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Edited by J. G. Carbonell and J. Siekmann

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AI 2004: Advances in Artificial Intelligence

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Proceedings

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Preface

AI 2004 was the seventeenth in the series of annual Australian artificial intelligence conferences. This conference is the major forum for artificial intelligence research in Australia. It has consistently attracted strong international participation. This year more than two thirds of the submissions were from outside Australia.

The current volume is based on the proceedings of AI 2004. A total of 340 papers were submitted, which we believe to be a substantial increase on previous submission numbers to this series. A national and international program committee refereed full-length versions of all submitted papers. Each accepted paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers. Of these 340 submissions, 78 were accepted for oral presentation and a further 62 for poster presentation. This volume contains a regular paper of up to 12 pages length for each oral presentation and a short paper of up to 6 pages length for each poster presentation.

In addition to the scientific track represented here, the conference featured an exciting program of tutorials and workshops, and plenary talks by four outstanding invited speakers: Mehran Sahami (Google Inc. and Stanford University, USA), Michael J. Pazzani (National Science Foundation and University of California, Irvine, USA), Paul Compton (University of New South Wales, Australia) and Ah Chung Tsoi (Australian Research Council, Australia). AI 2004 was collocated with Complex 2004, the 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on Complex Systems, with the aim of promoting cross-fertilization and collaboration in areas of complex and intelligent systems.

AI 2004 was hosted by the Central Queensland University, Australia, which provided generous financial and organizational support. Particular mention goes to the Conference General Chair, Russel Stonier, the Local Organizing Committee Secretary, Jeni Richardson, the Web Tech Chair, Jason Bell, the Publicity Chair, Dianhui Wang, the Tutorials Chair, Graham Williams, and the Workshops Chair, Andrew Jennings, whose selfless work was critical to the conference’s success. We wish to thank Michelle Kinsman whose efficient organization kept the program committee’s operations on track. We are also grateful for the support of John Debenham and the Australian Computer Society’s National Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems. Thanks also go to Alfred Hofmann and the team from Springer, who were responsible for the timely production and delivery of the conference proceedings. Finally, we thank the members of the Program Committee and the panel of reviewers who produced some 1,020 reviews under tight time constraints. The ongoing quality and success of this conference series is due to your efforts.

December 2004 Geoff Webb and Xinghuo Yu
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