Editorial

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The number of handicapped people is growing worldwide. One of the reason is that, in most industrialised countries, the demographical, structural and social trends tend towards more and more elderly people in single households, which definitely has effects on healthcare, emergency medical services and of course of the individuals themselves.

Older people and new technologies are one of the important research and development areas, where accessibility, usability and lifelong learning play a major role. These people live sometimes alone and their goal is to live independently as long as it is possible. They have to use ICT including internet too. People with disabilities can gain a great advantage from the convenience offered by web services, but only if the service is accessible and usable to them. Barrier-free accessibility has been considered an important issue not only for the organisations of people with disabilities, but for all industry. Design products, services for everybody (including disabled people) it is not only a philosophical question or humanity effort, but financial reason too. If a product is usable for a handicapped person, it is easy to use for everybody. Nowadays, we often meet the following terms: design for all, universal design, inclusive design and barrier-free design. Instead of disability and age, design for all fosters diversity, and instead of special social action it fosters mainstreaming.

Recently, more and more research efforts have been dedicated to the aforementioned challenges and opportunities. This issue consists of six high-quality papers.

The first paper by Erzsébet Forczek reports metadata, information structure design on websites. She seeks to answer what elementary criteria our information source has to fulfil in order to the search engines to find it, the users to consider it relevant and proper, and to meet the demands of users with disabilities. Only the fulfilment of these criteria makes the real accessibility of our website possible. To promote this, her article deals with the theoretical and practical dimensions of screen structure, data structure and metadata.

The second paper by Guangzhi Qu and Hui Wu reports a weighted-graph-based approach for diversity search results. In their study, they attempt to detangle the ambiguity in web search by using a systematic approach. The authors utilise a weighted graph model to represent the complicated documents network from the web search results. The paper provides an overview of the pages re-ranking scheme as well as the evaluation results on synthetic data and realistic web pages that show the effectiveness of their system.

The third paper by Ilona Heldal introduces an innovative research in Sweden. The paper enumerates a number of key challenges incorporated in an abstract model for more effectively using web for seamless roll-out and information management in the public safety sector. This implies research on and development of new methodologies and theories for ICT products in the sector. This sector requires tailored solutions for communication and collaboration, with special requirements for robustness, accessibility, safety and security, which are not completely satisfied by commercial networks.

The fourth paper by Suzette Keith and Gill Whitney reports on an innovative curriculum design and pedagogy at the Middlesex University. The paper presents the development of a curriculum in design for all which is intended to enable them to understand the philosophy, empathise with users with different needs, and address the relevant software and hardware challenges. The authors conclude with a discussion on how mainstreaming accessibility within technology courses is a critical key to the success of digital inclusion policy however, the multidisciplinary nature of design for all represents a challenge to the way technology knowledge and skills are currently constructed.

The fifth paper by Paulina Mitrea and Cristina Deak reports an online diagnosis e-health system, based on advanced web accessible database technologies. The paper introduces an on-line medical system (OLMS) is presenting arguments to the user, which either indicate, that it is still appropriate to self care, or recommend to see a health professional within a defined timeframe. This OLMS suggests what would be best to do in the user's specific situation.

The sixth paper by Cecília Sik Lányi et al. reports the testing process of the accessiblity of web-pages. The paper shows a new evaluation tool, named XValid for the WCAG 2.0. The authors tested 18 countries' sites in 15 categories approximately 500 sites, with XValid and made a statistical analysis based on the test results. The most frequently occurring errors based on these statistics were determined. A minimum guideline in ten points was determined, based on the most frequently typical errors.

In summary, this special issue has consolidated a volume of six high-quality papers that covers a wide range of research in the topic 'Web for all'. The papers deals with metadata, information structure, search model for more effectively using WEB. Moreover, this issue contains topics deal with healthcare, education and testing process of websites.

The Guest Editor would like to express her greatest appreciation to all authors for their contributions to this special issue on 'Web for all', all referees for their valuable respective reviews and suggestions that have improved the quality of the selected papers, and the Editor-in-Chief Prof. Lakhmi Jain for his great support.