Preface to the 7th Brazilian Symposium in Information and Human Language Technology

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STIL 2009 (formerly known as TIL - Workshop on Information and Human Language Technology) is the annual Language Technology event supported by the Brazilian Computer Society (SBC) and by the Brazilian Special Interest Group on Natural Language Processing. In 2009 it takes place at the University of São Paulo, campus São Carlos, Brazil. The conference has a multidisciplinary nature and covers a broad spectrum of disciplines related to Human Language Technology, such as Linguistics, Computer Science, Psychology, Information Science, among others. It aims at bringing together both academic and industry participants that work on those areas.

The topics of interest advertised in the Call for Papers centered around work in human language technology in general from perspectives as diverse as Computer Science, Linguistics and Information science, such as text mining, written and spoken language processing, terminology, lexicology and lexicography and natural language generation. We received 60 full papers and 26 short papers. Each submission was reviewed by three members of the Program Committee. STIL 2009 had 88 members in its program committee, from 13 countries and 45 institutions. After a rigorous reviewing process 18 full and 12 short papers were selected, with acceptance rates of 30% and 42%, respectively. At the time of writing we are planning a special issue of the journal Linguamatica which will include a selection of extended and revised versions of the best papers presented at STIL 2009. Besides the technical sessions with paper and poster presentations, STIL 2009 includes two invited talks and two tutorials in its program. The invited speakers are: Prof. Clarisse de Souza (PUC-Rio, Brazil) and Prof. Ted Briscoe (University of Cambridge, UK). The tutorials will be given by Prof. Ted Briscoe (University of Cambridge, UK), and Dr. Caroline Gasperin (USP/ICMC, Brazil)
We want to thank all the authors, members of the Program Committee, Invited Speakers, SBC staff, and the Local and General Chairs of STIL 2009. We hope you enjoy this volume.

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(STIL 2009 Program Committee Co-Chairs)