The International Conference on Web Based Communities had its fourth edition held in Salamanca, Spain, 18-20 February 2007.

This conference was organized by the International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS).

The mission of this Conference was to publish and integrate scientific results and act catalytically to the fast developing culture of web communities. It is increasingly important for our culture to bring people together and to promote dynamics in professional organizations, mutual understanding, learning and harmony. Creating "virtual communities" is one major way to do this. The Web Based Communities 2007 conference was able at to aggregate scientifically proven methods on how to organize and moderate WWW-based communities. The submissions were accepted under the following main areas: The history, architecture and future of virtual communities; Group processes and self-organization; Cyborgs, teleworking, telemedicine, art games and learning communities, Expanding Markets through Virtual Communities and Virtual communities for people with special needs.

This Conference had 131 submissions from more than 24 countries. In order to ensure the final high standard of the accepted papers, the submissions had been anonymously evaluated by at least two independent reviewers. The end result was the approval of 34 full papers meaning that the acceptance rate was below 26 %. A few more papers had been accepted as short papers, reflection papers, and posters.

Extended versions of the best papers were selected to be published in:

- the International Journal of "Web Based Communities" (IJWBC); ISSN: 1477 - 8394 (4 issues per year)

In addition to the 15 parallel sessions that included the presentation of fulls, shorts and reflections papers and posters, the conference offered a keynote presentation from an internationally distinguished research, Professor Jenny Preece, Dean, College of Information Studies, University of Maryland, USA.

Keynote Presentation:

SOCIABILITY AND USABILITY IN ONLINE SOCIAL SPACES

by Jennifer Preece (Professor & Dean) College of Information Studies University of Maryland, USA
Overall the targeted audience for this Conference was scientists and members and moderators of WWW communities who feel responsible for optimizing its quality and effect.


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