

Serap Kurbanoglu Umut Al
Phyllis Lepon Erdođan Yařar Tonta
Nazan Uçak (Eds.)

Technological Convergence and Social Networks in Information Management

Second International Symposium
on Information Management in a Changing World
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Proceedings

Volume Editors

Serap Kurbanoğlu
Hacettepe University
Department of Information Management
Beytepe, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail: serap@hacettepe.edu.tr

Umut Al
Hacettepe University
Department of Information Management
Beytepe, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail: umutal@hacettepe.edu.tr

Phyllis Lepon Erdoğan
Bilkent University
Office of the Board of Trustees
Bilkent, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail: phyllis@bilkent.edu.tr

Yaşar Tonta
Hacettepe University
Department of Information Management
Beytepe, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail: tonta@hacettepe.edu.tr

Nazan Uçak
Hacettepe University
Department of Information Management
Beytepe, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail: ucak@hacettepe.edu.tr

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Preface

“Convergence” is defined as the intertwining of species or technologies. “Technological convergence,” on the other hand, refers to a trend where a single product such as a cell phone, used in the past solely for communication, evolves into a product that functions not only as a communication device but incorporates the distinct functionalities of a number of other technologies, thereby enabling users to take pictures, listen to music, access the Web, send and receive e-mail messages, find their way, and so on, equally successfully.

Social networks such as Facebook, YouTube, MySpace and LinkedIn, where users congregate, discuss certain issues, entertain themselves, and share information in textual, audio and video formats, are among the most frequented web sites. Social networks having Web 2.0 features offer personalized services, allowing users to incorporate their own content easily and describe, organize and share it with others, thereby enriching users’ experience. More often than not, a capable cell phone is all you need to get access to such social networks and carry out all those tasks. Such tools tend to change our private, social and professional lives and blur the boundaries among them. In other words, our private, social and professional lives are converging, too: someone using a cell phone could be communicating with his/her friend(s), accessing information services, taking an exam using a learning management system, or conducting business.

Needless to say, technological convergence and social networks are also transforming scholarly electronic publishers, library and information centers, and institutional archives. They are no longer “brick and mortar” businesses only, as they provide access to information resources and services on a 24/7 basis to users not even coming to the library building, thereby removing the temporal and spatial barriers. However, users demand more: they expect libraries to offer constant connectivity, communications and content, and to be as accessible, flexible, open to collaboration and sharing as social networks. They expect them to offer more synthesized, specialized and mobilized services at the point of need, without forcing them to change their work, study or social environment. This is a daunting task for information managers, archivists, museum curators and publishers.

The 2nd International Symposium on Information Management in a Changing World, organized by the Department of Information Management of Hacettepe University, took place in Ankara, Turkey, from September 22–24, 2010. The theme of the symposium was “The Impact of Technological Convergence and Social Networks on Information Management.” More than 40 papers were submitted. All papers were subjected to a double-blind reviewing process and 20 were selected for inclusion in this proceedings book. Accepted papers come from 12 different countries and address a number of issues dealing with, among others, digital rights challenges, information literacy, organization of learning spaces, competency of academic library staff, users of digital libraries, data mining of Facebook users’ profiles, digital culture, digital

socialism, personal information management, and automatic categorization, all in the context of information management in the digital age.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the symposium keynote speaker, Dr. Joan K. Lippincott of the Coalition for Networked Information (USA), and the members of the international Organizing and Program Committees and the Local Committee who invested their time generously to make this event happen. We are most grateful to Phyllis Lapon Erdoğan for editing the final manuscript. We also thank our colleagues Orçun Madran and Erol Olcay who designed the symposium web site as well as the art work; İrem Soydal, Güleda Düzyol, Zehra Taşkın and Tolga Çakmak for carefully copy-editing the papers. Last but not least, it is a pleasure to thank our sponsors and supporters, whose names and logos are listed on the preliminary pages of this proceedings book.

July 2010

Yaşar Tonta
Serap Kurbanoglu

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