Preface

The papers presented within this volume represent current work in the exciting area of user modeling — an area that promises much to a range of economic and socially beneficial activities. The potential is enormous, and the applications of the technologies that have been developed are increasingly ambitious and relevant to the needs of the 21st century. The editors hope you enjoy, and benefit from, reading the papers within these proceedings.

The International User Modeling Conferences represent the central forum for the discussion and presentation of research and industry results in the development of personalized systems, as well as basic research about personalization. In the last 25 years, the field of user modeling has produced significant new theories and methods to analyze and model computer users in short- and long-term interactions. Moreover, methods for personalizing human-computer interaction based on user models have been successfully developed, applied and evaluated in a number of domains, such as information filtering, e-commerce, adaptive natural language and adaptive educational systems. New user modeling topics are emerging, including adaptation to user attitudes and affective states, personalized interaction in mobile, ubiquitous and context-aware computing and in user interactions with embodied autonomous agents. User modeling research is being influenced by different fields, such as artificial intelligence, human-computer interaction, cognitive psychology, linguistics and education, as well as by newly emerging links with Customer Relationship Management and technologies for communication on the Web, such as Web Services and the Semantic Web.

The 10th International Conference on User Modeling (UM 2005), held in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, on 24–29 July, 2005, is the latest in a conference series begun in 1986, and follows recent meetings in Johnstown (2003), Sonthofen (2001), Banff (1999), Sardinia (1997), Hawaii (1996) and Cape Cod (1994). UM 2005 included 3 invited lectures, 33 full paper presentations, 30 poster presentations, 12 Doctoral Consortium presentations, 9 workshops and 2 tutorials. The conference received 139 paper submissions and 21 poster submissions with a 23% full paper acceptance rate, which is in line with previous UM conferences and guaranteed a high-quality program. The conference had a strongly international flavor — as indicated by the distribution of accepted papers (posters): Europe 14 (16), North America 12 (11), Australia/New Zealand 3 (0), Asia 4 (0), South America 0 (3). There were also 42 Doctoral Consortium submissions.

This volume includes the abstracts of the invited lectures and the texts of the papers, posters and Doctoral Consortium articles selected for presentation in the main conference program, which was enriched by the following joint events:

Tutorials:

Creating Adaptive Web-Based Applications, by Paul De Bra, Computer Science Department, Eindhoven University of Technology
Adaptable Interfaces Through Recommender Systems, by John Riedl, University of Minnesota

Workshops:

W1: Adapting the Interaction Style to Affective Factors, organized by Sandra Carberry and Fiorella de Rosis

W2: Decentralized, Agent-Based and Social Approaches to User Modeling (DASUM), organized by Julita Vassileva and Peter Dolog

W3: Evaluation of Adaptive Systems (EAS), organized by Stephan Weibelzahl, Alexandros Paramythis and Judith Masthoff

W4: Machine Learning for User Modeling: Challenges, organized by Colin de la Higuera

W5: PROLEARN: Personalized Adaptive Technologies for Professional Training, organized by Marcus Specht

W6: Personalisation for eHealth, organized by Floriana Grasso, Silvana Quaglini, Cecile Paris, Alison Cawsey and Ross Wilkinson

W7: Personalized Information Access, organized by Peter Brusilovsky, Andreas Nuernberger and Charles Callaway

W8: Personalization on the Semantic Web (PerSWeb), organized by Lora Aroyo, Vania Dimitrova and Judy Kay

W9: Privacy-Enhanced Personalization, organized by Alfred Kobsa and Lorrie Cranor

UM 2005 was hosted by Heriot-Watt University under the auspices of User Modeling, Inc. Sponsors included Università di Torino, the University of Canterbury, the University of Glasgow, Heriot-Watt University, the University of Edinburgh, Leeds University, the University of Delaware, York University and Robert Gordon University. We are especially thankful for the sponsorship of Microsoft Research, Springer GmbH, which provided support for the Best Paper award, and the James Chen family for sponsoring the Best Student Paper awards.

We would like to thank all the members of the Program Committee, who supported us in the selection of papers and who provided insightful comments to help the authors improve their contributions. Many thanks to the additional reviewers, acknowledged in this volume, who supported the Program Committee members with their revision work. We would especially like to thank Alison Cawsey, Vania Dimitrova, Kathleen McCoy, Kalina Bontcheva, Jon Oberlander, Daniel Kudenko, Ayse Goker, Nicolas Van Labeke and Helen Pain. Also, many thanks to Brent Martin for his help with CyberChair, Paul Irvine for his superb graphics skills and his excellent designs for the conference, and Jon Lewin for his Acrobat skills, and all those persons, including the authors, who gave their time to make the event a success and these proceedings a reality.

