

## Preface

The Third International Conference on Natural Language Generation (INLG 2004) was held from 14th to 16th July 2004 at Careys Manor, Brockenhurst, UK. Supported by the Association for Computational Linguistics Special Interest Group on Generation, the conference continued a twenty-year tradition of biennial international meetings on research into natural language generation. Recent conference venues have included Mitzpe Ramon, Israel (INLG 2000) and New York, USA (INLG 2002). It was our pleasure to invite the thriving and friendly NLG research community to the beautiful New Forest in the south of England for INLG 2004.

INLG is the leading international conference in the field of natural language generation. It provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of original research on all aspects of the generation of language, including psychological modelling of human language production as well as computational approaches to the automatic generation of language. This volume includes a paper by the keynote speaker, Ardi Roelofs of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and the F.C. Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging, 18 regular papers reporting the latest research results and directions, and 4 student papers describing doctoral work in progress. These papers reveal a particular concentration of current research effort on statistical and machine learning methods, on referring expressions, and on variation in surface realisation. The papers were selected from 46 submissions from all over the world (27 from Europe, 13 from North America, 6 from elsewhere), which were subjected to a rigorous double-blind reviewing process undertaken by our hard-working programme committee. In addition, the conference had a poster session giving a snapshot of ongoing research projects in the field (published as ITRI technical report No. ITRI-04-01).

As always, the conference and this volume of proceedings are the result of the combined efforts of many people. First and foremost we would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers, and the Programme Committee who helped us to put together an excellent conference programme. In addition, we thank everyone who helped us put the conference together, especially the ITRI administrative team, staff at Careys Manor Hotel, and members of the SIGGEN and ACL boards, especially Owen Rambow and Kathy McCoy. Finally we thank all the staff and students at ITRI, and in the wider generation community, for their advice, support and participation in INLG 2004.

July 2004

Anja Belz, Roger Evans and Paul Piwek

# Organisation

INLG 2004 was organised by the Information Technology Research Institute, University of Brighton, UK, on behalf of the Association for Computational Linguistics Special Interest Group on Generation (ACL SIGGEN).

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