10th Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries, IRCDL 2014

Pushing the Boundaries of the Digital Libraries Field

Preface IRCDL 2014

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Abstract

This contribution is the preface of the volume of post-proceedings of the 10th Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries, IRCDL 2014. The volume contains the reports on the invited presentations and the accepted papers. The accepted papers were initially reviewed for presentation at the conference, and after the presentation the papers were resubmitted by the authors in a revised version that included the suggestions received during the presentation at the conference. The resubmitted versions of the papers were reviewed by at least three anonymous reviewers and the accepted papers were revised by the authors taking into considerations the reviewers' suggestions.

IRCDL is a yearly deadline for Italian researchers on Digital Libraries related topics and IRCDL 2014 marks an important milestone for the field of digital libraries in Italy. In fact it is the tenth edition of this initiative, so, by looking back at what it has been done and documented through the various editions of IRCDL over the last decade, it reviews the current situation and lays the foundation for the future of the area.

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The Italian community that meets annually at IRCDL is an active community that contributes to the achievement of European and international projects, and through its results can inform of what is happening in general in this area and give some guidance on what will be the new challenges and the boundaries of the area.

One of the points of focus of IRCDL 2014 is emphasizing the multidisciplinary nature of research on digital libraries which not only goes from computer science to humanities but also crosses areas in the same field, ranging, for example, from archival to librarian sciences or from information management systems to new knowledge environments. This is an ongoing challenge for the digital library field and there is need to continue to contribute to improve the cooperation between the many communities that share common objectives. The invited presentation by Tiziana Catarci Angela Di Iorio and Marco Schaerf on the Sapienza Digital Library addresses many of the challenges of this focus reporting on the design choices and implementation activities of interest for a major university that actively operates in research and teaching serving more than 150,000 students and staff members. To complement the topics addressed by the first invited talk, the invited presentation by Rossella Caffo, Director of the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries and Bibliographic Information (ICCU), which is an institute of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism (MiBACT), reports on the digital cultural heritage projects at the national and European level, where ICCU is active and that are of interest in general and in particular for the libraries that face new challenges in contributing to the transfer of knowledge.

The second major focus of IRCDL 2014 is on the profound change that is happening in the world of scientific communication, where the object of scientific communication is no longer a linear text, although digital, but an object-centric network that consists of text, data, images, videos, blogs, etc. This change is likely to deeply modify the nature and the role of the Digital Library and its relationship with the thematic data center. To introduce the major challenges that this focus requires to see addressed and to lay the foundations of the area, two invited talks were given. The first of these was by Gaby Appleton (Elsevier) on Future Trends in Digital Libraries and Scientific Communications, and the second was by Costantino Thanos (Institute of Information Science and Technologies "A. Faedo", Italian National Research Council, Pisa) on The Future of Digital Scholarship, and they addressed the characteristics of modern science and the need for the publication and consumption of scientific information to undergo radical changes also to produce an important transformational impact on the scholarly record. During the conference, the debate on the contents of these two talks was enriched by the contributions of Alberto Del Bimbo (Department of Systems and Computer Science of the University of Florence) and Carlo Tasso (Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Udine).

In addition to the excellent invited speakers, from amongst the submitted papers we selected 18 high-quality papers for inclusion in this volume of the Elsevier Procedia Computer Science series.

The conference took place in the Aula Magna "Antonio Lepschy" of the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padua, thanks to the support and sponsorship of the Department and of the European project CULTURA - CULTivating Understanding and Research through Adaptivity - Co-funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission (http://www.cultura-strep.eu/).

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