

Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 13th International Conference on Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management (EKAW 2002) held in Sigüenza, Spain, October 1-4, 2002.

Papers were invited on topics related to Knowledge Acquisition, Knowledge Management, Ontologies, and the Semantic Web. A total of 110 papers were submitted. Each submission was evaluated by at least two reviewers. The selection process has resulted in the acceptance of 20 long and 14 short papers for publication and presentation at the conference; an acceptance rate of about 30%. In addition, one invited paper by a keynote speaker is included. This volume contains 8 papers on Knowledge Acquisition, 4 about Knowledge Management, 16 on Ontologies, and 6 papers about the Semantic Web.

This was the second time (EKAW 2000 being the first) that the event was organized as a conference rather than as the usual workshop (hence the acronym: European Knowledge Acquisition Workshop). The large number of submissions (110 versus the usual 40-60) is an indication that the scientific community values EKAW as an important event to share experiences in the Knowledge Technology area, worthy of being organized as a prestigious international conference. Knowledge is the fuel of the upcoming Knowledge Economy. Therefore, we believe that conferences such as EKAW, that focus on Knowledge Technologies, will continue to play a major role as a platform for sharing and exchanging experiences and knowledge between key players in the area.

Another point to highlight is the appearance of the Semantic Web as a topic at EKAW 2002. We received 24 submissions in this area of which we could accept 6. The Semantic Web envisions a web where software can automatically process content in order to achieve *task delegation* as opposed to the current *information retrieval* paradigm. Topics traditionally dealt with at EKAW are key ingredients for building Semantic Web technology, such as ontologies, knowledge modeling and representation, languages and tools, knowledge management, and knowledge acquisition. Therefore, the Semantic Web is an excellent opportunity for the community to capitalize on our expertise in Knowledge Technology, built up over the last 15 years.

We would like to thank the International Program Committee for their enormous effort in the review process (many reviewers had to evaluate up to 10 papers). In all, 46 additional reviewers were called upon to complete the review process in time. We are also grateful to EKAW's Steering Committee for their advice on strategic decisions.

Inexpressible are our thanks to Angel López who designed and implemented a web-based system to manage the whole review process, without which we never would have made the deadlines. We thank Mariano Fernández-López for organizing the tutorials and workshops; Oscar Corcho for organizing the demo sessions; and Jose Angel Ramos for his help with managing the registration process. Last but not least, we are very grateful to the local organizers.

July 2002

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