

**VAST2011: 11th International Symposium on Virtual Reality, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, 8th Eurographics Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage.
Paris, 21-24 September 2010**

The 11th International Symposium on Virtual Reality, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (VAST2010) was held from 21 September to 24 September 2010 in Paris, Ecole du Louvre, Palais du Louvre, France. VAST2010 is the 11th event of this successful series of symposia and the title of this year's event was: 'Science Technology and Museums: A Challenge for the New Decade'.

The Symposium, which traditionally incorporates the Eurographics Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage, focused on the integration of digital tools and solutions into the practice of Cultural Heritage and archaeology. VAST2010 fostered again this year an international dialogue around major areas of interest and study such as Data Acquisition and Processing, Digital Libraries, Interactive Environments and Applications for CH ontologies and semantic processing, management and archiving, standards and documentation.

This year a total of 54 full papers and 46 short papers were submitted and they were reviewed by an International Scientific Committee composed of 54 internationally recognized academics, external reviewers and by the five editors (the symposium chair, the local organizer and

the three program co-chairs). Each submission received three or more reviews.

The number of full papers accepted was 22 with an acceptance rate of 40% and representing institutions from 12 nations in 5 continents.

This year's accepted papers covered a wide range of topics from the fields of both computer graphics and documentation. The papers were published in the symposium proceedings by the Eurographics Association (ISSN 1811-864X).

The keynote talks served to enrich the dialogue around information technology in the context of Cultural Heritage and the growing acceptance and use of these technologies by the community. The first keynote by Prof. Heinz Rüther (Emeritus Professor at the University of Cape Town) focused on giving to the audience an overview of the activities going on in the African continent. The second keynote by Dr. Albert Gauthier (Project Officer at the European Commission, Luxembourg) highlighted the strategy of the European Commission for research in IT. Finally, the third keynote by Prof. Franco Niccolucci (Chair of the IGB, STARC, The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus) brought to the public some new research problems arising from the use of digital technologies in the Cultural Heritage environment.

Paper reviewing was greatly supported by the members of the International Program Com-



mittee and by the external reviewers. Denis Pitzalis, STARC - The Cyprus Institute, designed and hosted the symposium web pages.

VAST2010 brought researchers together from all over the world, providing them with the opportunity to socialise and exchange ideas. A free ticket for a visit at the Louvre museum and free pass for local public transportation were part of the conference pack, which allowed participants to visit the "Ville des lumières" and one of the biggest museums in the world. Beside the core technical program, during the welcome cocktail hosted in the fantastic environment of the historical "Ecole

du Louvre", there were discussions accompanied by French music and champagne the first evening; and the conference dinner, which was held in the restaurant 'Le Vaudeville', a classic, typical Parisian restaurant, on the second evening of the symposium, provided an occasion for further discussion and socialisation among delegates.

The next VAST symposium will take place from 18th and 21st October 2011 in Prato, Tuscany, Italy.

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