

Introduction to the 2011 JCDL Doctoral Consortium Issue

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This special issue presents a collection of papers written by participants in the Doctoral Consortium of the 2011 ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL), held in Ottawa, Canada. This event brought together Ph.D. students engaged in digital library research from around the world to present and discuss their work with an Advisory Panel of international experts. The aim of the annual JCDL Doctoral Consortium is to provide a forum for presentation, discussion and constructive feedback for students whose work is at a stage where they can benefit most from this type of interaction.

The students participating in the Consortium were selected by a Program Committee. Students submitted extended abstracts describing their doctoral research, which were subjected to three reviews focusing on originality, importance, clarity, the stage of research, and relevance to JCDL. Following the Doctoral Consortium in June, presenters were invited to revise their papers based on the feedback they received from their peers and advisers during their presentations, and to submit them for publication in the TCDL Bulletin.

The papers included here represent a varied cross-section of current and ongoing research in the DL field. A number of papers focus on various aspects of metadata, including quality, reuse, interoperability and associated work practices. Other prominent themes are e-science, cyberinfrastructures and the challenges posed by heterogeneous and semi-structured digital content, including information retrieval, entity extraction and web archiving. Research topics are situated in a wide range of domains: archives and cultural heritage, the WWW, business, medicine and social science and research methods are drawn from across the qualitative/quantitative spectrum.

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