

The Knowledge Engineering Review

Volume 1 Number 4

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This is the last issue of volume one of The Knowledge Engineering Review, and the last to be produced solely by the BCS Expert Systems Specialist Group. As such we are pleased that the issue shows signs of establishing a distinctive style, one which serves both theoretical and practical developments in knowledge engineering. The three papers in this issue deal with rather different topics but they have an important feature in common; they all set out to offer a critical but constructive assessment of work in the field.

In paper two Reichgelt and van Harmelin offer a discussion of how the intrinsic structure of tasks and application domains may (perhaps should) influence the choice of knowledge representation languages and control regimes, achieving along the way some further clarification of the basic forms of expert system. In paper one Bloomfield succinctly assesses the contribution of induction techniques to the theory and practice of knowledge acquisition. As in earlier Review articles both these papers include a good collection of references for those wishing to read further. Finally Laurent and his colleagues report their conclusions from a comparative evaluation of three major software products; ART, KEE, and Knowledge Craft. Each attracts praise and criticism, but for those wishing to make up their own minds they include a helpful comparison table. All three papers offer some thoughtful, practical suggestions for designers.

As regular readers will know, the future publication of the Review has been taken on by Cambridge University Press. The Press has in fact met the costs of producing the last two issues for the group and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Press, particularly Ernest Kirkwood and Richard Ziemacki, for all their help in recent months.

Although the Review is establishing a distinctive and we hope valuable style its eventual contribution will be determined by the quality and consistency of the material we receive and accept. We start with the advantages that some maturity has already been achieved over the last two years, but most importantly we have a strong editorial board of internationally respected workers. The present board members are:

Alain Bonnet (Paris)
Bill Clancey (Stanford)
Randy Davis (MIT)
Peter Hammond (London)
Peter Jackson (Edinburgh)
Elaine Rich (MCC, Texas)
Luc Steels (Brussels)

Stefano Cerri (Milan)
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Richard Harrington (Software A&E)
Jean-Pierre Laurent (Savoy University)
Bill Sharpe (Hewlett Packard Labs)
Austin Tate (Edinburgh AIAI)

We anticipate that the board will acquire additional members in due course, particularly from industry and commerce.

We hope that you will support The Knowledge Engineering Review, by personal subscription or by recommending it for your library, or by preparing surveys, tutorials, criticisms or systematic analyses of knowledge engineering topics for consideration by the editorial board. The closing date for manuscripts submitted for the launch issue of volume two is March 1st 1987.

Further details can be obtained from the editor:

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