Automated abstract submission, reviewing and conference programme building system

Yuliya Zharkeyeva

September 2011

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment for the degree of Master of Science in Information Technology

Computing Science and Mathematics
University of Stirling

Abstract

The UK Society of Behavioural Medicine (UKSBM) holds an Annual Scientific Meeting. This year the conference will be in Stirling in December. The Society currently has a web site for this conference (http://uksbm.org.uk/asm2011), which is developed by WordPress. By the web site the Society can receive the abstracts from participants of conference. But the submitted information is sent as an e-mail to a specified address rather than being sent directly to the database. The UKSBM expects to have a better system, that would allow abstracts be sent to a database, which would assign each abstract an individual code and then send them on anonymised to abstract peer reviewers.

This dissertation documents the creation of a web application which allows users to work with abstracts online, the creation of database, that stores all necessary information and the interconnected work between them. This web system would be used by the three types of users: administrator, organiser and reviewer. Each type of user has the same general features but also some specific features for that type of user. But the main features are reviewing the abstract, assigning the reviewers for each abstract, assessing the abstract and building the proceedings for the conference. The users of the system would be inserted into database in advance, and can be handled only by administrator of this system.

There will be features that allow the administrator to add news items that would be displayed on the home page, to change the header pictures of the website and to send email to users, who is assigned as a reviewer.

The completed project so far allows users to login to the website by using their own email and password, view their own menu. The content of menu of the web system depends on the role of the user. Administrator page menu has facilities as allowing viewing the user's details that have been added into database in advance, adding new users, building proceedings, reviewing all abstracts, setting reviewers, assessing abstracts and using the system functions. Organisers can review the abstracts, set reviewers and assess the abstracts. Reviewers can only assess the abstracts. Also all users are able to change their own password by themselves

This document will include information of the technologies that have been used to create the website.