidden database layer combined with a function-enabled view layer. These abstractions enable easy integration and composition of existing WIS components for building new WIS.

The second paper by De Virgilio and Torlone proposes the General Hypertext Model, a reference meta-model for WIS navigational design. The proposed hypertext model generalizes both data-oriented and object-oriented approaches for navigational design. The authors discuss three scenarios that make use of General Hypertext Model: hypertext exchange, hypertext integration, and hypertext adaptation.

The third paper by Luinenburg et al. applies situational engineering to the development of WIS. The approach is based on identifying the key features for WIS design and subsequently selecting the ones required by a WIS. After that, fragments of possibly different design methods that support these features are selected and assembled in a specific design method for the desired WIS.

The fourth paper by Alpuente et al. presents a rule-based specification and verification language for WIS. The language makes use of an ontology which allows the use of semantic information during rule expansion. The integration between the rule-language and the ontology is achieved by extending OWL-DL with variables and function calls.

The fifth paper by Rigo and de Oliveira proposes the acquisition of user stereotypes by using Web usage mining and domain ontologies. The access patterns have associated semantic contexts that describe the semantic relations between pages as well as page content similarity. Based on the semantic context and user current information, the system is adapted by suggesting links and topics of possible interest to the user.

The sixth paper and last one in this workshop by Milea et al. aims at supporting WIS that make use of Semantic Web technologies for modeling the temporal context. The paper proposes TOWL, an extension of OWL-DL with temporal constructs based on concrete domains and fluents. One of these extensions refers to temporal cardinality that lifts the OWL-DL cardinality restrictions in a temporal dimension.

We do hope that the topics of the selected papers will appeal to the reader and invite her/him to have a closer look at the articles gathered in the proceedings. Last, but not least, we would like to thank all the authors, reviewers, and participants for their contributions and support making thus the organization of the workshop possible.

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