Electronic News Journal on Reasoning about Actions and Change

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Volume 2, Number 2

Contributions during February, 1998

ISSN, print: 1403 - 2031
on-line: 1403 - 204X

Linköping University Electronic Press
http://www.ep.liu.se/ej/enrac/1998/02/

Publication Trail and Update Rules

The Electronic News Journals (ENJ) are a medium for exchange of scientific information and debate. In particular, they serve as the forum where articles received by the ETAI (Electronic Transactions on Artificial Intelligence) are discussed publicly for review, in separate News Journals for each ETAI area.

The Electronic News Journal on Reasoning about Actions and Change (ENRAC), in particular, uses a publication trail where contributed information is first distributed on a daily basis as *Newsletters* using electronic mail and web pages in HTML. Then, contributions during the same month are compiled into an HTML version of the monthly *News Journal*. Finally, the same information is converted via Latex to a postscript version that is suitable for printing on paper and reading off-line. It is formally published and archived by the Linköping University Electronic Press in both its electronic and its paper form, as described on page (iv).

Offprints of individual segments. Each News Journal issue consists of a sequence of *segments* relating to specific topics. "Offprints" of these can be obtained from the URL:s indicated at the head of the first page of each segment. It is intended to maintain these URL:s and their contents for the foreseeable future. Misprints of minor significance are corrected in these offprints (but not in the E-Press version since it is considered archival).

Corresponding HTML edition with dynamic links. The HTML edition contains considerable numbers of links to other pages and structures on the net: articles that are available on-line, home pages of conferences and of individual researchers, links to other part of the ETAI structure, and so on. Due to the natural limitations of the paper medium, only some of the WWW links have been retained here as footnotes. In order to retrieve articles and other information that are referenced in the present issue, it is recommended to look up the corresponding issue in HTML and to use its link. The HTML issues of the News Journals on Reasoning about Actions and Change can be found at the following URL:

`http://www.ida.liu.se/ext/etai/actions/njl/`

It is intended that the HTML issues will by updated continously to the largest extent possible, for example by replacing URL links to the home pages of authors that have changed to another site.

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Dates of Publication

Since the date of publication may be understood either as the date of first public appearance, or as the day of reproduction on paper in many copies, and since both of these definitions may be difficult to apply in the case of electronic publication, we make the following clarifying statement.

The contents of the present issue were put on-line in their original, HTML version during the month of February, 1998. Then the contents were edited and formatted, resulting in the present, formatted version which was published on May 22, 1998, in two concurrent editions: an on-line edition and a paper edition. The on-line edition was timestamped electronically and put on-line by Linköping University Electronic Press at the URL specified on page (i). The paper edition was obtained by printing the on-line edition on a standard computer printer. It was reproduced in 200 copies, legally archived, and made available for distribution.

Vol. 2: *51-51*, 28.2.1998
http://www.ida.liu.se/ext/etai/actions/nj/9802/

The Month of Feburary

Summary of News Journal Contents

Aftermath of Commonsense Workshop in the ENRAC

The major Colloquium activity during the present month has been the on-line discussions following the workshop on Logical Formalizations of Commonsense Reasoning. The present issue contains discussion protocols for almost all the workshop papers, combining a summary of the discussion at the workshop with a continued on-line discussion afterwards. See page 58 of the present issue for a summary of how this was organized, and the following pages for the discussion protocols.

Ontologies Panel Continues

Besides this experiment with a novel form of research communication, the Newsletters of this month have also contained a few additional contributions to the panel discussion on ontologies of actions and change.