

Dear Editor in chief of the Information Systems (I-S) Journal,

The International conference on Concept lattices and their applications (CLA) in its 12<sup>th</sup> edition, emerged as another forum pointing out the wealthy of potential contributors. This conference aims at unifying theoretical and applied practitioners using Formal Concept Analysis drawing from the fields of Mathematics, Computer and Library Sciences and Software Engineering. The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of CLA will be held in Clermond-Ferrand, France on October 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2015 (<http://cla2015.isima.fr/>). We foresee that it will be a milestone event that will gather outstanding attendees. During this event, we succeeded to grasp the following top-panel key note speakers:

1. [Didier Dubois](#): IRIT – Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France
2. [Fionn Murtagh](#): School of Computer Science and Informatics, De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom
3. [Gabriella Pasi](#): Laboratorio di Information Retrieval – Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Milano, Italia
5. [Takeaki Uno](#): Institute of Informatics (NII) of Japan, Tokyo, Japan

Acting as co-program chairs of CLA'2015, and given this conjunction of all encouraging facts, we are interested in organizing and acting as “guest editors” of a special issue of the DKE Journal on the topic “Concepts lattices and their applications”.

Indeed, Formal Concept Analysis (FCA) arose around 1980 out of attempts of a restructuring lattice theory to promote better communication between lattice theorists and potential users of lattice theory. Since then Formal Concept Analysis has developed into a growing research field in its own right with a thriving theoretical community and an increasing number of applications in data and knowledge processing including data visualisation, mining, analysis, and knowledge management.

In terms of theory, Formal Concept Analysis has been extended into Attribute Exploration, Boolean Judgment and Contextual Logic to create a powerful general framework for knowledge representation and reasoning.

Although Formal Concept Analysis has increasingly become a topic at many computer science conferences, it was only starting from the year 2003 that the first edition of the International Conference on Formal Concept Analysis (ICFCA 2003) was held in Darmstadt, Germany in spring 2003. Exclusively addressing Formal Concept Analysis, this edition started a series of annual conferences on the state of the art of this promising field of research and applications.

Interestingly enough, please note that we have already organized a joint special issue ARIMA/SACJ on “Advances in end user data mining techniques”. Engelbert Mephu Nguifo and myself have already organized a special issue of selected papers of CLA'2006 in the *International Journal of Foundations of Computer Science*.

Once the proposal accepted, we will submit a list of the reviewers of the special issue (their names and URLs of their homepages). This is to ensure that the reviewers are experts in their fields so that the quality of the published papers is guaranteed. If requested, we will inform the I-S office which reviewers refereed the individual accepted papers. We can rely on our connexions in the FCA community to set up a top panel program committee composed of outstanding researchers in various topics related to FCA. Moreover, acting as guest editors, we will inform, on a regular basis, the I-S office about the progress of the preparations as well as the number of submitted, rejected and accepted papers. Papers are only accepted for publication after a rigorous review process. To do so, we will take care of the review process so that only final versions will be sent to the I-S office. At closing, we vouch with our names and academic reputation for the quality of the papers.

Yours sincerely,  
Sadok BEN YAHIA and Jan KONEECNY