Social Information Retrieval in Technology-Enhanced Learning (SIRTEL'07) workshop proceedings
Preface

Social information retrieval (SIR) refers to an approach that assists people in obtaining relevant information by harnessing the knowledge or experience of colleagues, friends, peers, and other people with whom a social tie can be identified. Examples of SIR techniques include collaborative filtering, social network analysis, social bookmarking and the use of subjective relevance judgments such as tags, annotations, ratings and evaluations. They are currently used in numerous application areas of the Web, with most prominent the ones of entertainment and e-commerce.

SIR methods, techniques and systems open an interesting new approach that promises to facilitate and support the area of learning and teaching. There is an abundance of resources available on the Web, content as well as people (e.g. other learners, experts, tutors), that can be used to facilitate teaching and learning. The challenge is to develop, deploy and evaluate SIR systems that provide learners and teachers with suitable learning resources from a potentially overwhelming variety of choices.

The Workshop on Social Information Retrieval in Technology-Enhanced Learning is the first occasion that focuses on research questions around the application of SIR methods, techniques and systems in Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) settings. SIRTEL'07 is organised in the context of European Conference on Technology Enhanced Learning (EC-TEL07), September 17-20 2007, in Crete, Greece.

The main goal of SIRTEL'07 is to bring together researchers and practitioners and to assess the current status of research related to the application of SIR methods, techniques and systems in learning settings. The workshop serves as a discussion forum where researchers present the results of their work, and collaboration is fostered between groups that explore related subjects.

In total, twelve papers were submitted to the workshop. From these, eight have been accepted for presentation and one as a system demonstration. Papers present the following strands: the design and development of recommender systems for TEL; social information sharing, tagging and rating of learning resources; and the usage of visualization techniques in order to facilitate social retrieval of learning resources.

Apart from the accepted papers, the workshop programme include two keynote presentations: David Wiley, Director of the Center for Open and Sustainable Learning and Francisco J. Martin, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of MyStrands.

Finally, the SIRTEL'07 organisers seize the opportunity to thank the Program Committee members for their most valuable comments on the submissions, the authors for inspiring papers, the audience for the interest in this workshop, the local organisers from the ECTEL 2007 team, and the Workshops' Chair.

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