

Foreword

Recent years have seen an explosive growth in the number and diversity of networked digital libraries and information sources. Some of these sources provide general content; others are specialized to particular domains. Increasingly, users want to transparently and uniformly access information from these different sources, to integrate information from multiple digital libraries, and to exchange content assembled from different sources.

Interoperability and mediation in distributed, heterogeneous digital libraries require a middleware that provides transparent access to inherently heterogeneous digital collections. Among others, such a middleware must support data translation between different data types, representations, detection of same-objects, and data propagation for ensuring global consistency. There are research and industrial efforts under way to develop techniques for the modeling, creation, and management of metadata and ontologies for integrating and exchanging content. Transparent search (and meta-search) and consolidation of information from multiple digital libraries pose many challenges beyond the typical problems encountered in Web search and distributed heterogeneous databases. This workshop provided a forum for discussing these problems and the approaches that are being taken to address them.

This international workshop was sponsored by the DELOS Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries. The workshop was intended to bring together researchers and developers working on digital libraries and related areas for in-depth analysis and discussion of new models, theories, frameworks, and solutions to interoperability in digital libraries.

This workshop brought together researchers and practitioners from 14 countries. Twenty-seven papers were submitted to the workshop; thirteen were accepted, covering a range of topics from semantics, metadata and mediation to applications. The workshop was also fortunate to include invited talks by Leonid Kalinichenko and Steffen Staab.

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