Preface

The Text, Speech and Dialogue (TSD) Conference 2002, it should be noticed, is now being held for the fifth time and we are pleased to observe that in its short history it has turned out to be an international forum successfully intertwining the basic fields of NLP. It is our strong hope that the conference contributes to a better understanding between researchers from the various areas and promotes more intensive mutual cooperation. So far the communication between man and computers has displayed a one-way nature, humans have to know how the machines work and only then can they "understand" them. The opposite, however, is still quite far from being real, our understanding of how our "user-friendly" computers can understand us humans is not deep enough yet. A lot of work has to be done both in the near and distant future. Let TSD 2002 be a modest contribution to this goal.

The conference also serves well its second purpose: to facilitate researchers meeting in the NLP field from Western and Eastern Europe. Moreover, many participants now come from other parts of the world, thus making TSD a real crossroads for the researchers in the NLP area. This volume contains the proceedings of this conference held in Brno, September 9–12, 2002. We were honored to have as keynote speakers James Pustejovsky from Brandeis University, and Ronald Cole from the University of Colorado.

We would like to thank all the Program Committee members and external reviewers for their conscientious and diligent reviewing work. This year we had a total of 66 accepted papers out of 134 submitted, altogether contributed by 180 authors. It can be seen that this time the competition was quite tough. We thank all of the authors for their high-quality contributions. Generous thanks are due to all the members of the Organizing Committee for their tireless efforts in organizing the conference. We deeply appreciate the help and cooperation of the Chair of the Program Committee, Hynek Hermansky. We would like also to express our sincere thanks to Dagmar Janoušková and Dana Komárková whose dedicated help contributed substantially to the preparation of the conference, and to Petr Sojka for his TeXpertise which resulted in the nice volume with subject index which you are holding in your hands just now. We hope that you will be inspired by the conference and the proceedings, and that the program meets your expectations.

July 2002

Ivan Kopeček, Karel Pala
Chairs of the Organizing Committee, TSD 2002

Organization

TSD 2002 was organized by the Faculty of Informatics, Masaryk University, in cooperation with the Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň. The conference webpage is located at `http://www.fi.muni.cz/tsd2002/`

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