SIGWEB FY'06 Annual Report
July 2005- June 2006
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SIGWEB is at the midterm point with its new Executive Committee (XC). The XC, with its mix of experienced and first-time members, is working well together, and is both continuing work started under the previous XC and spearheading new initiatives of its own.

BACKGROUND

SIGWEB represents a unique and interdisciplinary research community centered on augmenting the human intellect, a vision articulated by the legendary computing pioneer Douglas Engelbart nearly half a century ago. Engelbart, Ted Nelson, and other early researchers realized this vision through hypermedia systems, which are still of interest to the SIGWEB community today, including the World Wide Web, the largest hypermedia system ever built. Modern researchers have found a host of other realizations of this vision, ranging from digital libraries to knowledge management systems. SIGWEB includes more than just computer researchers and professionals, though. From cognitive sychologists to ethnographers to anthropologists, SIGWEB embraces those researchers and practitioners that address how people use computers, so that better tools for augmenting the human intellect can be built. SIGWEB also balances the findings of the research world with the experiences of the practical world, in which our ideas and theories are tested daily.

SIGWEB (originally SIGLINK) was founded 15 years ago to provide a home for the hypertext community and conference. We are undertaking many new efforts to make SIGWEB a more valuable resource for our members.

FY 2006 TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND AWARDS

The technical meetings sponsored by SIGWEB include:

  + ACM Conference on Hypertext and Hypermedia (HT) 2005
    (held August 2005 in Salzburg, Austria)

  + ACM Symposium on Document Engineering (DocEng) 2005
    (held in November 2005 in Bristol, United Kingdom)

  + International Conference on Service Oriented Computing (ICSOC) 2005
    (held in December 2005 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

  + ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) 2006
    (held June 2006 in Chapel Hill, NC, USA)

The awards presented by SIGWEB include:

  + The Douglas C. Engelbart Award (HT 2005)

      "What the Geeks Know: Hypertext and the Problem of Literacy"

        Stuart Moulthrop

  + The Theodor Holm Nelson Award (HT 2005)

      "Philadelphia Fullerine: A Case Study in Three-Dimensional Hypermedia"

        J. Nathan Matias

+ The Vannevar Bush Best Paper Award (JCDL 2006)

"Metadata Aggregation and "Automated Digital Libraries:" A Retrospective on the NSDL Experience"

Carl Lagoze, Tim Cornwell, Naomi Dushay,
Dean Ecktrom, Dean Krafft, John Saylor

These papers represent just some of the exciting new technical work being done in our community.

PARTNERSHIPS

The new XC has successfully completed numerous changes to address the wider community, including founding partnerships with a range of new conferences, workshops, and other related professional groups. FY 2007 will see two new conference partnerships. CIKM (Conference on Information and Knowledge Management) 2006, a long-time ACM conference, will be 33% sponsored by SIGWEB starting in 2006. WikiSym 2006, a relatively new ACM forum (held only once before, as a workshop) is 50% sponsored by SIGWEB, an arrangement we are currently working on extending into the near-term future.

GOALS

FY 2006 saw the completion of our experiment with "electronic format only" proceedings (HT 2005). The feedback on this move has been positive. We hope to extend this policy to other fora as well over the next few years.

The newly started "Transactions on the Web" (TWEB) is an excellent development for SIGWEB members, as it finally gives this community a dedicated transactions-level ACM journal dedicated to themes that closely match the profile of many of our members.

We have started a long-term deal with the "New Review of Hypermedia and Multimedia" (NRHM - Taylor & Francis) whereby our members receive a subscription discount. Likewise, authors at some SIGWEB sponsored conferences are directed to NRHM as a possible publication outlet for expanded versions of their papers.

CONCLUSION

FY 2006 represents a continuation of the path set out upon by the current XC at the beginning of their term. We hope to continue this work into the next fiscal year.