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EGOV 2007 was the sixth edition of this highly successful series of annual international conferences dedicated to electronic government research and practice. Like all its predecessors, EGOV 2007 achieved a remarkable number of paper submissions. Moreover, the quality of this year’s submissions again superseded previous years’ submissions. For the third year in a row, the conference was antecedent by a doctoral colloquium, with approximately 20 PhD projects discussed. The conference also provided a forum for academic work in progress, for practitioner reports, and for workshops on specialty topics.

Along with the International Conference on Digital Government Research (dg.o) in the USA and the e-Government Track at the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), the EGOV series of conferences has established itself as the leading annual conference on e-Government, e-Participation and e-Governance in Europe, with a global reach.

Last year, the first two professional societies were formed in North America and Europe, the Digital Government Society of North America (DGSNA)\(^1\) and the European EGOV Society (EGOV-S)\(^2\). Both sister societies work closely together. It is noteworthy that both societies have adopted almost identical mission statements. They both define themselves as multi-disciplinary organizations “of scholars and practitioners engaged in and committed to democratic digital government. Digital (or electronic) government fosters the use of information and technology to support and improve public policies and government operations, engage citizens, and provide comprehensive and timely government services”. The societies equip their “members with a professional support network focused on both scholarship and effective practices that nurture technical, social, and organizational transformation in the public sector.” As a result of this orientation, the scholarship in e-Government enjoys a growing respect in academia and a high recognition for its relevancy to practice and governmental transformation. It appears the e-Government study domain is on a good path.

The growing number of high-quality research that we witness at e-Government conferences has also increased the demand for domain-specific journal outlets. At least six journals with an international distribution have emerged in the last couple of years.

In the Call for Papers this year, a number of topical threads were highlighted which attracted a fairly large number of paper submissions. Thirty-eight full research papers (empirical and conceptual) were accepted for the LNCS proceedings of EGOV 2007. They have been clustered under the following headings:

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\(^1\) http://www.dgsociety.org/
\(^2\) http://www.egov-society.org/
EGOV 2007 also covered a number of contributions that reflect ongoing and innovative contributions, case and project descriptions, as well as workshop abstracts. These contributions are published in a complementary proceedings volume by Trauner Druck.

Many people make large events like EGOV 2007 happen. We thank the members of the Program Committee and additional reviewers for their great efforts in reviewing the submitted papers. Gabriela Wagner of the DEXA organization as well as the EGOV 2007 Program Committee members deserve special thanks. Bernhard Szudra of the University of Koblenz-Landau/Germany was a key support in the administrative management of the review process, the set-up of the program and coordination of authors’ requests, as well as in compiling the proceedings of EGOV 2007.

This year for the first time we awarded outstanding papers at the EGOV conference. The conference closed with the awards ceremony, during which the winners were announced. We judged papers in three categories:

- The most novel and innovative contribution
- The most compelling research reflection
- The most promising contribution

Since innovation, reflection, and great contributions were his academic signature, we decide to name these awards after René Wagenaar.

René unexpectedly passed away in February this year at age 55. He held the position of Professor of Information and Communication Technology in the Infrastructure Systems and Services Department at the Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands. René was a very prolific and intellectually influential colleague. He also stood out as a great mentor to students and junior colleagues. René had an irresistible sense of humor and cheered up many meetings with his joyful presence. His early death is a tragedy and a great loss to both his family and the academic community. We miss him immensely, and we are proud to honor his contributions to our community in this way.

September 2007

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