Openness in Digital Publishing:
Awareness, Discovery and Access

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Preface

Dear readers and delegates at ELPUB 2007,

It is a pleasure for us to present you with this volume of proceedings, consisting of scientific contributions accepted for presentation at the 11th ELPUB conference, organised by the Vienna University of Technology, Austria.


The theme for this year’s conference, “Openness in Digital Publishing: Awareness, Discovery, and Access”, is devoted to exploring the full spectrum of "openness" in digital publishing, from open source applications for content creation to open distribution of content, and open standards to facilitate sharing and open access to scientific publications. In addition to technical papers, we also encouraged submissions reporting on research on economics of openness, public policy implications, and institutional support and collaboration on digital publishing and knowledge dissemination. The goal is to encourage research and dialogues on the changing nature of scholarly communications enabled by open peer-to-peer production and new modes of sharing and creating knowledge.

In order to guarantee the high quality of papers presented at ELPUB 2007, all submissions were peer-reviewed by the Programme Committee (PC), whose thirty-four highly qualified and specialised experts represent many different countries and cover a wide variety of institutional and knowledge domains. The PC did a great job in selecting the best submissions for ELPUB 2007, and we would like to thank them sincerely for the valuable time and expertise they put into the peer review process.

At the conclusion of the peer review procedure, all selected and confirmed entries for this conference, including full papers for scientific presentations, and shorter papers for workshops and demonstrations, were pre-published in the ELPUB Digital Library at http://elpub.scix.net. Potential delegates could therefore see, in advance, what could be expected at the meeting. The same system – SOPS, or SciX Open Publishing System – was also used to set up the submission and review of abstracts.

To assist with the assignment of reviewers, submitters were asked to characterise their entries by selecting 3–5 key areas out of a larger list of subject descriptors. In a similar way, reviewers identified their 3–5 fields of expertise and this allowed the Programme team to map papers to reviewers. Finally, the same system supported the Programme Committee with the scheduling of the sessions and with grouping papers according to common and over-lapping themes. The Table of Content of this volume follows both the themes and the order of the sessions in which they were scheduled during the conference.

As with all previous ELPUB conferences, the collection of papers and their metadata are made available through several channels of the Open Archives Initiative, including Dublin Core metadata distribution and full archives at http://elpub.scix.net. It may appear ironic to have a printed proceedings for a conference dedicated to Electronic Publishing. However, the "need" for printed publications is an old and continuing one. It seems that it is still essential for a significant number of delegates to have "something tangible" in their hands and their respective university administrations.

We hope you enjoy reading the proceedings. It is also our pleasure to invite delegates and readers to ELPUB 2008, taking place in Toronto, Canada. The 12th ELPUB conference will be organised by the University of Toronto, and this marks the first time the conference series will be held in North America. Details of the conference will be forthcoming at the ELPUB web site.

Finally, we would like to thank our Keynote Speakers, Keith Jeffery and Norbert Kroó, for their insightful and timely contributions to the conference. Thanks also go to Grace Samuels for checking the references, to Tomo
Cerovsek for maintaining the submission- and review-interface. We would also like to thank the sponsors for their generous contributions.

With our best wishes for a very successful conference,

Leslie Chan  
Programme Committee Chair  
University of Toronto Scarborough

Bob Martens  
General Chair  
Vienna University of Technology