Foreword

Social computing has emerged recently as a hot interdisciplinary research topic and reached exponential growth in various application areas enabling new digital contexts for almost any type of interaction between humans and computers, especially the Internet. Social computing refers to procedures that support the gathering, representation, processing, use, and dissemination of information that is distributed across social collectivities such as teams, communities, organizations, and markets. Among the social computing domain, social networking and social media are deemed as two most popular and booming information services from the perspectives of not only academia but also the market. These new applications and services create a large volume of new heterogonous and homogeneous data sources, which bring in new research questions and challenges to the database, data management, and data mining research communities. Although an increasing number of conferences and workshops are held every year to discuss and exchange the latest progress and findings of commonly interested topics, such as social network analysis and social media mining, there are still many open research issues attracting numerous researchers and developers to tackle the difficulties and limitations of existing systems. This newly released edited book is undoubtedly a timely and valuable volume filling the gap between research and application.

Dr. Xu and Dr. Li have been working on these research themes since 2010 after successfully organizing the First International Workshop on Social Network Analysis and Social Media Mining over the Web. Knowing from many years’ collaboration, I trust they indeed are serious and active researchers whose research profiles are evidenced by many quality and important publications, some joint works with me. At this point, I am very glad to see the completion of the book, which makes important contribution to the related research communities.

I believe this is a valuable and practical handbook on social network analysis and social media mining, and it will provide a useful referential book for both academia and industry.

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Yanchun Zhang is a Professor and the Director of Centre for Applied Informatics at Victoria University. He received the National “Thousand Talent Program” Award from China in 2010, and is currently a Director on the Australia-China Joint Lab on Social Computing and E-Health, a joint initiative from Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Science and Victoria University. He obtained a PhD degree in Computer Science from the University of Queensland in 1991. He has been active in areas of database and information systems, distributed databases, Web and Internet technologies, Web information systems, Web data management, Web mining, Web search, Web services, and e-research. He has published over 220 research
papers in international journals and conference proceedings and authored/edited 12 books. His research has been supported by a number of Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage projects and discovery project grants. He was the winner of 2005 Victoria University Vice-Chancellor’s Medal for Excellence in Research, and 2011 Victoria University Vice-Chancellor’s Peak Award for Research and Research Training in Research Supervision, respectively. He was a member of Australian Research Council (ARC) College of Experts (2008-2010). He is currently a steering committee member of the ARC Research Network in Enterprise Information Infrastructure (EII). He held Honorary Professor positions at several universities/institutions in China, including Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan University, Xiamen University, Northerneast University, Hubei University, Hebei Polytechnic University, and Hebei Normal University, and Visiting Professor position at Nagoya University in Japan (2006-2007). He is the Editor-In-Chief of World Wide Web Journal (Springer) and Health Information Science and Systems Journal (BioMed Central), and the Editor of the Web Information Systems Engineering and Internet Technologies Book Series from Springer. He is Chairman of the Web Information Systems Engineering (WISE) Society. He is the Australian representative of the International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP)’s Working Group WG6.4 on Internet Applications Engineering.