May 2005

Liliana Ardissono, Università di Torino, Italy
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Tanja Mitrovic, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
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UM 2005 was organized by the Department of Computer Science, Heriot-Watt University in cooperation with UM, Inc.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eva Millan</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Markus Specht</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riichiro Mizoguchi</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Carlo Tasso</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Nejdl</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Julita Vassileva</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Pain</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Gerhard Weber</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Paliouras</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Stephan Weibelzahl</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecile Paris</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Ross Wilkinson</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniela Petrelli</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Frank Wittig</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candy Sidner</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Ingrid Zukerman</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry Smyth</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Bunt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lucio Ieronutti</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefano Burigat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shinichi Konomi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Stefan Carmien</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vitaveska Lanfranchi</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Demis Corvaglia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Heather Maclaren</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Dawe</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rafael Morales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luca De Marco</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tomohiro Oda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hal Eden</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dimitrios Pierrakos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josef Fink</td>
<td></td>
<td>Roberto Ranon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cristina Gena</td>
<td></td>
<td>Augusto Senerchia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisa Giaccardi</td>
<td></td>
<td>James Sullivan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Gorman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yunwen Ye</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Goy</td>
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<td>Daniel Wilson</td>
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<td>Daniele Gunetti</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Félix Hernández</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Contents

Invited Talks

User Modeling Meets Usability Goals
  *Anthony Jameson* .............................................. 1

Hey, That’s Personal!
  *Lorrie Faith Cranor* ............................................ 4

Inhabited Models: Supporting Coherent Behavior in Online Systems
  *Thomas Erickson* .............................................. 5

Papers

Adaptive Hypermedia

Integrating Open User Modeling and Learning Content Management for the Semantic Web
  *Ronald Denaux, Vania Dimitrova, Lora Aroyo* .................... 9

Modeling Suppositions in Users’ Arguments
  *Sarah George, Ingrid Zukerman, Michael Niemann* .............. 19

Generative Programming Driven by User Models
  *Mauro Marinilli, Alessandro Micarelli* ........................... 30

Affective Computing

Data-Driven Refinement of a Probabilistic Model of User Affect
  *Cristina Conati, Heather Maclaren* ............................... 40

Recognizing Emotion from Postures: Cross-Cultural Differences in User Modeling
  *Andrea Kleinsmith, P. Ravindra De Silva, Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze* ................................. 50
Recognizing, Modeling, and Responding to Users’ Affective States
   Helmut Prendinger, Junichiro Mori, Mitsuru Ishizuka ............... 60

Using Learner Focus of Attention to Detect Learner Motivation Factors
   Lei Qu, Ning Wang, W. Lewis Johnson ............................... 70

Player Modeling Impact on Player’s Entertainment in Computer Games
   Georgios N. Yannakakis, Manolis Maragoudakis .................... 74

Data Mining for Personalization and Cross-Recommendation

Using Learning Curves to Mine Student Models
   Brent Martin, Antonija Mitrovic ..................................... 79

Exploiting Probabilistic Latent Information for the Construction of Community Web Directories
   Dimitrios Pierrakos, Georgios Paliouras ............................ 89

ExpertiseNet: Relational and Evolutionary Expert Modeling
   Xiaodan Song, Belle L. Tseng, Ching-Yung Lin, Ming-Ting Sun ... 99

Task-Oriented Web User Modeling for Recommendation
   Xin Jin, Yanzan Zhou, Bamshad Mobasher ............................ 109

Ontologically-Enriched Unified User Modeling for Cross-System Personalization
   Bhaskar Mehta, Claudia Niederee, Avare Stewart, Marco Degemmis, Pasquale Lops, Giovanni Semeraro ...................... 119

ITS and Adaptive Advice

Using Student and Group Models to Support Teachers in Web-Based Distance Education
   Essam Kosba, Vania Dimitrova, Roger Boyle .......................... 124

Using Similarity to Infer Meta-cognitive Behaviors During Analogical Problem Solving
   Kasia Muldner, Cristina Conati ...................................... 134

COPPER: Modeling User Linguistic Production Competence in an Adaptive Collaborative Environment
   Timothy Read, Elena Bárçena, Beatriz Barros, Raquel Varela, Jesús Pancorbo ................................. 144
User Cognitive Style and Interface Design for Personal, Adaptive Learning. What to Model?
   Elizabeth Uruchrutu, Lachlan MacKinnon, Roger Rist .................. 154

