

# Soft Computing and Multimedia Organization and Retrieval

– FUZZ-IEEE 2007 Panel –

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## I. PURPOSE AND TIMELINESS OF THE PANEL

During the last years several approaches have been proposed to support the process of organizing and searching in huge collections of multimedia documents. As a consequence, a great number of methods have been developed that tackle specific problems of the retrieval process, such as *feature extraction methods for multimedia data*, *problem specific similarity measures* and *interactive user interfaces*.

Surprisingly, even though, the area is intrinsically fuzzy, only few researchers of the fuzzy community have been, so far, directly involved in research activities around multimedia information organization and retrieval. In fact, on the one hand, the automatic annotation of images, videos or sound objects not only requires the *analysis of noisy high dimensional data* and it is even uncertain what kind of feature and what annotation should be used. On the other hand, users are usually only able to formulate vague queries when searching for multimedia objects. Thus the retrieval process itself is doomed to deal with a *combination of uncertain information about the objects* that we are looking for and *vague information about our information need*.

The objective of the panel is to explore how Soft Computing methods can support Multimedia Organization and Retrieval. A panel of experts of related fields was invited and, thus, we will be looking at this challenge from different perspectives, including:

- What does the user really want?
- What can we expect to extract from multimedia objects and how can this process be supported by soft computing techniques?
- Is semantic the Holy Grail and how can we obtain 'semantic information'?
- Do we really need ontologies?
- What is the contribution of theory in such an applied field?

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## II. PANEL CONTRIBUTORS

### • Panel Moderators:

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### • Panelists:

- Enrique Herrera Viedma, DECSAI, University of Granada, Spain, <http://decsai.ugr.es/~viedma/> (IR and Softcomputing in Web+Text).
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- Anca Ralescu University of Cincinnati, USA <http://www.ececs.uc.edu/aralescu/> (ML and CI for image understanding and retrieval).