Announcing a Special Issue in the Latin American Journal of Computing:

Implementing Systems for supporting Strategic Scanning

It is hard to imagine a manager in today's business organizations who could avoid performing any kind of Strategic Scanning activity. Ranging from personal, informal or unstructured practices to organized practices on centralized and specialized units in organizations, or even on outsourced services, Strategic Scanning has become an essential tool to help managers to: keep informed of changes, understand the business environment, identify threats and opportunities, enhance innovation, anticipate changes, reduce uncertainty, support decision making, and secure or improve competitiveness.

The process we refer to as Strategic Scanning includes all the activities that allow the acquisition and use of information about events, trends, and relationships in an organization's external environment, the knowledge of which would assist management in planning the organization's future course of action.

The latest technological advances in information retrieval and processing have expanded organizational capacity for monitoring their environment. However, the use of such advances for Strategic Scanning could become easily contradictory. Strategic Scanning activities become less effective when managers must deal with information overload due to the ever-increasing use of new information technologies for information gathering. Because of lack of appropriate tools to deal this problem, managers can't use relevant information they would collect to make strategic decisions at the right time.

The goal of this Special Issue in LAJC is to solicit contributions with clear application background and should focus on the utility of scanning products for strategic decision-making. We welcome articles reporting projects, study cases, or experiences on the use of computer systems, tools, methods for supporting Strategic Scanning on key trends such: identification of changes in the business environment (e.g. new markets, technologies or products), capture of relevant information (from internet, social networks, field notes, ad hoc information), or analysis of non-structured data (e.g. text mining or big data techniques).

This Special Issue will focus on the following topics, and but are not limited to:

- Information retrieval tools for Strategic Scanning
- Computer systems for fostering interactions on Strategic Scanning activities
- Natural Language processing for Strategic Scanning information analysis
- Applications of computer systems and tools for supporting Strategic Scanning
- Fuzzy logic applications for Strategic Scanning
- Social Network Analysis applications for Strategic Scanning
- Big Data applications for Strategic Scanning

- Artificial Intelligence tools for Strategic Scanning information retrieval and analysis
- Text Mining tools for Strategic Scanning information analysis
- Executive decision support systems
- Sentiment analysis and opinion mining

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Important dates:
> Submission Deadline: June 30th, 2017
> Notification Due: August 15th, 2017
> Final Version Due: August 25th, 2017
> Publication: August 30th, 2017

Author guidelines:
All final submissions should be written in English or Spanish with a minimum paper length of six (6) pages and a maximum paper length of fifteen (15) pages. Submissions should be formatted according to the guidelines of IEEE and submitted as pdf files. Please find the template for submission at:
http://lajc.epn.edu.ec/index.php/LAJC/about/submissions#authorGuidelines

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