

Preface

This volume of proceedings contains the reviewed papers presented at the 21st International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL), which was held in Thessaloniki, Greece from September 18 to 21, 2017. The conference was organized by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Democritus University of Thrace. The general theme of the 21st International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries was “Part of the Machine: Turning Complex into Scalable” and its aim was to create a dialogue that addressed the challenge of creatively transforming these highly-synthesized environments into solutions that can scale for the benefit of varied communities.

TPDL 2017 received 85 full-paper submissions, up from 50 at TPDL 2016 and 44 at TPDL 2015, making the conference in 2017 very competitive and selective, and requiring the Program Committee to uphold the highest possible academic standards. We introduced a two-layered structure for oral presentations, long and short oral, in order to include an adequate number of interesting papers that expand the field of digital libraries on innovative topics and to strengthen the areas already known. Of the 85 long-paper submissions, only 20 (24%) were accepted for a long oral presentation, and an additional 19 (22%) long papers were accepted for a shorter oral presentation. This makes a grand total of 39 (46%) full papers accepted for the proceedings.

Of the 8 short-paper submissions, only 4 (50%) were accepted, and of the 5 poster/demo submissions, only 2 (40%) were accepted. Selected full-paper submissions were redirected for evaluation as potential short or poster/demo papers, following the recommendations of the reviewers.

Each submission was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members, and two Senior Program Committee members, and the two chairs oversaw the reviewing and often extensive follow-up discussion. Where the discussion was not sufficient to make a decision, the paper went through an extra review by the Program Committee. Each paper was discussed individually, based on the reviews, the meta reviews, and the discussion at a PC meeting, where the final decisions were made.

The conference was honored by three very interesting keynote speeches by Paul Groth on “Machines are People Too”, Elton Barker on “Back to the Future: Annotating, Collaborating, and Linking in a Digital Ecosystem” and Dimitrios Tzovaras on “Visualization in the Big Data Era: Data Mining from Networked Information”. All three covered important areas of the digital library field.

The program of TPDL 2017 also included a doctoral consortium track and four tutorials on “enriching digital collections using tools for text mining, indexing and visualization”, “putting historical data in context: how to use DSpace-GLAM”, “innovation search”, and “enabling precise identification and citability of dynamic data – recommendations of the RDA working group on data citation”. Finally, four workshops were organized in conjunction with the main conference, namely the long-established “European Networked Knowledge Organization Systems (NKOS)” in

its 17th year and the newly introduced “(Meta)-data Quality Workshop”, “International Workshop on Temporal Dynamics in Digital Libraries”, and “Modeling Societal Future (FUTURITY)”.

We would like to thank all our colleagues for trusting their papers to the conference, as well as our Program Committee members, both the senior and the regular, for the precise and thorough work they put into reviewing the submissions. A word of gratitude must be addressed to our workshop chairs, Philipp Mayr and Kjetil Nørvåg, our tutorial chairs, Thomas Risse and Gianmaria Silvello, our panel chair, Cristina Ribeiro, our posters/demo chairs, Vangelis Banos and Annika Hinze, and our doctoral consortium chairs, Maja Žumer and Heiko Schuldt, for the substantial effort they put into in running their tracks.

September 2017
Thessaloniki

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Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries
21st International Conference on Theory and Practice
of Digital Libraries, TPDL 2017, Thessaloniki, Greece,
September 18-21, 2017, Proceedings
Kamps, J.; Tsakonas, G.; Manolopoulos, Y.; Iliadis, L.;
Karydis, I. (Eds.)
2017, XXVII, 678 p. 150 illus., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-67007-2