Preface

These are the proceedings of the Sixth International Workshop on Cooperative Information Agents (CIA 2002), held at the Universidad de Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, Spain, September 18–20, 2002. It was colocated with the Third International Workshop on Engineering Societies in the Agents World (ESAW 2002).

Since 1997 the annual CIA workshop series has aimed to provide an open forum for all parties interested in the research and development of intelligent information agents for the Internet and Web. Each event in this renowned series attempts to capture the intrinsic interdisciplinary nature of this research area by calling for contributions from different research communities, and by promoting open and informative discussions on all related topics.

In keeping with its tradition, this year's workshop featured a sequence of regular and invited talks of excellence given by leading experts in the fields related to information agent technology. These talks covered a broad area of topics of interest, such as information agents for mobile computing environments as well as information gathering, exchange, management, and collaborative recommender systems. Other topics included agent interaction and communication, negotiation strategies for purchasing relevant information, and agent-based distributed knowledge management.

As last year, the workshop issued two awards for best paper and best system innovation to acknowledge particularly significant advances in research and development, respectively, in the area of information agents. This year the *CIA System Innovation Award* and the *CIA 2002 Best Paper Award* were sponsored by the Spanish Association for Artificial Intelligence and Elsevier Science, respectively.

CIA 2002 featured 4 invited, 15 regular, and 8 short papers selected from 59 submissions. The result of the peer-review of all contributions is included in this volume, rich in interesting, inspiring, and advanced work in the research and development of intelligent information agents worldwide. All workshop proceedings to date have been published by Springer-Verlag as Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence Vols. 1202 (1997), 1435 (1998), 1652 (1999), 1860 (2000), and 2182 (2001).

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We are also grateful to the authors and invited speakers for contributing to this workshop, and to all members of the program committee and external reviewers for their very careful, critical, and thoughtful reviews of all submissions. Finally, a deep thanks goes to the brave members of the local organization team in Madrid for their hard work in providing CIA 2002 with a convenient location, and an exciting social program.

September 2002   Matthias Klusch, Sascha Ossowski and Onn Shehory

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