

EDITORIAL PREFACE

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We are pleased to bring you the fourth issue of 2013 of the International Journal of Web Portals with very recent developments of theory and practice related to web portals.

Inside this issue readers will find five contributions to the discussion of developments and applications of web portals in project management and health, with a flavor of web information systems modeling, authored by renowned contributors coming from Germany, Hungary, Portugal and Russia, which are briefly described below.

Enterprise content management is quite an issue because of heterogeneity, complexity and size. In order to efficiently handle the enterprise content, a systematic approach is required, which embraces object-based models and software engineering tools. The paper “*Using Web Portals to Model and Manage Enterprise Projects*”, by Zykov and Kukushkin, outlines an approach that gives the primary attention to the formal models for content management and that has been extended for application in project integration management. The paper also suggests the method of dynamic modeling of planning and change management processes taking into account particular project constraints, priorities, environment and other. This method is based on ER-model of project structures and the Selective-function Linear resolution for Definite Clause. The resolution

procedure defines the sequence of the project structures determination i.e. the management process including inputs and outputs on the basis of specified initial conditions. This method was applied in a consulting project in public management domain, and could be implemented as a web-service for another web-based Enterprise Project Management Systems or as a stand-alone solution with GUI. The approach has been approved by a number of successful enterprise-scale implementations in oil-and-gas industry, public management, trading and banking enterprises, nuclear power plant construction and other areas.

In the second paper, “*Project Management Simulation Portal: Proposal, Features and Construction Process*”, Nascimento, Silva and Samartinho, describe simulation in the context of Project Management teaching/learning process as an effective way to achieve better outcomes. There are already some tools developed to simulate the management of technical work, and the system presented in the paper aims to support the process of teaching/learning the subject of project management in a broad range. When compared with other works in the field, there are two aspects that stand out from the product described in this paper: (1) the use of the Web to enhance the interaction between the agents involved in the teaching/learning process; and (2) the variety of skills

considered in the system. More than focusing on a small set of processes dealing with technical work management, the solution presented by the authors involves nearly the full project management life cycle.

Using mobile devices like smartphones and tablets offers many advantages and has become very popular in private life. Using them in the workplace is also popular, but nobody wants to carry around and handle two devices: one for personal use; and one for work-related tasks. Therefore “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) may be appropriate: users make their personal devices available for company use. Apart from improved convenience this also incurs additional opportunities and risks for companies at the same time. In “*Using Mobile Devices with BYOD*”, Disterer and Kleiner describe and discuss organizational issues, technical approaches, and solutions of BYOD.

“*The Quality of Portuguese Obesity Websites*” introduces a cross-sectional, quantitative and observational study designed by Martins, Soares, Jesus, Gomes, Dias, Fernandes and Ferro-Lebres, to evaluate the quality of Portuguese obesity websites. The authors performed an evaluation of 127 sites found using Google.com. A significant correlation was found between the score of information on obesity and quality score for adults group (0.282) and both ages group (0.437). The authors concluded that in Portugal, the websites that provide information on obesity had, generally, a low quality score.

The modeling of Information Systems in general, and Web Information Systems (WIS) especially, is a permanent issue so that there have been already several attempts and proposals for representing various facets of WIS. In “*Facet of Modeling Web Information Systems from a Document-centric view*”, Molnár and

Benczúr propose an approach focusing on the organizational and business activity modeling and concentrating on documents that represent the information of enterprises in the form of unstructured and semi-structured documents. The compilation of documents mirrors implicitly or explicitly the structure of enterprises, the interrelationship of business processes, and activities and tasks within processes. The documents represent simultaneously the system roles along with tasks and activities. The authors’ modeling approach concentrates on the co-existence and co-operation of documents and activities of business. The Story Algebra, or more generally the process algebra approach provides a formal framework that promises a formal describing method for modeling precisely the event triggered processes coupled with data in document format within an Enterprise Architecture Framework.

Before finishing this editorial preface, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to IGI Global for the excellent support of their team of professionals. We would like also to thank all the members of the Editorial Board, for their commitment and for sharing their knowledge and experience in the support of the decision-making process. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the authors who submitted their work, for their visions and excellent contributions.

We hope you will find here an interesting and a valuable source of knowledge and ideas. Enjoy your reading!

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Maria Manuela Cruz-Cunha is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Technology at the Polytechnic Institute of Cavado and Ave, Portugal. She holds a Dipl. Eng. in the field of Systems and Informatics Engineering, an M.Sci. in the field of Computer Integrated Manufacturing and a Dr.Sci in the field of Production Systems Engineering. She teaches subjects related with Information Systems, Information Technologies and Organizational Models to undergraduate and post-graduate studies. She supervises several PhD projects in the domain of Virtual Enterprises and Information Systems and Technologies. She regularly publishes in international peer-reviewed journals and participates on international scientific conferences. She serves as a member of Editorial Board and Associate Editor for several International Journals and for several Scientific Committees of International Conferences. She has authored and edited several books and her work appears in more than 100 papers published in journals, book chapters and conference proceedings. She is the co-founder and co-chair of several international conferences: CENTERIS – Conference on ENTERprise Information Systems, ViNOrg - International Conference on Virtual and Networked Organizations: Emergent Technologies and Tools and SeGAH – IEEE International Conference on Serious Games and Applications for Health.

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