About the Contributors

Nikos Karacapilidis holds a professor position at the University of Patras (management information systems). His research interests lie in the areas of intelligent Web-based information systems, technology-enhanced learning, e-collaboration, knowledge management systems, group decision support systems, computer-supported argumentation, enterprise information systems and Semantic Web. He has been recently appointed as editor-in-chief of the Advances in Web-based Learning (AWBL) book series, published by IGI Global (http://www.igi-pub.com/bookseries/details.asp?id=432). More detailed information about his publications list, research projects involved and professional activities can be found at http://www.mech.upatras.gr/~nikos/.

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Dimitris Andreou is currently a software engineer at the Institute of Computer Science in FORTH. He holds a BSc in applied informatics from the University of Macedonia, and an MSc in computer science from the University of Crete. His is interested in object oriented programming, graph theory, and designing effective programming interfaces.

Willem-Paul Brinkman is assistant professor at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, working in the man-machine interaction section. He is also an associate researcher in the School of Information Systems, Computing and Mathematics at Brunel University, UK. Here he has been teaching the module Foundations of Computing as a lecturer from 2003 to 2007. He obtained his PhD degree at the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, The Netherlands, and he also has a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (PGCert). His research interests lie in the area of the human-computer interaction and computer-assisted learning. Dr. Brinkman is currently a member of the executive committee of the European Association of Cognitive Ergonomics (EACE), and a member of the programme committee of BCS HCI conference between 2005 and 2008.

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**Elisabetta Cigognini** is a PhD student in Telematics and Information Society by the Electronics and Telecommunications Department of the University of Florence. She works in the domain of “personal knowledge management skills acquisition for lifelong learners in the Knowledge Society”. In 2003 she received the degree in communication sciences at Iulm University of Milan. In 2004 she was granted the post-graduate master title in “e-Learning Project Management and Design” by the University of Florence; since then she collaborated as eLearning contractor, instructional designers and eTutor both in corporate and in academic contexts. Her main research interests concern personal knowledge management skills, personal learning environment, instructional design, collaborative working environment, learning and knowledge management, e-learning and e-knowledge.

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She is currently involved in Palette, a European Project aiming at developing interoperable Web services to sustain individual as well as organizational learning in CoPs.

Christina Evangelou received her Diploma from the Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautics Department, Patras University, Greece in 2001, and since 2005 she holds PhD from the same Department. She is currently a post-doctoral research collaborator in the Knowledge Multimedia Laboratory of the Informatics and Telematics Institute of Centre for Research and Technology Hellas. Her research work focuses on collaborative and computer mediated decision support systems, knowledge management, multicriteria decision aid, ontologies and semantic representation.

Giorgos Flouris is currently a researcher at the Institute of Computer Science in FORTH. He holds a BSc in Mathematics from the University of Athens and an MSc and a PhD in computer science from the University of Crete. He has worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Istituto della Scienze e delle Tecnologie della Informazione (ISTI) of CNR in Italy, under an ERCIM “Alain Bensoussan” post-doctoral fellowship. His research interests lie in the areas of knowledge representation and reasoning, belief revision, the semantic web and ontology evolution. Giorgos has published more than 25 research papers in peer-reviewed workshops, conferences and journals and has received a number of scholarships and awards, including a Best Paper Award in STAIRS-06. He is currently involved in the EU projects KP-Lab and CASPAR and has organized, or been involved in the organization of, several workshops, conferences and journal issues.

Randy Garrison is currently the director of the Teaching & Learning Centre and a full professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary. Dr. Garrison has co-authored a book titled E-Learning in the 21St Century where he provides a framework and core elements for online learning. He has most recently co-authored a book titled Blended Learning in Higher Education that uses the Community of Inquiry Framework to organize the book. Dr. Garrison won the 2004 Canadian Society for Studies in Higher Education Award for distinguished contribution to research in higher education and the 2005 Canadian Association for Distance Education Excellence in Research Award.

