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# Advances in Web-Based Learning – ICWL 2019

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# Preface

This volume presents the contributions of the 18th edition of the annual International Conference on Web-based Learning (ICWL). The first edition of ICWL was held in Hong Kong in 2002. Since then, it has been held 16 more times, on 3 continents: Australia (2003), China (2004, 2008, 2010), Hong Kong (2005, 2011, 2015), Malaysia (2006), UK (2007), Germany (2009), Romania (2012), Taiwan (2013), Estonia (2014), Italy (2016), South Africa (2017), and Thailand (2018).

In 2019, ICWL was organized by the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences. The first courses at the university started back in 1991. Within a short time, this place of research, teaching, and learning gained an outstanding reputation, not only for its well-rounded academic education program but also for the motivated student body. The university offers a diverse range of around 50 study programs, including unique opportunities that cannot be found anywhere else. Being divided into two campuses – one campus in Magdeburg and another one in Stendal – the university and students get the chance to interact in highly focused departments. Three departments are located at the Herrenkrug Campus in Magdeburg with approximately 4,000 students, and another two departments are situated in Stendal with about 2,000 students. Both campuses are well known for their beautiful green grounds, which create an inviting ambiance.

The topics proposed in the ICWL Call for Papers included several relevant issues, ranging from Semantic Web for E-Learning, through Learning Analytics, Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning, Assessment, Pedagogical Issues, E-learning Platforms, and Tools, to Mobile Learning.

We received 68 submitted contributions. Three contributions were withdrawn at an early stage. Six submissions were not sufficiently completed to go further in the review process. All of the submitted papers were assigned to three members of the Program Committee (PC) for double-blind peer review. All reviews were checked and discussed by the PC chairs, and additional reviews or meta-reviews were elicited if necessary.

Finally, we accepted 15 full papers, with an acceptance rate of 25%. We also included additional contributions as short papers (15) and poster papers (7) in the proceedings.

ICWL 2019 featured two distinguished keynote presentations, by renowned scholars: Irwin King, (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China) on “Machine Learning for Online Education” and Sabine Graf (Athabasca University, Canada) on “Academic Analytics – Analysis and Mining of Educational Data to Support Teaching.”

Furthermore, the conference continued the traditional initiative, started by ICWL 2016, of holding the 4th International Symposium on Emerging Technologies for Education (SETE) at the same location. SETE collected the traditional workshop activities managed by ICWL in the past years and additionally featured an organization in tracks. Workshops and tracks added new and hot topics on technology-enhanced

learning, providing a better overall conference experience to the ICWL and SETE attendees.

Many contributions made the conference possible and successful. First of all, we would like to thank all the authors who considered ICWL for their submission. We thank the PC members, and the additional reviewers, for their evaluations, which made the selection of the accepted papers possible. Additional thanks go to the publicity chair Ivana Marenzi.

For the organization, the hosting SPiRiT research group under the direction of Michael A. Herzog served in multiple functions: local organization chairs Veronika Weiß and Leonore Franz, and Veronika Weiß, also as web chair. Their strong and continuous commitment made it a remarkable conference event with excellent design, smooth orientation, personal service, and warm hospitality. We also thank all the other members of the SPiRiT team for their excellent work and engagement: the student volunteers Oliver Friedl, Swantje van de Ven, Max O'Dell, Simon Gustavs, Anika Fuchs, Jan Sprigade, Merle Fabry, Amelie Ries, Janet Ahlers, Joe Einicke, Simon Krebs, and the scientists Elke Mähltz-Galler, Victoria Batz, and Klaus Magarin. In particular, we thank the president of Magdeburg-Stendal University Anne Lequy on behalf of the hosting institution for the excellent support of the ICWL 2019 conference edition.

We also thank the sponsor Springer, for the enlightened and much appreciated support that helped to dedicate the Best Paper Awards.

We hope that the reader of this volume will be pleased by the relevance of the topics and contents of the papers, and thus be enticed to contribute to the next editions of ICWL.

September 2019

Michael A. Herzog  
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