



PHOTO: IVICA MEZEI, SXC.HU

INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE DUBROVNIK, CROATIA, OCTOBER 20-22, 2008

KF 08 First International Conference on Knowledge Federation CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The purpose of the Knowledge Federation 2008 conference is to foster the development of an international research community in the vital new field of knowledge federation. Our goal is to bring together those colleagues who can initiate and participate in this development, and provide an environment where a core community can emerge through personal interaction. Conference participation is by invitation.

The invited researchers are encouraged to submit a 200-word abstract before March 15th to one of the conference federators:

➤ **Jean-Pierre Cahier**, Université de Troyes:
jean-pierre.cahier@utt.fr

➤ **Dino Karabeg**, University of Oslo:
dino.karabeg@ifi.uio.no

➤ **Jack Park**, SRI International:
jack.park@sri.com

➤ **Hendrik Thomas**, Technische Universität Ilmenau: hendrik.thomas@tu-ilmenau.de

CONFERENCE THEME

A purpose of knowledge federation is to join together, organize, reconcile and present the fragmented pieces or sources of information that pertain to a given subject. The word 'federation' is used to distinguish this approach from integration.

As a process, knowledge federation seeks to aggregate existing information resources using organizing principles that promote improved views and reduced information overload. The simplest dictionary definition of 'federate' is 'to bring together'. Knowledge federation implies processes of bringing together heterogeneous information resources under possibly many different criteria,

such as same context, or same subject. Federation does not discriminate along dimensions of truth, veracity, or even credibility. Social processes promoted through federation facilities allow for the evolution of consensus beliefs to emerge. Potential means by which federation processes can occur include mapping, e.g. topic mapping, crafting ontologies, and other activities. Knowledge federation incorporates the many tools of hypermedia discourse and social computing as a means of promoting collective sensemaking.

Knowledge federation has potential to lead to improvements or breakthroughs in a number of key areas including:

- Organization of Internet resources. In this regard, knowledge federation is a specific way of furthering the aims of Semantic Web and knowledge organization.
- Handling a variety of contemporary issues such as the climate change, which require insights and consensus from multiple parties. In this sense, knowledge federation is related to Douglas Engelbart's Bootstrap Alliance and other initiatives to increase the collective intelligence of various communities of practice.
- Creating communication tools in specific areas such as risk management, strategic planning, conflict resolution and education.
- Re-creating ways in which information resources are created and disseminated in general. Here Wikipedia, del.icio.us, and flickr are important precursors, which show that communities of people can dynamically co-create and maintain information resources online.

The purpose of knowledge federation research is to evolve theories, standards, tools, and federation practices.





VENUE

The first Knowledge Federation 2008 conference will take place at the Inter University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia (see <http://www.iuc.hr>). Established in 1972 as the place where scientists and humanists from the (political) East and the West could meet and organize conferences and courses, the Inter University Centre maintains an orientation and quality standards which are well suited for our purpose. Dubrovnik is a uniquely beautiful coastal town and a historical monument on the UNESCO World Heritage List (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95>), with a well-connected international airport.

The conference language is English.

TIME SCHEDULE

- **January 15, 2008:** Call for abstracts.
- **March 15, 2008:** Abstracts due.
- **March 25, 2008:** Abstract acceptance/Invitation to present at the conference.
- **June 25, 2008:** Articles due.
- **October 20-22, 2008:** Dubrovnik conference.
- **October 25, 2008:** Article acceptance/Invitation to submit the final version.
- **December 1, 2008:** Final version of the article due.

Submitted articles will be refereed by a program committee. The selected articles will be published in the book of articles, probably in Springer Verlag LNCS.

For more information about the conference please visit www.KnowledgeFederation.org.

For local information including accommodation please visit the IUC Dubrovnik website, www.iuc.hr.

