Introduction

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Biographical notes: Yuhang Yang is a Professor at the Department of Electronic Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He was awarded top honours in the Technology Improvement Awards by the Electronics Ministry of Chinese Government in 1995, The Most Outstanding Person Cross the Century by the National Education Committee in 1997, The First Class Shanghai Scientific Technology Progress Prize in 1999, Top Ten of the Most Influential People in the IT Industry of China in 2000, and The Third Class Shanghai Scientific Technology Progress Prize in 2003. His current research interest lies mainly in the fields of web science, broadband wireless, grid networking, information security and online video distribution. He has about 150 international academic publications in academic journals, conference papers, and book chapters.

The *International Journal of Web Science* (*IJWS*) is a refereed scientific international journal, which aims to improve the state-of-the-art of worldwide research in the areas of web theories, services, applications and standards by publishing high-quality articles in this area. *IJWS* is committed to deepening the understanding of enabling theories and technologies for applying and developing the web as a global information repository.

In this issue, seven papers were selected for publication, which is to present a collection of high-quality research papers that report the latest research advances in the area of web science, which mainly includes the development of truly web theories, services, applications and related solutions. We briefly summaries the papers included in this issue as follows.

The first paper in this issue, 'The influence of privacy concerns on perceptions of web personalisation', by Horst Treiblmaier and Irene Pollach, enables us to understand better the benefits and costs of personalisation based on the findings of qualitative interviews.

The second paper, 'Using semantic information for distributed web service discovery', by D. Canturk and P. Senkul, presents a web service discovery architecture which is based on the coordinated working of a set of domain-specific service discoverers.

The third one, 'Large-scale ontologies: pattern and partition-based alignment', by Soumaya Kasri and Fouzia Benchikha, proposes an alignment method with partitioning, which consists of partitioning each ontology into blocks around the anchors.

The fourth paper, 'Critical factors of website performance: a graph theoretic approach', by Rajeev Saha and Sandeep Grover, attempts to represent the overall effect of key website performance attributes quantitatively by developing a mathematical model using graph theoretic approach.

The fifth paper, 'Domain ontology and semantic web applications for study of web competitive intelligence analysis system', by Chunnian Liu, Dehui Yang and Yonglong Wang, establishes a model architecture of competitive intelligence analysis system is proposed, which consists of several modules.

The sixth paper, 'Service offer driven dynamic selection mechanism for business web services', by Demian Antony D'Mello and V.S. Ananthanarayana, presents an XML structure to represent the requester's requirements defined on the multiple service offers with varied preferences.

The last paper, 'Cosine similarity-based PageRank calculation', by S. Poomagal and T. Hamsapriya, introduces a new method for calculating the rank of a web page based on the content similarity and the link structure.

The seven papers included in this issue touch on different topics in web science. We hope that this issue can help readers to get a better understanding about the breadth and depth of current research. We also hope that this issue can boost further related research and technology improvements in the field of web science.