

A media release on Friday March 6, 2009 by the Australian Computer Society says: “The Australian Computer Society (ACS) today welcomed the Federal Education Minister, Julia Gillard’s initial response to Bradley’s Report on Australia’s higher education system. The ACS renewed its call for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to be recognised as a core discipline of both the University and VET systems, ensuring students are adequately equipped to compete with their international peers in the global workplace.” The media release went on to say: “ACS Chairman, Kumar Parakala said: ‘The changes proposed by Minister Gillard will provide the educational skills sets to help knowledge and innovation become a key future export for our country. Through the creation of greater education prospects, training and teaching facilities the Government has created a platform which clearly ties in with maintaining world educational standards. We also need to make sure we stay in step with Governments all around the world, by recognising technology and technology skills as a key to this country’s future innovation and prosperity.’”

The first paper in this issue of JRPIT is “IS Development Practice in New Zealand Organisations”. The authors, Laurie McLeod, Stephen MacDonell and Bill Doolin surveyed New Zealand organisations with at least 200 full-time staff to assess IS development practices in that country. They found that “Over the period surveyed (2001–2003), larger organisations (>500 FTEs) or those with larger IS functions (>10 IS FTEs) undertook significantly more IS projects, more expensive projects, more projects in which users participated and more projects in which a standard method was used, than their smaller counterparts. In the same period, there has been a trend towards increased use of packaged software solutions and outsourced development or customisation of packaged solutions”.

Following this study is a report that “examines several key factors affecting the adoption rate of broadband internet access in 31 provinces of China”. This paper, entitled “Examining the Influencing Factors and the Most Efficient Point of Broadband Adoption in China” by Changi Nam, Seongcheol Kim, Hongkyu Lee and Bin Duan, uses the “Stochastic Frontier Analysis Model”, and discusses “disposable income, penetration rate of fixed phones, number of Internet users, and educational attainment” among other factors, with regard to their impact on the uptake of broadband internet in China.

“Learning Ranking Functions for Geographic Information Retrieval Using Genetic Programming” is the third of the five papers in this issue. In this paper, You-Heng Hu and Linlin Ge “describe a GIR ranking function learning method where Genetic Programming is used”. They state that “Geographic Information Retrieval (GIR) has emerged as a new and promising tool for representation, storage, organisation of and access to geographic information”. However, they note that “One of the current issues in GIR research is ranking of retrieved documents by both textual and geographic similarity measures”. Their paper “describes an approach that learns GIR ranking functions using Genetic Programming methods based on textual statistics and geographic properties derived from documents and user queries”.

The penultimate paper in this issue is “Textual Entailment as a Directional Relation” by Doina Tătar, Gabriela Șerban, Mihiș Andreea and Rada Mihalcea. “The recognition of textual entailment is one of the most complex tasks in natural language processing (NLP) and the progress on this task is the key to many applications such as Question Answering, Information Extraction, Information Retrieval, Text Summarization, and others.” In this paper the authors “present three methods for solving the problem of textual entailment, obtained from an equal number of text-to-text similarity metrics”.

The fifth and final paper for this issue was written by Asad Amir Pirzada, Marius Portmann and Jadwiga Indulska. In “AODV-HM: A Hybrid Mesh Ad-hoc On-demand Distance Vector Routing

Protocol” they “propose simple extensions to the Ad-hoc On-demand Distance Vector (AODV) routing protocol, which aim to take advantage of the heterogeneity in hybrid Wireless Mesh Networks by preferentially routing packets via paths consisting of high capacity MESH_ROUTERS”. The paper states “The results show that AODV-HM consistently outperforms AODV in terms of all our performance metrics and for all simulation scenarios, except for the one special case” which is discussed in the paper.

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