

## Preface

We are proud to present the proceedings of TPDL 2015, the 19th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries, held in Poznań, Poland, during September 14–18, 2015, organized by the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC).

The International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL), formerly known as European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology on Digital Libraries (ECDL), constitutes a leading scientific forum on digital libraries that brings together researchers, developers, content providers, and users in the field of digital libraries. The advent of the technologies that enhance the exchange of information with rich semantics is of particular interest in the community. Information providers inter-link their metadata with user-contributed data and offer new services for the development of a web of data and addressing the interoperability and long-term preservation challenges.

TPDL 2015 had the general theme “Connecting Digital Collections” and was focused on four major topics:

- Connecting digital libraries
- Practice of digital libraries
- Digital libraries in science
- Users, communities, personal data

There was also a special call for industry submissions, dedicating the “Systems and Products” conference track for them.

There were 44 full paper and six short paper submissions in the main call. All submissions were independently reviewed in a triple peer review process, initially by four members of the Program Committee. A senior Program Committee member subsequently coordinated a discussion among the four reviewers. The selection stage that followed compared the paper evaluations and finalized the conference program. As a result, 22 submissions were accepted as papers and some of the rest of the submissions were redirected for evaluation as potential posters or demonstrations. These redirected submissions were re-evaluated together with the 11 additional poster and demonstration submissions. Finally, 15 poster/demo submissions were accepted. The dedicated “Systems and Products” call brought an additional six accepted submissions, which are not included in this proceedings volume, but published in a separate booklet and distributed among conference participants.

The most popular topics of submissions were user interfaces and user experience, user studies for and evaluation of digital library systems and applications, applications of digital libraries, infrastructures supporting content processing, social–technical perspectives of digital information, interoperability and information integration, and digital humanities. Regarding the number of accepted papers, the top five countries of authors were: USA, The Netherlands, Greece, Germany, and Brazil. Regarding the

number of submitted papers, the top five countries of authors were: Greece, Germany, USA, New Zealand, and The Netherlands.

Beside submitted contributions, three keynote speakers were invited to present their views on crucial aspects of digital libraries. The opening keynote, given by David Giaretta, was focused on issues related to long-term data preservation. The second keynote speaker, Joseph Cancellaro, showed the user perspective in the context of retrieval of digital audio assets, and Costis Dallas in the closing keynote shared his thoughts about the scholarly practice related to access and use of humanities data, in light of his work conducted within the DARIAH-EU community. Another part of the conference was a discussion panel organized by Vittore Casarosa aiming to discuss open access to research data. Abstracts of all keynote speeches and the panel are included in the conference proceedings.

Around the main conference several side activities were organized, together creating a five-day long series of events focused on digital libraries. The overall program began with five tutorials:

- Automatic Methods for Disambiguating Author Names in Bibliographic Data Repositories
- Building Digital Library Collections with Greenstone 3
- Catmandu – A (Meta)Data Toolkit
- Dynamic Data Citation – Enabling Reproducibility in Evolving Environment
- Mappings, Application Profiles and Extensions for Cross-Domain Metadata in the Europeana Context and Beyond

Following the main conference, several workshops were organized:

- 5th International Workshop on Semantic Digital Archives (SDA 2015)
- Cloud-based Services for Digital Libraries
- Extending, Mapping, and Focusing the CRM
- Kick-Off Workshop of the IMPACT-OPF MOOC on Digitization and Digital Preservation
- Networked Knowledge Organization Systems and Services (NKOS)

In this context we are very grateful to the tutorial chairs, Giorgio Maria Di Nunzio and Giannis Tsakonas, for their hard work on attracting and evaluating the proposed tutorials. Also the workshop chairs, Trond Aalberg and Antoine Isaac, gave essential feedback to the conference tutorials. We would also like to thank all members of the conference Program Committee and especially the posters and demos chairs, José Borbinha and Preben Hansen, who did great work in evaluating a significant number of submissions and creating a very interesting program for the conference.

Of course the conference could not happen without proper publicity, which was assured by the publicity chairs, Marcos Goncalves, Raul Palma, Shigeo Sugimoto and Hussein Suleman, and by the conference media partners: Coalition for Networked Information and Digital Meets Culture.

For the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center, the operator of the Polish National Research and Education Network PIONIER and the main organizer of the conference, it was a great occasion to actively support knowledge exchange and networking in the worldwide digital libraries research community. Within the broad range

of PSNC research and development activities, those related to the digital libraries domain have been very dynamic since 1999 and have resulted in a number of national and international projects in which PSNC and its Digital Libraries and Knowledge Platforms Department are continuously involved.

We hope that you will enjoy the proceedings and will be inspired to participate in the following editions of the TPDL conference.

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