

Web Intelligence Journal

Call for Special Issue Proposals

The *Web Intelligence Journal (WIJ)* invites Special Issue (SI) proposals on well-defined technical topics that have broad appeal and conform to the aims and scope of the journal. *WIJ* particularly encourages SI proposals that have clearly defined objectives. For examples:

- Reflecting upon recent advances within a subfield of web intelligence, analyzing these developments, evaluating achievements, and addressing future challenges;
- Identifying new or emerging research directions where there is a need for greater research efforts and increased research momentum.

These instructions have been designed in order to help potential Guest Editors to prepare Special Issue proposals, and the *WIJ*'s editorial team to evaluate them.

Selection of SIs will be made by the Editors-in-Chief, based on the criteria outlined below. During the evaluation process, the *WIJ*'s editorial team may ask experts in the area of the SI topic to give their opinions on the proposal. Selection decisions are made four times a year, early February, early in May, early in August and early November. Hence, there are four deadlines for submission of SI proposals: 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October. Please submit your proposal by email to one of the Editors-in-Chief: <http://www.iospress.nl/journal/web-intelligence-and-agent-systems/?tab=editorial-board>

Special Issue proposals must contain the following elements:

1. Name and affiliation of proposed Guest Editors
2. **Document justifying the special issue proposal:** This document (max. 4 pages) serves to inform the assessment by the committee as much as possible. It should consist of the following sections:
 - a. **Why the proposed special issue?** Justify here the urgency of the topic and the relevance, significance, and potential impact of the special issue.
 - b. **Related conferences and journals:** How does the proposed special issue link to other, preferably leading, scientific venues in the WI field? From which part(s) of the WI community will the potential contributions come from?
 - c. **Potential reviewers and authors:** List names of people you could expect a submission from and/or who would be suitable reviewers for the proposed special issue.
 - d. **Related past special issues:** Were special issues on the same/similar topic published in the past? What is the relation between them and the proposed one? What is the added value of the proposed special issue compared to the related past ones?
3. **Document justifying the team of Guest Editors:** This document should describe the rationale behind forming the team of Guest Editors. Then, brief bios of Guest Editors need to be provided, clearly showing their qualifications and experience relevant to theme and objectives of the proposed special issue. When composing the team, please note the following:
 - a. It is advised that the team of Guest Editors should not exceed four (4) people.
 - b. Balance between academic and industry as well as balance in gender and geographic coverage should be considered when forming the team.

- c. The *WIJ* wishes to encourage the career development of young scientific talents in the web intelligence community. Young scientists (e.g. recent Ph.D. graduates, starting faculty members) can be included in the team as well, provided that enough seniority is present and a mentorship scheme is established in the team.
4. **Draft Call for Papers:** a one-page document containing
- a. the title of the special issue;
 - b. an up to half-page paragraph describing the background and context of the proposed topic, the significance of the topic, and the related challenges; and
 - c. a list of areas for paper submissions, emerging from the abovementioned topic description.

Evaluation and publishing procedures:

1. If a proposal is accepted, WI will impose a deadline of one year from the date of approval of a Special Issue/Section to submission of the complete set of papers. If this deadline is not met, authors can choose to have their papers submitted individually for review. Reviewers are asked to comment within one month and reminders are sent to reviewers once their review becomes overdue. Guest Editors are also given a one-week deadline for suggesting reviewers or drafting a decision letter after all the reviews have been received. The editorial process should ensure the same timely performance for Special Issue submissions as that provided for regularly submitted manuscripts.
2. All refereeing of Special Issue manuscripts should be undertaken through the online *WIJ* Paper Submission System: <http://wi-consortium.org/wias/scripts/submitform.php?subarea=WIJ&re=0&PNO=-1>
3. All manuscripts submitted must be original, not under consideration elsewhere, and not previously published. All authors must sign the Transfer of Copyright agreement, assigning copyright to IOS once the paper is accepted by *WIJ*.
4. The guest editors should adopt a review process that is similar to the one used by the journal for regular papers.
5. The Guest Editors should normally select up to five or six papers to be included in the Special Issue and also write an introduction to the Special Issue. In the event that more manuscripts are considered acceptable than can be accommodated in the Special Issue or some manuscripts do not meet the specifications of the Special Issue call for papers, but meet the journal's aims and scope, the Guest Editors may recommend to the Editors-in-Chief that they be published in regular issues of the journal. Ultimately, the Editors-in-Chief decide which manuscripts to include in the Special Issue. If too few papers reach the required standard for publication, the Editor-in-Chiefs may change the SI into a Special Themed section of a journal issue in which also regular papers will be published, or cancel the Special Issue entirely.
6. The Guest Editors will typically write an editorial review article for introducing the Special Issue and its contents, and providing a synopsis and integrative analysis of the collective contributions of the Special Issue articles. This article is subject to review by the Editor-in-Chief and/or Co-Editors. Note that a good introduction has a large impact on the success of the Special Issue/Section. Special Issue introductions can make a real contribution by creating a novel conceptual framework for the contributions of the individual papers and advancing the readers' understanding of the topic under discussion.