Proposal for Special Issue of the
Information Processing & Management Journal

Computational Approaches to the Retrieval, Mining and Classification of Affective Texts

1. The names and affiliation of the guest editors.

- ***Dr. Alexandra Balahur*** – European Commission Joint Research Centre, Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen

- ***Dr. Theresa Wilson*** – John Hopkins University, Human Language Technology Center of Excellence

2. The motivations for the special issue and the target audience.

The present is marked by the growing influence of the Social Web (the web of interaction and communication) on the lives of people worldwide. More than ever before, people are more than willing and happy to share their lives, knowledge, experience and thoughts with the entire world, through blogs, forums, wikis, review sites or microblogs. They are actively participating to events, by expressing their opinions on them, by commenting on the news appearing and the events that take place in all spheres of the society. The large volume of subjective information present on the Internet, in reviews, forums, blogs, microblogs and social network communications has produced an important shift in the manner in which people communicate, share knowledge and emotions and influence the social, political and economic behavior worldwide. In consequence, this new reality has led to important transformations in the manner, extent and rapidness in which news and their associated opinions circulate, leading to new and challenging social, economical and psychological phenomena.

In order to study these phenomena and address the issue of extracting the crucial knowledge that nowadays is contained in opinionated data, new fields of research were born in Natural Language Processing (NLP), aiming at detecting subjectivity in text and/or extracting and classifying opinions into different sets (usually positive, negative and neutral). The main tasks that were tackled in NLP are **subjectivity analysis** (dealing with "private states" (Banfield, 1982), a term that encloses sentiment, opinions, emotions, evaluations, beliefs and speculations) **sentiment analysis** and **opinion mining**, although different terminologies have been used to denote the approaches taken (e.g. review mining, appraisal extraction) and sentiment analysis and opinion mining have been used interchangeably, as they are considered by some authors to point to the same task (Pang and Lee, 2008). A closely related task is also **emotion detection,** dealing with the

classification of texts according to the emotion expressed. All these research areas are part of the wider field in Artificial Intelligence denominated **affective computing** (Picard, 1995).

3. Where will the papers come from (e.g. a call for papers or selected papers from a conference/workshop), how many papers are expected to be received and how many you expect to include in the special issue.

We plan to select the papers from the best contributions of the "4th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment and Social Media Analysis" (WASSA 2013) - http://optima.jrc.it/wassa2013/index.htm- , as well as by launching an open call for papers.

WASSA is already at its fourth edition and has raised a lot of interest from the research community in the field. WASSA 2012 and WASSA 2.011 were organized in conjunction to the 50th and 49th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, in Jeju, Korea and in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A, respectively. WASSA 2010 was organized in conjunction to ECAI 2010 (The 19th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence).

Each year, WASSA receives many submissions (more than 30 last year, and more than 50 two years ago) and has a very selective acceptance rate. Each paper is reviewed by at least 2 members of the Program Committee, who are well-known specialists in the field.

4. Who will review the papers and the reviewing process the papers will be subject to.

The papers received both for WASSA, as well as from the public call for papers, will be reviewed by the WASSA Program Committee members (3 reviews per paper).

5. A tentative timeline for the reviewing and acquisition of the final version of the papers (consider that at least two rounds of reviews are needed and that reviewers might be late).
First round of reviews due: 15th September, 2013
Revised submission deadline: 15th October, 2013
Final decision reached: 15th November, 2013
Final papers due: 30th November, 2013
Final package delivered: 1st December, 2013