Tailored Responses for Decision Support
   Terrence Harvey, Sandra Carberry, Keith Decker .................. 164

Decision Theoretic Dialogue Planning for Initiative Problems
   Bryan McEleney, Gregory O’Hare ..................................... 169

A Semi-automated Wizard of Oz Interface for Modeling Tutorial Strategies
   Paola Rizzo, Hyokyeong Lee, Erin Shaw, W. Lewis Johnson,
   Ning Wang, Richard E. Mayer ........................................ 174

Modeling and Recognizing Human Activity

Generating Artificial Corpora for Plan Recognition
   Nate Blaylock, James Allen ........................................ 179

Reasoning About Interaction in a Multi-user System
   Michael Y.K. Cheng, Robin Cohen .................................. 189

A Comparison of HMMs and Dynamic Bayesian Networks for Recognizing Office Activities
   Nuria Oliver, Eric Horvitz ........................................... 199

Modeling Agents That Exhibit Variable Performance in a Collaborative Setting
   Ingrid Zukerman, Christian Guttmann................................. 210

Detecting When Students Game the System, Across Tutor Subjects and Classroom Cohorts
   Ryan Shaun Baker, Albert T. Corbett, Kenneth R. Koedinger,
   Ido Roll ................................................................. 220

A Bayesian Approach to Modelling Users’ Information Display Preferences
   Beate Grawemeyer, Richard Cox ...................................... 225

Modeling of the Residual Capability for People with Severe Disabilities:
Analysis of Hand Posture
   Rachid Kadouche, Mounir Mokhtari, Marc Maier .................... 231
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-intrusive User Modeling for a Multimedia Museum Visitors Guide System</td>
<td>Tsvi Kuflik, Charles Callaway, Dina Goren-Bar, Cesare Rocchi, Oliviero Stock, Massimo Zancanaro</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multimodality and Ubiquitous Computing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modelling the Behaviour of Elderly People as a Means of Monitoring Well Being</td>
<td>Nick Hine, Andrew Judson, Saqib Ashraf, John Arnott, Andrew Sixsmith, Steve Brown, Paul Garner</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Do What I Tell You: The Limited Impact of Instructions on Multimodal Integration Patterns</td>
<td>Sharon Oviatt, Rachel Coulston, Rebecca Lunsford</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion-Based Adaptation of Information Services for Mobile Users</td>
<td>Mathias Bauer, Matthieu Deru</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction-Based Adaptation for Small Screen Devices</td>
<td>Enrico Bertini, Andrea Calì, Tiziana Catarci, Silvia Gabrielli, Stephen Kimani</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapting Home Behavior to Its Inhabitants</td>
<td>Berardina De Carolis</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommender Systems</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and Evaluation of a Music Retrieval Scheme That Adapts to the User’s Impressions</td>
<td>Tadahiko Kumamoto</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pursuit of Satisfaction: Affective State in Group Recommender Systems</td>
<td>Judith Masthoff</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Economic Model of User Rating in an Online Recommender System</td>
<td>F. Maxwell Harper, Xin Li, Yan Chen, Joseph A. Konstan</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Incorporating Confidence in a Naive Bayesian Classifier
*Verus Pronk, Srinivas V.R. Gutta, Wim F.J. Verhaegh* .......................... 317

### Modeling User’s Opinion Relevance to Recommending Research Papers
*Sílvio César Cazella, Luis Otávio Campos Alvares* ................................. 327

### User- and Community-Adaptive Rewards Mechanism for Sustainable Online Community
*Ran Cheng, Julita Vassileva* ................................................................. 332

### Off-line Evaluation of Recommendation Functions
*Tingshao Zhu, Russ Greiner, Gerald Häubl, Kevin Jewell,
Bob Price* .................................................................................................. 337

### Evaluating the Intrusion Cost of Recommending in Recommender Systems
*Felix Hernandez-del-Olmo, Elena Gaudioso, Jesus G. Boticario* ........ 342

### Student Modeling

- **Introducing Prerequisite Relations in a Multi-layered Bayesian Student Model**
  *Cristina Carmona, Eva Millán, Jose Luis Pérez-de-la-Cruz,
  Mónica Trella, Ricardo Conejo* .......................................................... 347

