

Preface

Since 2005 the Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries (IRCDL) has been providing a great opportunity for researchers in the field of digital libraries to present and discuss their current research activities and to envision together further developments. The IRCDL conferences were launched and initially sponsored by DELOS, an EU FP6 Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries, together with the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padua. Over the years IRCDL has become a self-sustainable event that is supported by the Italian digital libraries community.

The IRCDL 2016 edition, in line with the conference series tradition, was committed to preserving the emphasis on the multidisciplinary nature of the research on digital libraries that has been characterizing the conference over the years. This multidisciplinary nature ranges from computer science to humanities in the broader sense, including research areas such as archival and library information sciences, information management systems, semantic technologies, information retrieval, and new knowledge environments. This is a continued challenge for the DL field and there is the need to continue contributing toward improving the cooperation between the many communities that share common objectives.

IRCDL 2016 hit its target and once more provided the opportunity to explore new ideas, techniques, and tools, and to exchange experiences also from on-going projects. This volume contains the revised accepted papers selected, on the basis of reviewers' comments, from those presented at the 12th Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries (IRCDL 2016). The conference was organized by the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Florence, Italy, during February 4–5, 2016. The conference was held at the Murate Complex, using the facilities provided by the NEMECH (New Media for Cultural Heritage) Center of Competence established by the Tuscany Region and the University of Florence; the NEMECH Centre promotes the transfer of know-how of research from the university laboratories to the places where cultural goods are exposed and benefited.

The Program Committee comprised 21 members, including representatives of the most active Italian research groups on digital libraries. The Program Committee accepted 70% of the papers presented at the conference for inclusion in this volume, which contains expanded versions of the conference papers. These papers were reviewed again and the results of the final selection are the papers appearing in these proceedings. The topics covered and that reflect the interests of the community are:

- Formal methods
- Long-term preservation
- Metadata creation, management, and curation
- Multimedia

- Ontologies and linked data
- Quality and evaluation
- System interoperability

Here we would like to thank those institutions and individuals who made this conference possible: the committees members, the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Florence, the NEMECH Center of Competence, and the MICC Center of Excellence in the area of new media.

December 2016

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-56299-5>

Digital Libraries and Multimedia Archives
12th Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries,
IRCDL 2016, Florence, Italy, February 4-5, 2016, Revised
Selected Papers
Agosti, M.; Bertini, M.; Ferilli, S.; Marinai, S.; Orio, N.
(Eds.)
2017, X, 179 p. 54 illus., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-56299-5