

# Preface

We are pleased to present the proceedings of the 2003 Atlantic Web Intelligence Conference, AWIC 2003. The conference was located in Madrid, Spain during May 5–6, 2003, organized locally by the Technical University of Madrid.

AWIC 2003 aimed to be the first of a series of conferences on Web Intelligence, to be celebrated annually, alternatively in Europe and America, starting in Madrid. It was born as an activity of the recently created WIC-Poland Research Centre and the WIC-Spain Research Centre, both belonging to the Web Intelligence Consortium (WIC) (<http://wi-consortium.org>). AWIC 2003 was supported with grants from the Spanish Ministry for Science and Technology and the European Network of Excellence in Knowledge Discovery, KDNNet.

AWIC 2003 brought together scientists, engineers, computer users, and students to exchange and share their experiences, new ideas, and research results about all aspects (theory, applications, and tools) of artificial intelligence techniques applied to Web-based systems, and to discuss the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted. Almost 70 contributions were submitted. After a preliminary evaluation, 60 of these papers were accepted to the conference and were assigned at least two reviewers from the international program committee. Out of this 60, 33 were conditionally accepted, and 32 of them were finally accepted after the conditions set by the reviewers had been met, which resulted in an acceptance ratio of 45%.

AWIC 2003 had a general session with 9 papers, and the others were organized into special sessions on areas such as:

- Web security,
- Semantic Web,
- Web authoring and design,
- Web information retrieval,
- Agents for the web, and
- User behavior

During AWIC 2003 we were pleased to have some important invited speakers. Prof. Lotfi Zadeh, who does not need any introduction, was the honorary chair and gave a talk about the transition of search engines to question-answering systems. This book contains what could be considered an extended abstract of his actual lecture. Prof. Ning Zhong, President of WIC, who can be considered as one of the fathers of the term “Web Intelligence,” gave a talk about the past, present, and future of the area. Finally, Prof. Ryszard Tadeusiewicz spoke about the application of artificial intelligence techniques for information retrieval.

We thank all the authors for contributing to what in our minds was a more than interesting program in Web Intelligence. We also want to thank the remarkable effort made by Coro Perez, secretary of the conference, and the rest of the local committee. We hope to see all of them, and many others at AWIC 2004.

May 2003

E. Menasalvas  
J. Segovia  
P.S. Szczepaniak

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