

Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the fourteenth JURIX conference, held on December 13 and 14, 2001, at the Universiteit van Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In accordance with the tradition set by the uninterrupted series of annual conferences, the research presented at JURIX 2001 illustrates the forefront of academic research in the field of legal information technology, and in particular on the development and application of artificial intelligence in the legal domain.

Invited Speakers

Two speakers were invited to address the conference. The Dutch Minister for Urban Policy and Integration of Ethnic minorities Roger van Boxtel was a natural choice because of his continuing efforts to stimulate the application of information technology by the government (cf. his web site at <http://www.ministervanboxtel.nl/>). Anne Gardner's acceptance of the invitation to speak at JURIX 2001 is also a privilege. Her book 'An Artificial Intelligence Approach to Legal Reasoning' has become a classic in the field and continues to influence researchers with an interest in artificial intelligence and law.

The Contributions

This year's papers cover a wide range of topics, including knowledge systems, case-based reasoning, hybrid approaches, logic and foundations, and argumentation.

With respect to legal knowledge systems, Spreeuwenberg, Van Engers and Gerrits address the problems of verification and validation. Apistola and Oskamp argue for the improvement of existing methods of legal knowledge management.

The continuing interest in case-based reasoning is exemplified by two papers. Roth presents case-based reasoning as a kind of dialectical argumentation, and Bench-Capon and Rissland revitalize the topic of case dimensions.

In their paper on theory coherence, Bench-Capon and Sartor try to connect qualitative and quantitative approaches to legal justification. Governatori and Stranieri also discuss a hybrid approach, when they show how knowledge discovery techniques can be used to identify defeasible rules.

Three papers are about logic and foundations. Hage claims in his first paper that legal logic should take the law itself as its starting point, and illustrates this point in a second paper by arguing that some problems of deontic logic are the result of a wrong conception of obligations. Maranhao deals with normative systems, and shows a way to deal with normative gaps in terms of revision by refinement.

Two papers deal with argumentation. Lodder and Huygen present a system for online dispute resolution, and Prakken and Renooij discuss reasoning about evidence, from the viewpoints of defeasible argumentation and abduction.

Workshops and Demonstrations

In conjunction with JURIX 2001 two workshops took place, namely the Second International Workshop on Legal Ontologies and the First International Workshop on Law & Educational Technologies. The former was organized by Radboud Winkels, Tom van Engers and Trevor Bench-Capon, the latter by Antoinette Muntjewerff, Vincent Aleven, Paul Maharg, Irvette van Hunen and Jeroen Leijen. There was also a session dedicated to the demonstration of working systems.

Acknowledgments

Of the sixteen submitted papers, eleven have been accepted. The selection was made with the help of the review reports of the following people:

Kevin Ashley	Anja Oskamp
Trevor Bench-Capon	Henry Prakken
Bob Brouwer	Giovanni Sartor
Thomas F. Gordon	Andrew Stranieri
Jaap van den Herik	Kees de Vey Mestdagh
Ronald Leenes	Radboud Winkels
Marie-Francine Moens	John Zeleznikow

The organization committee consisted of Radboud Winkels (chair), Yolanda Carasco, Rinke Hoekstra and Antoinette Muntjewerff. The committee was assisted by Abdullatif Elhag.

The conference would not have been possible without the help of these people and the program committee owes all of them special thanks for their efforts.

The program committee

Bart Verheij (chair)
 Arno R. Lodder
 Ronald P. Loui
 Antoinette J. Muntjewerff