This issue of the *International Journal of Web Services Research* (IJWSR) collects four papers related to Web services selection.

The first paper is titled Mediation Spaces for Similarity-Based Semantic Web Services Selection. Dietze, Gugliotta, Domingue, and Mrissa present a mediation approach encoding implicit representation of similarities across distinct semantic Web services, by grounding them in Mediation Spaces. A mediator is created that is able to automatically compute such similarities to facilitate semantic services discovery.

The second paper is titled Automatic Determination of Compatibility in Evolving Services. Becker, Pruyne, Singhal, Lopes, and Milojicic tackle the issue of maintaining compatibility between multiple versions of the same service as they evolve over time within SOA environments. They present a method that automatically determines when two service descriptions are backward compatible. They also discuss a case study and performance study of the overheads of the proposed method.

The third paper is titled On Utilizing Web Service Equivalence for Supporting the Composition Life Cycle. Rinderle-Ma, Reichert, and Jurisch tackle the challenge of Web service equivalence in process-aware service composition. They propose equivalence notions for the design, execution, analysis, and evolution of service compositions, focusing on attribute and position equivalence.

The fourth paper is titled Reducing User Perceived Latency with a Proactive Prefetching Middleware for Mobile SOA Access. Schreiber, Göb, Aitenbichler, and Mühlhäuser tackle the issue of network latency that is a critical factor for the usability of mobile SOA applications. They present a prefetching and caching approach in the existing mobile SOA frameworks to reduce user perceived latency. Experiments are also reported to prove the efficiency of their method.

Liang-Jie Zhang
Editor-in-Chief
IJWSR
As a research staff member and program manager of application architectures and realization at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, Dr. Liang-Jie (LJ) Zhang has made significant original contributions to services computing innovations and interactive media systems. He is the founding chair of IBM Research’s Services Computing Professional Interest Community and has been leading an IBM Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) tooling and architecture research project for years. He has been coleading IBM’s SOA Solution Stack (aka SOA Reference Architecture: Solution View) project since 2004. His new book Services Computing was published by Springer in 2007. He has received 2 IBM Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards, 9 IBM Plateau Invention Achievement Awards, an Outstanding Achievement Award from the World Academy of Sciences, and an Innovation Leadership Award from the China Institute of Electronics. Dr. Zhang has 37 granted patents and 20 pending patent applications. As the lead inventor, he holds federated Web services discovery and dynamic services composition patents. LJ chairs the SOA and Web Services standards working group to define the IEEE 1723 Standard for SOA Solution Reference Architecture. He is the chair of IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Services Computing.