

Preface

Research on digital libraries is a fascinating domain which changes constantly. It is very rich in the topics addressed over the last decade, as demonstrated in Nguyen, S.H. and Chowdhury, G. (2011). It is of particular interest to follow the work of early stage researchers since they offer unconventional ideas and come up with fresh ideas and approaches. From this point of view, the content of the doctoral consortia organized traditionally at the TPD and JCDL conferences, is of definite interest to the larger research community.

What are the topics which are most attractive for young researchers? How far do they go in their pursuits? How do they combine the accumulated methodological knowledge with novelty and freshness of approach? These are only a few of the questions one could pursue around doctoral consortia.

The doctoral consortium of the TPD 2012 attracted submissions in various domains. This collection includes two full papers prepared by student who took part in the consortium. One could note that in all these cases the work was near completion.

- Revealing digital documents Concealed structures in data by Jakob Voss
- An investigation of ebook lending in UK public libraries by Christopher Gibson, and
- Content-Based Image Retrieval in Digital Libraries of Art Images Utilizing Colour Semantics by Krassimira Ivanova

Further four presentations have not been developed into full papers but their extended abstract can be found in the conference proceedings (see Gradmann et al. 2011). These presentations address the issues of changes in the libraries catalyzed by the social media (“New Paradigm of Library Collaboration” by Adam Sofronijevic, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology Belgrade, Serbia), “Designing Highly Engaging eBook Experiences for children” by Luca Colombo, Faculty of Informatics, University of Lugano, Switzerland), “Visual Aesthetics of Websites: an investigation of the applicability of affective reactions for evaluation” by Rita Strebe, University of Regensburg, Germany) and “Leveraging EAD in a Semantic Web Environment to Enhance the Discovery Experience for the User in Digital Archives” by Steffen Hennicke, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin School of Library and Information Science, Berlin, Germany).

The differences in topics and focus are noticeable; it is also worth noting that the interdisciplinary nature of digital library research has definite consequences on the approaches, methodologies and style of the papers presented at the consortium. This is inevitable for a young domain – and indeed one of the significant contributions of the feedback and discussions at doctoral consortia is the contribution to the increase in quality and to the establishment of a common language of young researchers coming from various domains.

References

- Gradmann, S., Borri, F., Meghini, C., and Schuldt, H. (2011) Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries. International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries, TPD 2011, Berlin, Germany, September 26-28, 2011. Proceedings. LNCS, Vol. 6966.
- Nguyen, S.H. and Chowdhury, G. (2011) Digital Library Research (1990-2010): A Knowledge Map of Core Topics and Subtopics. LNCS, 2011, Vol. 7008, Digital Libraries: For Cultural Heritage, Knowledge Dissemination, and Future Creation, pp. 367-371.