

## Letter from the Editor-in-chief

Dear members and readers,

This issue comes a month later than usually expected. Many reasons were at work, one being the particularly early date for our annual conference this year in Paris and some technical issues with the papers of the special issue. Our special issue, guest edited by Robert Grossman, is about open source analytics and presents 6 articles covering different trends in open source analytics, from open source software to the Predictive Model Markup Language for exchanging statistical and data mining models.

In this issue we also have a report by Arpana Varde of a PhD workshop that took place at the ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management in 2008. The report covers the doctoral research issues discussed at the workshop on the topics of data mining, information retrieval and database management systems. These discussions are relevant and capital for doctoral students interested in the field.

Finally, included in this issue are PhD dissertation abstracts. We started this type of information sharing last year and continue this trend here. These abstracts provide a glimpse in the type of research conducted today at the PhD level in the data mining field. The first abstract is by Arthur Zimek from the Ludwik Maximilians University in Munich, Germany, the runner-up for the SIGKDD PhD dissertation award for 2009. Luckily, and since the annual conference took place already and the award winners were announced, we had the opportunity to obtain Zimek's abstract. We will attempt to obtain the abstract of the award winner, Jure Leskovec, for next issue. The last two abstracts presented here are from Spain about mining evolving data streams by Albert Bifet, and from Tunisia about mining frequent patterns with conjunctive and disjunctive forms by Tarek Hamrouni, giving our readers a hint on the type of research in data mining carried out by doctoral students in Europe and even developing countries.

Happy reading.

Osmar R. Zaiane  
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