The Seventh International ISKO Conference Granada, Spain, 3-6 July, 2002. "Challenges in Knowledge Representation and Organization for the 21st Century: Integration of Knowledge across Boundaries."

http://www.ugr.es/~isko

Invitation to Attend

The need for a worldwide communication system that can retrieve information efficiently, regardless of national and cultural boundaries, has become more and more pressing. New electronic environments (such as the Internet, where the world is at hand, where all cultures coexist, and where quality is low) have created this need. These new environments provide significant challenges for those dedicated to study and research on knowledge representation and organization. Similarly, the digitalization of information is responsible for increasing emphasis on the need for integrating models of knowledge representation and organization. Digitalization allows a huge amount of information to be stored and retrieved, and the challenge is to develop models to improve the management of information in this new framework. Traditional information retrieval systems face similar problems because we lack retrieval tools designed to integrate knowledge. In this situation, an in-depth examination of the integration of knowledge across boundaries is warranted.

Study of the integration of knowledge leads to other important topics. One of these is the concept of universality. New insights into universality need to include topics geared to the revision of the concept, such as how universality was previously understood in knowledge organization, and what problems arose as a consequence of this understanding. Further, we need to move to a consideration of the concept of universality as it should be understood now, in the electronic era. How can universality be represented in conceptual structures? Integration of specialized knowledge across geographic or cultural domains can be a way to address this unsolved problem. Related to the same problem are topics such as how the integration of knowledge affects different subject domains and users, linguistic issues, and applications that support new models. In addition, we need to look at equality in knowledge organization. This is an important aspect for supranational systems, and it means that we need a special focus on minorities so that we can represent them well in knowledge structures. At the same time, professional ethics need to be reflected within this framework because knowledge organization affects the way people think about and perceive reality, and minorities and other similar groups may become invisible or wrongly conceptualized. Professionals need to be aware of these issues and should be attempting to solve these problems.

In light of these considerations, the integration of knowledge across boundaries is the general theme of the 7th International ISKO Conference to be held in Granada (Spain) in July 2002. The Conference has two main objectives: 1) to analyze models for knowledge representation and organization, as a state of the art departure point, and 2) to propose new models, methods and techniques of integrating knowledge across boundaries in order to improve performance in the new century.

The conference will include the following specific topics, among others:

1. Epistemological foundations of knowledge representation and organization systems and theories
2. Models, methods and concepts for knowledge representation and organization: towards integration and universality
3. Professional ethics in knowledge representation and organization

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4. Users in multicultural domain-oriented and/or general systems
5. Evaluation of supranational systems
6. Internet and the integration of knowledge: artificial intelligence, data mining, and multicultural systems

Researchers and practitioners involved in knowledge representation and organization are invited to attend. Details are available on the conference web site: http://www.ugr.es/~isko

Venue of the Conference:
Palacio de Congresos de Granada (Spain)
Conference Chair: Maria J. López-Huertas
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Invitation to the 8th ISKO General Assembly 2002

I am most pleased to invite you to the 8th ISKO General Assembly, which will take place in July 2002 in Granada, Spain, at the 7th International ISKO Conference. All ISKO Members are encouraged to attend both the Conference and the General Assembly.

The proposed Agenda is as follows:
- Opening: Election of the General Assembly Chair and the Secretary
- Acceptance of or additions to this Agenda
- Business arising from the 7th General Assembly, Toronto, July 2001
  - Motions arising from 7th General Assembly decisions (notices of motion attached): R. Green
- Honourary Membership for Ingetraut Dahlberg
- Reports:
  - President's report: C. Beghtol
  - Treasurer's report: G. Riesthuis
  - Communications report: H. Albrechtsen
  - Chapter reports: Chapter presidents
- Election of the President
- Election of the Executive Board
- Discussion of further ISKO activities
- The 8th International ISKO Conference in 2004
- Any other business.

I look forward very much to seeing as many ISKO members as possible at the 7th International Conference in Granada and at this 8th General Assembly.

Attachment to the January 2002 proposed agenda for the 8th ISKO General Assembly, July 2002:

1. Notice of motion: Amendment to Charter Article 9.3 (following Article 8.7)
   Article 9.3 currently reads:
   The Presidency will be elected for a four years' term. Reelection of its members is permissible.

   Motion to amend Article 9.3 to read:
   Members of the Presidency will be elected for a term of four years. These terms will be staggered, with half of the positions open for reelection every two years. Reelection of members of the Presidency is permissible.

2. Notice of motion: Special regulation governing the 2002 elections to the Presidency (following Article 8.6e)
   To allow the implementation of the amendment to the Charter described in the Notice of Motion to amend Charter Article 9.3, three of the persons elected to the Presidency in 2002 will be randomly selected to serve for two years, while the three other persons will be elected to serve for four years. The procedure for this selection is as follows: after the six members of the Presidency other than the President are elected, their names will be written on indistinguishable slips of paper and placed in a container. The Chair of the General Assembly will draw three slips of paper from the container. Those persons whose names are on these three slips will serve for two years. The remaining persons will serve for four years. The election of the President will not be affected by this special regulation. The person elected President in 2002 will serve a full four-year term.

Professor Clare Beghtol, Ph.D.
President, ISKO

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