NEMLAR Newsletter

News on Arabic language resources and Arabic language technologies

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Issue 14
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1. MEDAR at the ICT Conference 2008

MEDAR will be present at the exhibition of ICT 2008 in Lyon November 25 – 27, 2008.

 Please come and visit our stand **D 15** in the International Village!

Another relevant event at the ICT conference is the networking session:

 "Towards a roadmap for Arabic human language technologies"

The networking session takes place on 26 November; see session #59 at
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2008/networking/programme2/index_en.htm

2. Online proceedings from HLT & NLP within the Arabic world

The proceedings from the workshop at LREC 2008 are now available online:
 www.lrec-conf.org/proceedings/lrec2008/
Please follow the link to the **workshops** and find **W18** "HLT and NLP within the Arabic World"

3. Call for papers to a Special Issue on Arabic Natural Language Processing (ANLP) International Journal of Computer Processing of Oriental Languages (IJCPOL)

CALL For Papers
Special Issue on Arabic Natural Language Processing (ANLP)
International Journal of Computer Processing of Oriental Languages (IJCPOL)
World Scientific http://www.worldscinet.com/ijcpol

Arabic is a Semitic language spoken by over 250 million people, in an area extending from the Arabian Gulf in the east to the Atlantic Ocean in the west. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations. It is also the language in which some of the world's greatest works of literature, science, and history have been written.

Arabic is a strongly structured and highly derivational language. Arabic language processing requires the treatment of the language constituents at all levels. Each level requires extensive study and exploitation of the associated linguistic characteristics. Over the last few years, Arabic natural language processing (ANLP) has been gaining increasing importance, and has found a wide range of applications including: machine translation, information extraction, and tutoring systems. These applications require developing innovative approaches and techniques for natural language analysis, natural language generation, and linguistic resources.

Various forums have been dedicated to ANLP:
• Special track on Natural Language Processing, The International Conference on Informatics and Systems (NLP-INFOS 2008), Cairo Univ., Egypt.
• Workshop on HLT & NLP within the Arabic world: Arabic Language and local languages processing: Status Updates and Prospects, LREC, 2008
• Computational Approaches to Arabic Script-based Languages, workshop series (04, 07).
• International Conference on Arabic Language Resources and Tools
(NEMLAR 2004), Cairo Egypt,

This special issue of the International Journal of Computer Processing of Oriental Languages is intended to present the state-of-the-art in research on Arabic natural language processing, Arabic computational linguistics, applied Arabic linguistics and related areas. This call is intended to be as broad as possible. We solicit original research papers on topics including, but not limited to:
• Linguistic resources (corpora, electronic dictionaries, treebanks, etc.)
• Transliteration, transcription and diacritization
• Part of speech tagging
• Morphological analysis and generation
• Shallow and deep parsing
• Machine translation
• Word sense and syntactic disambiguation
• Semantic analysis
• Information extraction and retrieval
• Question answering
• Text clustering, and classification
• Text summarization
• Text and web content mining
• Named entity recognition
• Colloquial-based language processing

Important Date:
• Submissions due for review: 15 Jan 2009
• Notification of 1st decision: 30 April 2009
• Revisions due: 30 May 2009
• Notification of acceptance: 30 June 2009
• Final version submitted: 15 July 2009
• Issue publication: 2010

Submission Guidelines:
Submissions should be 3,000 to 7,500 words (counting a standard figure or table as 200 words) and should follow the journal's style and presentation guidelines (see http://www.worldscinet.com/ijcpol/mkt/guidelines.shtml). References should be limited to 10 citations. To submit a manuscript, access the Journal online submission system at http://www.worldscinet.com/ijcpol/editorial/submitpaper.shtml. In the message to editors, please state clearly that the paper is submitted to the special issue on Arabic NLP. An electronic version of the paper should also be submitted directly to the Guest Editor by e-mail at the same time.

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4. Upcoming Events

➢ 3rd international workshop,
   Information Technologies: status and opportunities for the Amazigh, November 24-25, 2008, Rabat, Morocco.

➢ **Arabic Natural Language Processing Session** (ANLP-ACIT'2008)
   at the International Arab Conference on Information Technology (ACIT'2008)
   December 16-18, 2008 Hammamet, Tunisia.

➢ **The Eights Conference On Language Engineering** will be held on December 17-18, 2008, Cairo, Egypt. The conference is Organised by The Egyptian Society Of Language Engineering (ESOLE).

➢ **SETIT 2009 -** Call for papers.
   The Fifth International Conference Sciences of Electronic, Technologies of Information and Telecommunications , 22 to 26 March 2009 in Hammamet, Tunisia.
   Extended deadlines:

Paper submission: **** November 1, 2008 ****
Notification of acceptance : November 30, 2008
Final manuscript due : December 31, 2008
Main conference : March 22-26, 2009

- ➢ **The First International Congress on Arabic & English Applied Linguistics and Rhetoric & Writing** : Challenges in Teaching Language and Rhetoric.
  23-26 March 2009, The American University in Cairo, Egypt.
  Arranged by The American University in Cairo and Western Michigan University.
  For more information visit **conference website.**

- ➢ **Workshop on Computational Approaches to Semitic Languages**
  Co-located with The 12th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics Athens, Greece, either Tuesday, March 31st, or Monday, March 30th, 2009
  Important dates:
  Dec 19, 2008 Deadline for paper submission
  Jan 30, 2009 Notification of acceptanc
  Mar 30-31, 2009 EACL 2009 workshops

- ➢ **ESSLLI 2009** - Call for Courses and Workshop Proposals. The European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI) 20 - 31 July 2009, Bordeaux, France.

- ➢ **EACL 2009** - March 30 - April 3, 2009, Athens, Greece.
  Call for System Demonstrations at the 12th Meeting of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics.

  Submission deadline: December 5, 2008

5. Join the Network

NEMLAR started a network for players who want to collaborate for the advancement of Arabic language technology. This network is being continued by MEDAR.
All institutions and enterprises are invited to join the network, if you share our mission. By joining you will get access to the newest information about language technology (actors, products, research) for Arabic in the region, you will be able to participate in the surveys and in the creation of the roadmap for cooperation. You may also find new partners and collaborators for your future activities.
Join the network through the website www.medar.info, and receive the newsletter and other information.

6. How to contribute to the Network

Please help by sending us information on coming events, new software, resources, books, papers and journals. We will distribute it via this newsletter and put it on the MEDAR homepage www.medar.info .

If you wish to contribute to the work of the MEDAR project you please fill in the survey questionnaire about your language resources and/or the industry needs for language resources. You can find a link to the survey questionnaire at: www.medar.info

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter, please send an email to: nemlar@hum.ku.dk

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