- **Exploring Eye Tracking to Increase Bandwidth in User Modeling**
  *Cristina Conati, Christina Merten, Kasia Muldner, David Ternes* ...... 357

- **Modeling Students’ Metacognitive Errors in Two Intelligent Tutoring Systems**
  *Ido Roll, Ryan S. Baker, Vincent Aleven, Bruce M. McLaren,
  Kenneth R. Koedinger* ........................................................................... 367

- **Modeling Individual and Collaborative Problem Solving in Medical Problem-Based Learning**
  *Siriwan Suebnukarn, Peter Haddawy* .................................................. 377

- **User Modeling in a Distributed E-Learning Architecture**
  *Peter Brusilovsky, Sergey Sosnovsky, Olena Shcherbinina* ................ 387

- **Computer Adaptive Testing: Comparison of a Probabilistic Network Approach with Item Response Theory**
  *Michel C. Desmarais, Xiaoming Pu* .................................................... 392
A Framework for Browsing, Manipulating and Maintaining Interoperable Learner Profiles
Peter Dolog, Michael Schäfer ........................................ 397
Towards Efficient Item Calibration in Adaptive Testing
Eduardo Guzmán, Ricardo Conejo ................................... 402
Synergy of Performance-Based Model and Cognitive Trait Model in DP-ITS
Zoran Jeremić, Taiyu Lin, Kinshuk Kinshuk, Vladan Devedžić .... 407
Up and Down the Number-Line: Modelling Collaboration in Contrasting School and Home Environments
Hilary Tunley, Benedict du Boulay, Rosemary Luckin, Joe Holmberg, Joshua Underwood ........................................ 412

User Modeling and Interactive Systems
Temporal Blurring: A Privacy Model for OMS Users
Rosa A. Alarcón, Luis A. Guerrero, José A. Pino ................. 417
A Framework of Context-Sensitive Visualization for User-Centered Interactive Systems
Eui-Chul Jung, Keiichi Sato ........................................... 423
Gumo – The General User Model Ontology
Dominik Heckmann, Tim Schwartz, Boris Brandherm, Michael Schmitz, Margeritta von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff .... 428
Balancing Awareness and Interruption: Investigation of Notification Deferral Policies
Eric Horvitz, Johnson Apacible, Muru Subramani ............... 433
A Decomposition Model for the Layered Evaluation of Interactive Adaptive Systems
Alexandros Paramythis, Stephan Weibelzahl ...................... 438
User Control over User Adaptation: A Case Study
Xiaoyan Peng, Daniel L. Silver ..................................... 443
Towards User Modeling Meta-ontology
Michael Yudelson, Tatiana Gavrilova, Peter Brusilovsky ....... 448
Web Site Navigation Support

Evaluation of a System for Personalized Summarization of Web Contents
Alberto Díaz, Pablo Gervás, Antonio García ............................. 453

Social Navigation Support Through Annotation-Based Group Modeling
Rosta Farzan, Peter Brusilovsky ........................................ 463

Discovering Stages in Web Navigation
Vera Hollink, Maarten van Someren, Stephan ten Hagen ............ 473

The Impact of Link Suggestions on User Navigation and User Perception
Ion Juvina, Eelco Herder .................................................. 483

Doctoral Consortium Papers

Modeling Emotions from Non-verbal Behaviour in an Affective Tutoring System
Samuel Alexander ............................................................ 493

Ubiquitous User Modeling in Recommender Systems
Shlomo Berkovsky ............................................................. 496

User Modelling to Support User Customization
Andrea Bunt ................................................................. 499

ETAPP: A Collaboration Framework That Copes with Uncertainty Regarding Team Members
Christian Guttmann .......................................................... 502

Towards Explicit Physical Object Referencing
Michael Kruppa ............................................................... 506

Adaptive User Interfaces for In-vehicle Devices
Talia Lavie ................................................................. 509

Agent-Based Ubiquitous User Modeling
Andreas Lorenz ............................................................. 512

Using Qualitative Modelling Approach to Model Motivational Characteristics of Learners
Jutima Methaneethorn ..................................................... 515
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving Explicit Profile Acquisition by Means of Adaptive Natural Language Dialog</td>
<td>Rosmary Stegmann</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modelling User Ability in Computer Games</td>
<td>David Storey</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constraint-Sensitive Privacy Management for Personalized Web-Based Systems</td>
<td>Yang Wang</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modularized User Modeling in Conversational Recommender Systems</td>
<td>Pontus Wärnestål</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author Index</td>
<td></td>
<td>531</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>