

# Guest Editorial

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This special issue of *CIT. Journal of Computing and Information Technology on Emerging Web Technologies and Applications* presents seven papers covering the broad spectrum of a diverse area.

The first paper by N. Kulathuramaiyer (Kuching, Malaysia) and H. Maurer (Graz, Austria) (the editors of this issue) presents an extensive survey on web technologies, demonstrating that the real power of the internet comes from communication and collaboration.

This paper is then complemented by a paper by P. Korica-Pehserl (Belgrade, Serbia) and R. Mehmood (Islamabad, Pakistan) focusing on classifying web applications and describing their commercial implications.

The third paper by Humm et al. (Germany) describes a core development of the web that relates to meaning and is about putting things in perspective. This paper takes a multidisciplinary view in demystifying assumptions on what “ontology” actually means. In this way, it sheds important insights on why everyone is now talking about ontologies and the semantic web.

Crowd sourcing, an extreme form of collaboration as a platform for getting work done, is the focus of the next paper. T. Balke et al. (Braunschweig, Germany) presents an interesting case study on applying crowd sourcing as a means of dealing with incomplete data on the Web. They address the open problem of effectively provisioning work to a crowd with significant cost reductions.

The subsequent two papers deal with a special web application, namely eLearning. The paper by P. Serdyukov (San Diego, USA) deals with the fact that a specialized pedagogy for Web education is essential, addressing the fact that education is more than e Learning, and that even eLearning is not the answer for everything. M. Ebner et al. (Graz, Austria) then take an almost counter-position viewpoint to the previous paper, showing that a system indeed can be very valuable for eLearning if it is powerful enough, yet easy to use. The paper focuses mainly on what we can learn from the Web, within the context of emerging distributed learning environments.

The final paper by B. White (Stanford, USA), sums up the issue by calling for a more balanced and holistic view whereby the processes that are driving the Web should not be limited to technological advances. As much more can be expected to emerge from the future Web, a move towards a unifying perspective of the Web as a unique single entity is proposed, potentially in the form of “Web Observatories”.

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