Second Latin American Conference on Learning Analytics: LALA 2019

Valdivia, Chile, March 18-19, 2019

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Preface to the Conference Proceedings

The second edition of the Latin American Conference on Learning Analytics (https://www.lalaproject.org/conferencia2019) (in short LALA 2019 conference) took place in Valdivia on March 18 and 19, 2019. The conference was organized by Universidad Austral de Chile in collaboration with the LALA project (Building Capacity to Use Learning Analytics to Improve Higher Education in Latin America).

The LALA Project (https://www.lalaproject.org/) is a project funded by the European Commission and aims at building capacity for learning analytics in Latin America. Its final aim is to modernize education in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Latin American to improve their educational processes. Learning analytics includes the collection of educational data, their analysis, interpretation and interventions to improve education. In the last years, learning analytics techniques and tools have made a big progress and there is a great opportunity that HEIs in Latin America can take advantage of learning analytics.

The first version of the LALA conference and workshops were held in 2018 in Guayaquil, Ecuador (https://www.lalaproject.org/workshop/) as part of the activities of the LALA project. The conference has its continuation in this second edition in Valdivia, Chile. The LALA conference has three main objectives: 1) Create meetings among stakeholders of HEIs interested in learning analytics in Latin America. This matches with the LALA community meetings of the LALA project. These LALA meetings enable the share of knowledge, the possibility of collaboration, and the possibility to interact and discuss with other stakeholders. 2) Train different stakeholders, and specially teachers, regarding how to adopt learning analytics in institutions, how to use of learning analytics tools and how to replicate experiences gained from the application of learning analytics in other institutions. 3) Disseminate the activities of the LALA project.

The LALA 2019 conference connected a total of 53 participants, being 12 from different countries and 8 from Latin America. The conference included presentations of papers. This way, different works about learning analytics that are taking place in Latin America were presented and discussed. We received a total of 30 submissions and 14 papers were accepted. These 14 papers are part of these proceedings. The topics covered in the accepted papers include general literature reviews, dashboards, dropout prediction, adoption at institutional level, analysis of behaviors, emotion detection, and specific experiences. Each paper had a slot of 30 minutes for presentation in the conference. We would like to thank all authors for contributing to LALA Conference with their work, and the program committee members who acted as reviewers.

The LALA 2019 conference also served to disseminate activities, results and tools generated in the LALA project, and to train different stakeholders of HEIs about different learning analytics issues connected to the LALA project. In this direction, there were two keynotes (of 1 hour of duration) and six different workshops (of 2 hours of duration each one):

- The first keynote was given by Dr. Carlos Alario-Hoyos, Deputy Vice-President for Strategy and Digital Education at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. This keynote was focused on how data can be used to make informed decisions to improve education, providing different specific examples on how to achieve it.
- The second keynote was given by Dra. Tinne De Laet, Head of the Tutorial Services of Faculty of Engineering Scienc at KU Leuven. This keynote reflected about the scalability of dashboards and brought lessons from the ABLE and STELA projects.
- Two workshops about the LALA framework. The LALA framework is one of the key results of the LALA project. The LALA framework is a set of rules, recommendations, patterns, etc. that guide HEIs to adapt and implement learning analytics in their institutions. One of the workshops was focused on the institutional, communal and ethical dimensions of the framework and was led by Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. The other workshop was focused on the technical dimensions and was led by ESPOL, Ecuador.
- One workshop was about a dropout prediction tool and the use of R for implementing it. This is one of the tools that was adapted in the context of the LALA project. This workshop was led by Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.
- One workshop was about the use of ENA as analysis tool in learning analytics and was led by University of Edinburgh.
- Two workshops were about a counselling tool. The adaptation of a counselling tool with different dashboards is one of the objectives of the LALA project. Each Latin American partner did a specific adaptation depending on their needs. One of the workshops was led by Universidad Austral de Chile, while another one was led by Universidad de Cuenca.

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