Call for Papers

Biomedical Information through the Implementation of Social Media Environments

We are soliciting papers for a special issue of the Journal of Biomedical Informatics that will bring together informatics researchers who have a common interest in the design and implementation of tools that can be applied in the context of social environments for the creation of biomedical systems that in turn exploit these techniques and information on the Internet.

The use of Internet for searching health-related information has increased during the last few years. A national survey in the USA found that 80% of Internet users look for health information using the Internet [1], and 60% of them indicated that online health information affected their healthcare decisions [2–4]). This constitutes a situation of potential risk since the reliability of the information is not guaranteed.

The fast growth of the so-called Social Media (Web 2.0 or social networks such as blogs, podcast, wikis, Twitter or Facebook) may have a large impact on health care [5]. Nowadays, citizens search for information on the Internet and consult forums, social networks or blogs so as to learn more about illnesses, treatments, or health information in general [2]. The implementation of shared health information platforms based on social networks, such as Wikipedia, are other interesting applications to consider. Forty-two percent of all Americans turn to Wikipedia, a collaborative encyclopedia, for information online [6] and it is therefore often used as a source of health information upon which actions are taken.

The topics of interest for this special issue include but are not limited to:

- The combination of social, educational, and biomedical standards in healthcare systems.
- Methods derived from experiences in the development of social medical communities of practice from both the general public and professional sides.
- Utilization of training contents for the general public and professionals based on electronic health records.
- Social models for managing biomedical information.
- Social evaluation methods for assessing the quality of biomedical information.
- Biomedical knowledge mining in social environments.
- Verification and validation of biomedical knowledge in social environments.
- Novel use of Web 2.0 tools in biomedical systems.
- Sharing of clinical decision-support systems based on Web 2.0 tools.
- The impact of social environments on health care.
- Biomedical informatics systems designed and implemented by means of social environments.
- E-learning 2.0 and biomedical information.
- Implementation of social environments to improve health care.

- Collective intelligence in biomedical systems.
- Natural language processing for biomedical social environments.

The issue will focus on original research papers in these and related areas. It may also include survey papers designed to provide an overview of research developments in the fields and methods that are the focus of the special issue.

Updated and detailed information will be also published at: http://bitly.com/JBISI_BIISM

Peer-review process

All submitted papers will go through a rigorous peer-review process with at least two reviewers. All submissions should follow the guidelines for authors available at the Journal of Biomedical Informatics web site (http://www.elsevier.com/locate/yjbin). JBI's editorial policy is also outlined on that page and will be strictly followed by special issue reviewers. Note, in particular, that JBI publishes papers that introduce and assess innovative methodologies. Thus descriptions of specific systems should be used only to motivate and illustrate the nature and capabilities of an underlying methodology that is the focus of the article.

Submission Process

Authors must submit their paper via the online Elsevier Editorial System (EES) at http://ees.elsevier.com/Jbi. Authors can register and upload their text, tables, and figures as well as subsequent revisions through this website. Potential authors may contact the Publishing Services Coordinator in the journal's editorial office (Jbi@elsevier.com) for questions regarding this process.

Submission deadline October 1, 2012.

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