

Preface

The papers collected in this volume were presented at the 6th European Conference on Case-Based Reasoning (ECCBR 2002) held at The Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, UK. This conference followed a series of very successful well-established biennial European workshops held in Trento, Italy (2000), Dublin, Ireland (1998), Lausanne, Switzerland (1996), and Paris, France (1994), after the initial workshop in Kaiserslautern, Germany (1993). These meetings have a history of attracting first-class European and international researchers and practitioners in the years interleaving with the biennial international counterpart ICCBR; the 4th ICCBR Conference was held in Vancouver, Canada in 2001. Proceedings of ECCBR and ICCBR conferences are traditionally published by Springer-Verlag in their LNAI series.

Case-Based Reasoning (CBR) is an AI problem-solving approach where problems are solved by retrieving and reusing solutions from similar, previously solved problems, and possibly revising the retrieved solution to reflect differences between the new and retrieved problems. Case knowledge stores the previously solved problems and is the main knowledge source of a CBR system. A main focus of CBR research is the representation, acquisition and maintenance of case knowledge. Recently other knowledge sources have been recognized as important: indexing, similarity and adaptation knowledge. Significant knowledge engineering effort may be needed for these, and so the representation, acquisition and maintenance of CBR knowledge more generally have become important. Applications have always been a theme of the European and International CBR conferences. Wide-ranging application areas are a feature of this proceedings, with a special emphasis on the customization and personalization for e-commerce and recommender systems. The papers are organized into three sections: two invited papers are followed by 31 research papers and 14 application papers.

The chairs would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of ECCBR 2002. Particular thanks goes to all the program committee and additional reviewers without whose time and effort this volume of selected papers would not exist. We are also appreciative of the work of the Industry Day Chair, the three Workshop Chairs and their various committee members for preparations for the Industry Day and Workshops. We also wish to thank the invited speakers, Haym Hirsh and Ian Watson, and all session chairs. A special thanks goes to Nirmalie Wiratunga for local arrangements and Jacek Jarmulak for assistance with the conference website. Finally, the Chairs wish to thank Springer-Verlag for their assistance in publishing this volume.

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