Denis Gillet is MER (associate professor) at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). He received the PhD in information systems in 1995 from the EPFL. His research interests include distributed e-learning systems, sustainable interaction systems, computer-supported collaborative learning, real-time and ubiquitous Internet services, as well as hierarchical control systems. Dr. Gillet received the 2001 iNEER (International Network for Engineering Education and Research) Recognition Award for Innovations and Accomplishments in Distance and Flexible Learning Methodologies for Engineering Education. He is involved in many national and European projects dealing with Technology Enhanced Learning and Distributed Systems, including the ProLEARN Network of Excellence (http://www.prolearn-project.org) and the Palette Integrated Project (http://palette.ercim.org).

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Nikos Karousos holds a Diploma (1998) and an MSc (2000) from the Dept. of Computer Engineering and Informatics University of Patras, Greece. He is currently a PhD student in the provision of hypertext services. He works in the E-Learning Sector of the Research Academic Computer Technology Institute, Patras, Greece. His research is focused on the areas of hypertext/hypermedia, web services, developer support, WWW technologies and knowledge management.

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Ellen Kinsel completed her master’s degree in distance education from Athabasca University in 2004. She has extensive experience as an online student and in online instruction design. Ellen is currently working for Odyssey Learning Systems, providing support and training for instructors and administrators using the Nautikos learning and content management system.

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**Chittaranjan Mandal** is actively involved in developing technologies for electronic learning. He has developed tools for web based course management, automatic evaluation and advanced content delivery. He received his PhD in 1997 from IIT Kharagpur and is also an associate professor there, with the School of Information Technology and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. He served as a reader at Jadavpur University prior to joining IIT Kharagpur. He is also an Industrial Fellow of Kingston University since 2000. His research interests include formal modelling, high-level design and web technologies. He has over fifty refereed conference and journal publications.

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**Dora Nousia** is a senior computer engineer educated at the University of Patras, and currently, director of the eLearning Sector of Research Academic Computer Technology Institute(CTI), Greece. She has designed and managed large pilot projects on the utilization of ICT in schools in Greece and abroad, and she is a consultant for various aspects of the application of eLearning into the entire educational system. She leads projects related to innovative software development for communities, collaboration and distance learning.
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Maria Chiara Pettenati is senior researcher at the Telematics Laboratory of the Electronics and Telecommunications Department of the University of Florence since late 2004. Until 2004 she held a post-doctoral research position in the same laboratory. In 2000 she received the PhD grade in Telematics and Information Society with a dissertation titled “Design and Development of a Web-based environment for teaching and learning” granted from the University of Florence. Between 1996 and 1999 she was PhD visiting student at the EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, CH). Her main research interests concern collaborative working and learning environment, e-knowledge and network mediated knowledge, trust intermediation architectures, information interoperability architecture, Web of Data.

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Chris Reade is head of the Department of Informatics and Operations Management in the Business School at Kingston University. He has a research background in mathematics and computing, and foundations of computing in particular, having been a lecturer in computer science for many years. Research areas that he publishes in include functional programming, formal methods and modelling, programming language technology and web technologies. He has also done work in formal foundations for geometric modelling. At Kingston, he has developed interests in web technologies and applications. He has been collaborating with colleagues at IIT Kharagpur for several years in the areas of formal modelling and web technologies for e-Learning.

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**Morgan Shepherd** is an associate professor of information systems at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Morgan spent 10 years in industry, most of that time with IBM. His last position with IBM was as a technical network designer. He earned his PhD from the University of Arizona in 1995 and has been teaching for the I/S department at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs since then. His primary teaching emphasis is in telecommunications at the graduate and undergraduate level. He has also taught numerous courses on computer literacy, web design and systems analysis and design. In addition, he has been teaching courses via distance education for several years. His primary research emphasis is on making distributed groups productive and applying this research to business as well as education. His research has appeared in the *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*, and *Journal of Computer Information Systems*.

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**Yinping Yang** is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Information Systems, School of Computing, at National University of Singapore since August 2003. During her candidature, Yinping has published in various international journals and conferences such as *Journal of Global Information Management, Behavior and Information Technology, IFIP WC8 International Conferences on Decision Support Systems*, International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, Workshop in Information Technologies and Systems, and Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences. Her research work has centered on the conceptualization, design, implementation as well as industrial acceptance of web-based negotiation support systems. She has also looked into issues related to e-collaborations and group decision support systems.

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