Preface

Since its recent inception as a structured field, Knowledge Management (KM) has fast been recognised as the most essential tool for universal knowledge workers. The concept of KM, starting with its deep association with corporate information management, still carries multiple, even conflicting interpretations. The most popular one being a structured field that encompasses processes and techniques for knowledge discovery, indexing, organisation, and fusion. Where the classical approach to knowledge management tends to rely on techniques like concept maps, hypermedia and object-oriented databases, artificial intelligence techniques for core KM activities like knowledge discovery, organisation, and knowledge fusion are rapidly gaining popularity. In the evolved scenario, KM may be interpreted as a field that deals with acquisition, storage and application of knowledge for a range of knowledge intensive tasks – whether that be decision support, learning or research support. A very recent trend is the fast emergence of a second generation of Knowledge Management. This is quite interesting and has two thrusts. The first thrust is the people-centric focus on how knowledge really is used by people to handle situations effectively (sense making, decision making, execution, and monitoring). The second thrust involves the application of intelligent inanimate processes – essentially the major theme of IKOMAT' 2002.

IKOMAT'02, the First International Workshop on Intelligent Knowledge Management Techniques, took place in Crema (Italy), September 16-18, 2002. The theme of the workshop was "Intelligent Knowledge Management" using computational intelligence, knowledge based systems, artificial intelligence paradigms, modern heuristics and so on. The papers presented here reflects the aim of IKOMAT'02 to offer a premier technical forum to researchers/developers and practitioners of computational intelligence and knowledge management techniques. IKOMAT'02 attracted 57 full papers from over 23 countries and each paper was peer reviewed by at least two independent referees. The papers have been a good mix of contributions by researchers from both academic and industrial background, including few interesting documentations of major real life projects. Based on the evaluation process and the recommendation of the reviewers, 34 papers were finally included in the workshop program and the major topics are as follows:

- Knowledge Management, Knowledge Engineering and Related Systems
- Fuzzy Systems in Knowledge Management
- Knowledge Management Using Connectionist Paradigms and Adaptable Systems
- Evolutionary Computation in Knowledge Discovery
- Ontology, Data Mining and Image Processing

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