

Preface

This volume contains the Proceedings of the thirteenth JURIX conference, held 14-15 December 2000 at the campus of the University of Twente (Enschede, the Netherlands). This yearly Conference has a unique tradition. It is organised by a Dutch foundation with the same name, which was established at the second half of the eighties with the aim to foster research on knowledge based technology for legal applications and legal research. As the Dutch “AI & Law” researchers took a relatively important position on the international scene, the JURIX Conference got a more and more international character. Also its scope was extended, including now the full range of ICT for the legal domain. This domain is characterised by the problem of access to large quantities of data; so ‘legal information serving’ is probably the most central issue in ICT and Law. However, this is not reflected by the number of contributions on this topic in these Proceedings.* The paper by Winkels *et al.* in this volume moreover shows that advanced legal information serving needs knowledge engineering technology.

The larger part of the articles is about artificial legal reasoning and in particular: argumentation and the force (value) of arguments (Hage; Prakken; Bench-Capon & Sartor). Argumentation can also be viewed as a conceptual basis for legal consultancy and information serving (Boer). Analogical reasoning, important in the use of precedence law is also an important current topic in AI & Law research (Prakken; Henderson & Bench-Capon, Roth). Fundamental theoretical studies about normative reasoning and causal reasoning are to be found in papers by Royackers, respectively Lehmann & Breuker. On the more applied side of the research reported in this volume, two papers are concerned with empirical studies on the evaluation of knowledge technology used for legal practice (Groothuis & Svensson; Dijkstra). An important task in the domain of law is the drafting of regulations and contracts: the paper by Daskalopulu shows how Petri nets may support this activity.

Besides the conference, we also organised a tutorial during the first day titled “Legal knowledge-based systems in administrative practice and electronic service delivery (e-government)”. The tutorial was given by Peter Johnson of Softlaw Corporation (Australia), a company with a lot of experience in building knowledge based legal applications for public administrations in Australia. The first conference day also gave researchers and enterprises the opportunity to demonstrate working systems.

This conference, we introduce a best paper award. The JURIX 2000 award for outstanding contribution has been assigned to the paper by Trevor Bench-Capon & Giovanni Sartor titled “Using Values and Theories To Resolve Disagreement in Law”.

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* At the more recent JURIX Conferences, the relative share of papers about legal information serving was larger: about 25%.

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