

# WOW 2014 Chairs' Welcome

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> *International Web Observatory Workshop – WOW 2014*, held as part of the WWW 2014 conference in Seoul, Korea. Building on a successful inaugural workshop at the WWW conference last year in Rio de Janeiro, WOW 2014 provides a focus for the burgeoning Web Observatory community to share tools, methods, results and experience in the development, deployment, and use of Web Observatories – and to set the agenda for future work in the field.



The Web operates at a very large scale and is dominated by emergent phenomena with radical innovations coming from and driven by its users, in time scales that are faster than those exhibited by earlier computer-based systems. Web Observatories are emerging as the underlying instrument that enables us to conduct scientific research on the huge and constantly changing socio-technical system formed by the Web and the people and agents who use it. With the development of Web Observatories come challenges in deploying methodologies, datasets, and analytic and visualisation tools on and across them – all subjects this workshop will address.

Numerous research labs around the world are building Web Observatories and conducting studies within them, many highly advanced, but typically developed in isolation. The objectives of WOW 2014 are therefore: (i) to act as a forum for reporting, presenting, and evaluating this work and disseminating new approaches to advance the discipline; (ii) as an opportunity to explore how Web Observatories might in the future interoperate – be that through the exchange of data, metadata, remote access, algorithms, or results; and (iii) as a venue for critically and constructively evaluating and verifying the operation of Web Observatories and the results that flow from them.

We have accepted eight full papers as part of this year's programme, which between them cover a wide variety of Web Observatory topics from design and implementation, methodologies applied to Observatories, social consideration of their implications, through to categorisation and classification. We are incredibly grateful to the reviewers on our Programme Committee, listed below, for their insightful, constructive, and punctual efforts. In addition to papers found in the proceedings, this year we are delighted to also host a poster session for dissemination of late-breaking work, and a panel debating Web Observatory interoperability and standards.

We hope that you will find this programme interesting and thought-provoking and that the workshop will provide you with a valuable opportunity to share ideas with other researchers and practitioners from institutions around the world.

## **Kevin Page**

*WOW 2014 General Chair  
University of Oxford, UK*

## **David De Roure**

*WOW 2014 Programme Chair  
University of Oxford, UK*

## **Wolfgang Nejdl**

*WOW 2014 Programme Chair  
Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany*

# WWW'14 WOW 2014 Organization

**General Chair:** Kevin Page (*University of Oxford, UK*)

**Programme Chairs:** David De Roure (*University of Oxford, UK*)  
Wolfgang Nejdl (*L3S and Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany*)

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