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Preface

Information systems that use the Web metaphor for the interface with the user, the so-called Web Information Systems (WIS), are the most popular information systems nowadays. The spectrum of WIS is very large, it ranges from simple information systems that merely allow the user to browse information (e.g., train departures or arrivals) to complex information systems that allow complex forms of interaction of the user with the system (e.g., buying train tickets and planning travels). Realizing the business potential of the Web there is a great need to build WIS or to migrate traditional information systems to the Web.

As WIS mature, there is increasing demand that these systems should satisfy complex requirements. Due to their complexity WIS benefit significantly from a model-driven approach such that one has a good understanding of the system, the communication among stakeholders is better supported, and also the system to be built is appropriately documented. As for Software Engineering, WIS modeling is done from different points of view and also at different levels of abstraction, so that only the needed information at a certain moment in time is represented. Differently than Software Engineering, engineering WIS needs to consider the Web peculiarities (e.g., the hyperlink concept, a broad spectrum of users, etc.)

The Web Information Systems Modeling (WISM) workshop aims to emphasize the current modeling techniques that apply to WIS. This is the third edition of this international workshop after two successful editions organized in Riga and Sydney. As there are a growing number of applications that show the potential of the Semantic Web, we have decided in this third edition of the workshop to focus on how Semantic Web technologies can help in the process of WIS modeling.

In order to exploit the Semantic Web technologies one needs to provide the right metadata that comes with the information sources. As there are many existing data sources without metadata, a lot of research nowadays concentrates on the (semi-automatic) extraction of this metadata. Once having at its disposal the data source metadata, a WIS can provide querying facilities in languages similar to natural language.

As WIS are used in different contexts and by different users, it is important that one models the adaptation aspects of these systems. A common approach is to represent the user information in a user profile and define rules that will use this profile in order to personalize the information presented by WIS. There are two types of personalization: static, done prior to user browsing, and a dynamic, done during user browsing. Next to adaptation these systems should also support the information access by the mobile worker.

Nowadays there is an increasing amount of multimedia being created and stored in databases. WIS can use this new source of information in order to improve the quality and appeal of the presented material. The multimedia aspects pose new challenges to the WIS data management. For example the metadata extraction from images and videos is quite different from the metadata extraction from plain texts. Also the querying paradigms used for querying multimedia are quite different from the traditional query languages.

We do hope that the above issues raised the readers' interest in the articles that we gathered in these proceedings and we wish them a pleasant reading through some of the topics of the fascinating world of WIS modeling. Finally, we would like to thank authors for their contribution to this field and make the organization of WISM2006 possible.

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