Workshop on Group Recommender Systems: Concepts, Technology, Evaluation (GroupRS)

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Preface

Group recommender systems (GRS) support groups of users in decision-making by providing shared suggestions. They generate recommendations from a broad range of alternatives that suit group members' tastes or needs. Previous work in the field of recommender systems has shown great contributions (e.g., systems providing shared music recommendations for public places, systems providing shared movie recommendations for groups). Research in the field of Computer-Supported Cooperative Work has a long tradition of group decision support. This workshop aims at cross-fertilising GRS and CSCW in order to tackle interesting open research questions. These include, but are not limited to:

- Modelling users (in particular aspects relevant for group decision making such as personality), groups, and the decision making process
- Handling evolving group members' needs and interests
- Supporting convergence and divergence for plurality
- Designing group recommenders that allow for user interaction, for example balancing and mediating conversation and negotiation, allowing critiquing
- User-centred design and evaluation of group recommender systems, for example measuring the long-term effect of group decisions on users' satisfaction
- Explaining group recommendations
- Privacy and security issues associated with group recommenders

Recommender systems research for a long time focused mainly on recommending to individual users, over the last decade, there has been a substantial increase in research into group recommenders. The wide-spread research into GRS and algorithms has led to an increased discussion on the importance of the decision making process as well as the relevancy and influence of the respective domain on the users' needs and behaviour. While group discussion and decision making has for some decades been supported in specific CSCW and groupware applications, it is now increasingly done via social media such as Facebook and Yammer. Furthermore, mobile devices such as smart phones are spreading rapidly. This availability and experience with communication and cooperation support are triggering a need for novel concepts for flexible support of group recommendations and decisions in various domains.

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