Editorial Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the first issue of the Journal of Educational Data Mining!

In recent years, advances in computing and information technologies have radically expanded the data available to researchers and professionals in a wide variety of domains, from government and biotechnology, to business logistics and professional sports. Likewise, recent increases in instrumented educational software, online courses, as well as databases of student test scores, have created large repositories of educational data. The Educational Data Mining community seeks to use these data repositories to better understand learners and learning, and to develop computational approaches that combine data and theory to transform practice to benefit learners. This unique combination of theory with data has the potential to have broad impact on educational research and practice.

The field of EDM has emerged over the past few years, growing from a series of workshops to an established annual conference. EDM 2010, the Third International Conference on Educational Data Mining, http://educationaldatamining.org/EDM2010/, is scheduled to occur in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, in June 2010, and provides this growing community a venue to exchange ideas and build new collaborations. The Journal of Educational Mining provides a targeted venue for archival publications in this maturing field. JEDM will publish high-quality, peer-reviewed papers covering topics such as creating processes or methodologies to analyse educational data, integrating data mining with pedagogical theories, assessing knowledge and understanding when learning occurs, describing the way findings are used for improving educational software or teacher support, improving understanding of learners' domain representations and learning processes, and improving assessment of learners' engagement in learning tasks.

The editorial board of JEDM is composed of members of the EDM community who have expertise in a variety of disciplines, including Computer Science, Cognitive Science, Education, Educational Psychology, the Learning Sciences, Psychometrics, Artificial Intelligence in Education, and Data Mining, and who are active in this new field of research. In order to best serve our EDM community, this journal is entirely online and subscription-free. Because of the rapid advances in underlying technologies and the

interdisciplinary nature of the field, we believe it is important to provide quality EDM research articles promptly and to the widest possible audience.

We hope you will enjoy this first issue of the Journal of Educational Data Mining. We are looking forward to hearing your feedback and receiving your contributions.

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