

# Preface

The annual International Conference on Text, Speech and Dialogue (TSD), which emerged in 1997, constitutes a recognized platform for the presentation and discussion of state-of-the-art technology and recent achievements in computer processing of natural language. It has become a broad interdisciplinary forum, interweaving the topics of speech technology and language processing. The conference attracts researchers not only from Central and Eastern Europe but also from other parts of the world. Indeed, one of its goals has always been bringing together NLP researchers with various interests from different parts of the world to promote their mutual cooperation. One of the ambitions of the conference is, as its name suggests, not only to deal with dialogue systems but also to improve dialogue among researchers in areas of NLP, i.e., among the “text” and the “speech” and the “dialogue” people.

Moreover, the TSD 2017 Conference celebrated its 20-year anniversary. There was a lot to celebrate: The two teams taking turns in organizing the conference – the team from the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the University of West Bohemia in Plzeň and the team from the Faculty of Informatics of the Masaryk University in Brno – have endured and kept the wheel spinning over the last 20 years even though the situation was sometimes rather complicated, especially because of the economic crisis of 2007–2008. Not only has the conference always been vital, it has evolved from its humble beginnings into a renowned event registered in respected and widely monitored lists of conferences in the field of NLP.

We wanted to make the 20th year somehow special and therefore decided to move the conference for this year from its traditional venues in Plzeň (and surroundings) and Brno to the capital city. It is symbolic in several ways: Prague lies between Plzeň and Brno, it is the largest and the most important city of the country, there is a very important scientific and research partner facility of both organizing institutions, the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics, and other prominent research facilities and by this the symbolic value of Prague as the TSD venue is far from exhausted.

The TSD 2017 conference was held on the campus of the co-organizing institution, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University, called the “House of Professed,” during August 27–31, 2017. The conference schedule and the keynote topic were again co-ordinated with the Interspeech conference and TSD 2017 was listed as an Interspeech 2017 satellite event. Like its predecessors, TSD 2017 highlighted the importance of language and speech processing to both the academic and scientific world and their most recent breakthroughs in current applications. Both experienced researchers and professionals, as well as newcomers in the field, found in the TSD conference a forum to communicate with people sharing similar interests.

This volume contains a collection of submitted papers presented at the conference. Each of them was thoroughly reviewed by three members of the conference reviewing team consisting of more than 60 top specialists in the conference topic areas. A total of 56 accepted papers out of 117 submitted, altogether contributed by 141 authors and

co-authors, were selected by the Programme Committee for presentation at the conference and for publication in this book. Theoretical and more general contributions were presented in common (plenary) sessions. Problem-oriented sessions as well as panel discussions then brought together specialists in narrower problem areas with the aim of exchanging knowledge and skills resulting from research projects of all kinds.

Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to the authors for providing their papers on time, to the members of the conference reviewing team and the Program Committee for their careful reviews and paper selection, and to the editors for their hard work preparing this volume. Special thanks go to the members of both Local Organizing Committees for their tireless effort and enthusiasm during the conference organization. We hope that you benefit from the event and that you these proceedings.

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