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DFKI and Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

Tobias Kuhn Norbert E. Fuchs (Eds.)

Controlled Natural Language

Third International Workshop, CNL 2012
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Proceedings

Series Editors

Randy Goebel, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada
Jörg Siekmann, University of Saarland, Saarbrücken, Germany
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Volume Editors

Tobias Kuhn
Yale University
School of Medicine
Department of Pathology
300 George Street
New Haven, CT 06511, USA
E-mail: kuhntobias@gmail.com

Norbert E. Fuchs
Universität Zürich
Institut für Computerlinguistik
Binzmühlestrasse 14
8050 Zürich, Switzerland
E-mail: fuchs@ifi.uzh.ch

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Preface

CNL 2012 was the third of a series of international workshops on controlled natural language. Skipping one year, it followed up on the previous two events, CNL 2009 and 2010, both held on the beautiful island of Marettimo in Italy. Their success convinced us to continue the series. This time, for a change and for better reachability, we chose Zurich in Switzerland as venue instead of Marettimo. The event was hosted by the Department of Informatics and the Institute of Computational Linguistics of the University of Zurich. Another change concerns the proceedings. Previously, contributions for the workshops were reviewed based on extended abstracts with the full papers being reviewed and published after the event. This time, the complete proceedings are published before the workshop, which involved just one round of reviewing of the full papers.

The topics of the workshop are the different theoretical and practical aspects of controlled natural languages. Such languages are based on natural languages but come with restrictions on vocabulary, grammar, and/or semantics. The general goal is to reduce or eliminate ambiguity and complexity. Some of these controlled languages are designed to improve communication among humans, especially for non-native speakers of the respective natural language. In other cases, the restrictions on the language are supposed to make it easier for computers to analyze such texts in order to improve computer-aided, semi-automatic, or automatic translations into other languages. A third group of controlled natural languages has the goal to enable reliable automated reasoning on seemingly natural texts. Such languages have a direct mapping to some sort of formal logic and should improve the accessibility of formal knowledge representations or specifications for people unfamiliar with formal notations. All these types are covered by the workshop. To our knowledge, it is currently the only scientific event with this particular focus.

Of 15 initial submissions, one was withdrawn, two were rejected by the Program Committee, and for one paper no acceptable final version was submitted. This led to the acceptance of the 11 papers of this volume, which were presented at the workshop. In addition, the program included the talks of two invited speakers: Sabine Lehmann (Acrolinx) and Stephen Pulman (University of Oxford). Finally, there were two slots for system demonstrations, one academic and one industrial. We hope to have achieved the same informal and productive atmosphere of the previous events.

We would like to thank the authors for their work and for choosing this event to submit their manuscripts. We also thank the Program Committee members for their reviews, discussions, and general feedback. A special thank you goes to the invited speakers for agreeing to present their work on controlled natural language. We also thank our host departments at the University of Zurich — the Department of Informatics and the Institute of Computational Linguistics — for

their support. Finally, we are very grateful for being sponsored by the MOLTO project¹. All this support has allowed us, as in previous years, to organize the workshop without the need to collect participation fees.

June 2012

Tobias Kuhn
Norbert E. Fuchs

¹ <http://www.molto-project.eu/>

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