EDITORIAL

This special issue emerged from previous work that has been conducted through a French symposium called "Prise en Compte des Utilisateurs dans les Systèmes d'Information" (PeCUSI) that could be translated by "Taking into account users in Information Systems." This annual symposium started in 2007 and is organized conjointly with the French conference on information systems INFORSID. This work is supported by GDR I3[1], INFORSID association[2] and GDR Psycho-Ergo[3]. The main aim of this symposium and related activities is to allow researchers, industrials or students (from any domain —(i.e. computer science, social science…) to share their knowledge, methods and results related to the way users are considered in information system (IS) at any stage (i.e. IS design, personalization, adaptation, graphical user interface…). This work is so multi-disciplinary allowing participants to have a complete view of user considerations in IS. This special issue follows the same motivations with its call for paper has been multi-disciplinary and internationally sent on mailing-lists.

14 abstracts have been submitted but only 12 papers have been finally submitted to this special issue. Papers came from various countries: Argentina (1), Belgium (1), France (5), Greece (1), India (1), Morocco (1), Netherlands (1) and Spain (1).

To assure a good quality of papers, every paper has been evaluated through a two steps blind review process thanks to a 16 international editorial board composed of: Aline Chevalier (France), Max Chevalier (France), Alexander Felfernig (Austria), Susan Gauch (USA), Julian Gutierrez (Spain), Philippe Lopistéguy (France), Alessandro Micarelli (Italy), Hiem M. Nguyen (USA), Harri Oinas-Kukkonen (Finland), Javier Pereira (Chile), Leena Salmi (Finland), Chirag Shah (USA), André Tricot (France), David Vallet (Spain), Jean Vanderdonckt (Belgium), Fei Yu (USA).

This volume (ISSN: 1646-3692) combines 5 original papers. The authors' contributions embrace important research topics and intend to provide important research in user-centered information system field. It covers main steps from information system design to user/information system interaction.

The first paper in this issue by Ravi Ramdoyal and Jean-Luc Hainaut (Laboratory of Database Application Engineering, Belgium), entitled *"INVOLVING END-USERS IN DATABASE DESIGN – THE RAINBOW APPROACH"* tackles the understandability limitations of conceptual formalisms and schemas from the application end-users standpoint. In order to associate end-users with its specification and development, authors study data requirements elicitation techniques relying on user-drawn electronic forms. The tool-supported approach called RAINBOW is illustrated.

The second paper by Magali Ollagnier-Beldame (Université Lyon 1 – Laboratoire LIRIS, France) entitled *"THE USE OF DIGITAL TRACES: A PROMISING COMPONENT OF ADAPTIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS?"* suggests an original approach based on digital traces as a means to support reflexive type coupling between the system and the user. This paper relies on theoretical and methodological tools from cognitive ergonomics that enabled us to integrate the subjects' point of view in the activity analysis.

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[1] http://www.irit.fr/GDR-I3/
[2] http://inforsid.irit.fr/
[3] http://www.gdr-psychoergo.org/

The third paper by Jean Caussanel and Ali Mroué (Laboratory of Sciences of Information and of Systems, France) entitled "*EXTRACTION OF CONTEXTUAL ASSOCIATIONS TO SUPPORT USER IN A TASK OF INFORMATION RETRIEVAL BY NAVIGATION*" illustrates adaptation process in Information Retrieval field based on digital traces. It suggests exploiting the behavior models to extract knowledge that can be used as to support users in their activities or to adapt the system to emerging activities. Such models are extracted from System-User interaction traces and provide representations of the real tasks performed by users

The fourth paper by Firas Bacha, Káthia Oliveira and Mourad Abed (University of Valenciennes and Hainaut Cambrésis, France) entitled "*USING CONTEXT MODELING AND DOMAIN ONTOLOGY IN THE DESIGN OF PERSONALIZED USER INTERFACE*" tackles personalized interfaces. A generic context model that captures all relevant information related to the user and devices is defined. Such model is coupled with a domain ontology to provide a model-driven architecture framework to allow semi-automatic generation of personalized user interfaces. An illustrative example of the proposed approach is given.

The fifth paper by Marco Viviani, Nadia Bennani and Elöd Egyed-Zsigmond (Université de Lyon – LIRIS, France) entitled "*MULTI-APPLICATION PERSONALIZATION USING G-PROFILE*" tackles an important issue related to personalized information systems: how sharing user related information (user model for instance) in a multi-application context? Authors propose a multi-application user modeling system called G-PROFILE that is based on a user profile modification propagation scheme while preserving security and privacy.

As guest editors of this special issue we would sincerely thank the journal editors Pedro ISAIAS and Marcin PAPRZYCKI who followed us in this project. We have also appreciated the implication of all reviewers who have done accurate and complete evaluations of papers and who have strictly respected deadlines. Thank you all!

Guest Editors

Max CHEVALIER
Université Paul Sabatier – Toulouse 3, IUT Rangueil, Université de Toulouse,
Institut de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse - IRIT - UMR 5505,
France.

Philippe LOPISTEGUY
Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour, IUT Bayonne,
Laboratoire Informatique de l'Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour – LIUPPA – EA 3000,
France.

André TRICOT
Université Le Mirail – Toulouse II, IUFM Midi-Pyrénées, Université de Toulouse,
Laboratoire Travail & Cognition, CLLE LTC - UMR 5263,
France.