

Introduction to the 2012 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 2012 ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL), held in at George Washington University in Washington, DC. This event brought together a group of talented Ph.D. students engaged in digital library research 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 reviewed by members of the Program Committee. Reviews focused on originality, importance, clarity, the stage of research, and relevance to JCDL. The students selected to participate in the event were then given the opportunity to revise their extended abstracts based on reviewers' comments. These revised papers were distributed in the Proceedings of the Doctoral Consortium, which were available only to participants and the Advisory Panel. Following the Doctoral Consortium in June, presenters were invited to revise their papers further based on the feedback they received from their peers and advisers during their presentations, and to submit them for publication in this Special Issue of the TCDL Bulletin.

The papers included here represent a varied cross-section of current and ongoing research in the Digital Library field. A number of papers focus on issues of data curation and preservation, including the challenges of archiving dynamic content and the management of large data curation projects. Text mining and document processing is another theme, represented by papers on citation analysis, metadata assignment and the analysis of arguments in user added content. On the theme of information access and use are several papers related to information seeking, retrieval and use, including studies of collaborative information searching, digital reading in e-books, and the use of crowdsourcing and games in information retrieval research. In keeping with the breadth of digital library research generally, research topics are situated in a wide range of domains: academic libraries, data science projects, the World Wide Web, collections of scientific literature and social media applications.

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