Message from the Chair

Current search paradigms for the web, direct access via search engines and navigational access via static taxonomies, have recently been strongly criticized. A third approach, dynamic taxonomies or faceted search, focuses on user-centered conceptual exploration and is finally gaining acceptance to the extent that it is now the de facto standard in product selection for e-commerce.

Dynamic taxonomies work on multidimensional taxonomies (usually organized by facets) and provide a single, coherent visual framework in which users can focus on one or more concepts in the taxonomy, and immediately see a conceptual summary of their focus, in the form of a reduced taxonomy derived from the original one by pruning unrelated concepts. Concepts in the reduced taxonomy can be used to set additional, dependent foci and users iterate in a guided yet unconstrained way until they reach a result set sufficiently small for manual inspection.

The access paradigm supported is a conceptual exploration, far more frequent in "search" tasks than the retrieval by exact specification supported by search engines and database queries. The underlying model is simple and easily understood by users, offers substantial benefits over traditional approaches and has an extremely wide application range and a potential for important extensions.

The papers presented in this workshop extend the model, discuss implementation and hci issues, and investigate new application areas.

Giovanni Maria Sacco
Università di Torino, Italy