Preface

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Biographical notes: Valérie Monfort is an Assistant Professor in Université de La Sorbonne, Paris, France. She was a senior worldwide consultant and she worked for more than 20 years for big companies, such as IBM, Airbus, Bouygues Telecom, Alcatel, MMA insurance, etc. She wrote two books in French on web services.

Faïez Gargouri is a Professor at the Institut Supérieur dInformatique et de Multimédia de Sfax, Tunisia, where he is the Head. He obtained his Master's degree in Computer Science from the Paris 6 University (1990) and a PhD from the Paris 5 University in 1995. In 2002, he obtained a Habilitation Universitaire en Informatique from the Faculé des Sciences de Tunis, Tunisia. His research interest focus of information systems field: design, quality measurement, verification, data warehousing, multimedia, knowledge management, ontology. He published more than 100 papers in journals, international conferences and he is a PC member of multiple international conferences.

Khaled Ghedira has received his Bachelor degree in Mathematics (FS-Tunisia), the Engineer degree in Hydraulic (ENSEEIHT-France), Specialised Engineer in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics (ENSIMAG-France), both the Master and the PhD in Artificial Intelligence (ENSAE-France) and finally the Habilitation degree in Computer Science (ENSI-Tunisia). He was a Research Fellow at IIIA (Switzerland 1992–1996), Expert Consultant at BT (England 1995), the Head of ENSI (2002–2008) and from April 2011, the General Managing Director of the Tunis Science City. He is also a Professor at ISG (University of Tunis), the Founding President of the Tunisian Association of Artificial Intelligence (ATIA-Tunisia) and the Founding Director of the research laboratory SOIE (Tunisia).

Abdelkrim Meziane got a double PhD from INSA Lyon, France and Oran Algeria. He is Director of the Department of Information and Multimedia in CERIST (Centre de Recherche sur l'Information Scientifique et Technique) Algiers, Algeria and research manager till 2011. His main research domains are vision, medical and space imagery, and health-based information systems.

Web intelligence has been recognised as a new direction for scientific research and development to explore the fundamental roles as well as practical impacts of artificial intelligence (knowledge representation, planning, knowledge discovery and data mining, intelligent agents, and social network intelligence) and advanced Information Technology (IT) (wireless networks, ubiquitous devices, social networks, semantic web, wisdom web, and data/knowledge grids) on the next generation of web-empowered products, systems, services, and activities. It is one of the most important as well as promising IT research fields in the era of web, agent intelligence and virtual communities.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Metadata, Semantics and Ontologies* (*IJMSO*) focuses on Metadata, Semantics and Ontologies for Web Intelligence. It includes a selection of the best papers of WEBI (Workshop on Web Intelligence) 2012, which have been extended and reviewed again. The WEBI 2013 is a joint workshop with ICEIS 2013. It aims to provide a forum for researchers and practitioners to present results, applications, and experiences in web intelligence.

This special issue includes three main trends concerning:

- Ontologies retrieval with an adaptable SPARQL and an optimisation of queries,

- Ontologies handling with new methods to design ontology to improve reusing and their alignment.

- Web intelligence and social services with: (i) the definition of a new kind of middleware to support content adaptability, (ii) a method to use tags to measure the pertinence of the links between community members, and (iii) a method to construct a lexical ontology from Arabic Wikipedia automatically.

We hope this issue will start a series of special issues, improving the quality of papers continuously.