

## Preface

### Tom Heath & Mischa Tuffield

Advanced Knowledge Technologies is recognised as a leading research programme conducted at some of the foremost computer science departments in Britain. It has also been a training ground for a new generation of researchers. To highlight the work of the students this set of “Doctoral Training Award (DTA) Selected Papers” has been collected for, and by, AKT students. These selected papers collate work published by the doctoral candidates during the final year of the AKT project.

The broad scope of AKT is reflected in the contributions of its students. Here, we present their work on novel approaches to problems in ontology mapping and versioning, multimedia annotation, agent systems, and the Semantic Web. This seemingly disparate list of topics is linked, not only by the letters ‘A’, ‘K’, and ‘T’, but by what they aim to lead to: a shared vision where more intelligent machines will be able to help us deal with the ever perceived flood of information. It has been exciting to take an active part in this endeavour.

Not only have the AKT doctoral candidates played an important role in the project, working with each other and alongside the rest of the AKT researchers, but for many of us the project has been our first real exposure to research. AKT has shown how valuable collaboration can be, and how it is possible to undertake it without sacrificing the individual identities of the researchers and institutions. AKT has provided us with a strong research community, with similar aims and interests to help contextualise and push forward our research agendas. It has been challenging, and fun, and we have really enjoyed the experience. The AKT DTA Selected Papers has only been possible through the hard work of those involved. We would like to thank the Director, Nigel Shadbolt, for giving us this opportunity, and Kieron O’Hara for his regular organisational contributions, advice, and questions. Finally, we would especially like to thank our fellow students who submitted their work for scrutiny, the reviewers who provided valuable feedback, and all of the supervisors for their invaluable guidance and direction.

Thanks everyone.