Foreword

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the 1st ACM International Workshop on Multimedia for Human Communication — From Capture to Convey (MHC’05). This workshop was inspired by the Dagstuhl meeting 05091 “Multimedia Research — where do we need to go tomorrow” (http://www.dagstuhl.de/05091/) organised by Susanne Boll, Ramesh Jain, Tat-Seng Chua and Navenka Dimitrova. Members of the working group were: Lynda Hardman, Brigitte Kerhervé, Stephen Kimani, Frank Nack, Kurt Piersol, Nicu Sebe, Freddy Snijder.

In this workshop we try to find solutions to the problem that today’s multimedia processing systems do not take a holistic view on multimedia communication. This results in multimedia environments that establish artificial borders between the role of the user as consumer and creator of media, hindering the use of multimedia for human communication by a wide audience. Our vision is that the multimedia computing community should create technical solutions that can be combined together as different stages of a dynamic whole.

The challenge is to develop systems that understand the role they play in the communication process chain and allow alternatives for mixing and matching defined sets of functionality which are able to blend into the overall context the user operates in. The task of the technology is to support the essential building blocks of media creation and manipulation: such as capture, annotate, archive, select, organise, present and convey. Multimedia environments of the future have to be fluid, where humans or machines can carry out tasks on an equal basis. That requires that we, as a community, model the inputs and output of the separate processes sufficiently well so that system builders are able to define the inputs and outputs in terms of this model.

The goal of this workshop is to work towards an initial formulation of a model, namely to identify commonly carried-out tasks in media creation, manipulation and organization and consumption and to create preliminary descriptions of input and output specifications. The aim of this workshop is to establish the task set and possible paths among tasks, and gain a better understanding of the inputs and outputs for the identified tasks as well as their inner process structure.

This workshop is organized in the spirit of work. Participants were involved in discussions before the workshop. The available position statements collected in these proceedings were made available prior to the event so that participants could familiarize themselves with the relevant ideas. The pre-discussion phase before the workshop resulted in a list of key questions that provided the corner stones for the discussion during the workshop. The results of this workshop remain to be seen but we are convinced that they will be relevant enough to be published either in a journal article or a special issue in one of the leading journals (ACM TOMCCAP or IEEE MM). To keep the discussion alive the outcome will be described in a Wikipedia entry about the "Multimedia communication model".

Producing a workshop requires the effort of many individuals. We wish to thank the authors for their hard work and for patiently meeting the demands placed on them for ACM-certified proceedings. We are grateful to the program committee members for diligently reviewing the papers, and for their support and suggestions. Our special gratitude to the ACM Multimedia conference committee for accepting this workshop and helping in making it a reality, especially the following people: Hongjiang Zhang and Tat-Seng Chua (General Co-Chairs), Wei-Ying Ma and Hari Sundaram (Workshops Chairs), and Lisa M. Tolles (Sheridan Printing).

We hope you enjoy MHC’05.

Frank Nack
MHC ‘05 General Chair
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