

***Conceptual Structures:
Extracting and Representing Semantics***

Contributions to ICCS 2001
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Conference Summary

Following a series of seven annual workshops, the International Conferences on Conceptual Structures (ICCS) have been held annually in Europe (Darmstadt, 2000; Montpellier, 1998), Australia (Sydney, 1996), and North America (Blacksburg, 1999; Seattle, 1997; Santa Cruz, 1995; Washington, 1994; Quebec City, 1993). Their focus is on the formal analysis and representation of conceptual knowledge with applications to artificial intelligence, computational linguistics, and related areas of computer science.

Historically, a group of researchers working on the theory and applications of conceptual graphs (CG) founded ICCS. Over the years, they have broadened the scope to include a wide range of related theories: formal concept analysis, formal ontologies, description logics, situation theory, discourse representation theory, SNePS, and other related topics.

Papers presented at ICCS 2001 cover the following topics: conceptual graphs (theory, applications, and experience with case studies); formal concept analysis, natural language processing with emphasis on semantics and pragmatics; conceptual analysis, knowledge modeling, representation, and visualization; knowledge acquisition; and the theory and applications of ontologies.

The conference proceedings are published each year by Springer-Verlag as part of their Lecture Notes on Artificial Intelligence (LNAI) series (#699, #835, #954, #1115, #1257, #1453, #1640, #1867). This year's proceedings are also published by Springer-Verlag (LNAI #2120), and papers describing on-going research appear in these supplementary proceedings (also available at: <http://sunsite.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/Publications/CEUR-WS/>).

Each paper in this volume was classified under one of the following three categories: querying, extracting semantics, and conceptual categories. As we move towards knowledge servers accessible over the World Wide Web, the issues pertaining to the extraction of semantics from text, to the creation of relevant and meaningful structures that capture this knowledge (like ontologies), and our subsequent ability to query these knowledge structures are of the outmost importance. This year's conference definitely draws a path in the right direction. We hope that you enjoy the papers that it has to offer, and that they are useful in your own research.

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