Workshop Aims
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Writing is a very complex task, involving many subtasks and constraints, including goal setting, content determination, outline planning, linguistic expression, discourse flow, and emphasis control. Finally, formal output aspects (spelling, layout choices, etc.) need to be checked. In sum, writers are juggling many, possibly even contradictory constraints; without proper control, they might be overwhelmed, losing orientation.

The aim of this workshop is to attract participants from both academia and industry interested in this topic and to address questions such as the following:

- How can we get a clearer picture of the writers’ processes, strategies and needs (for example, by looking over their shoulders, or asking them to annotate text or make their needs explicit via the use of verbal protocols)?
- Which components of the overall task could be and should be supported?
- What specific resources, algorithms and tools exist that could be used to improve existing authoring aids or to build new ones?
- How do we evaluate such tools?

One potential outcome of the workshop would be a roadmap for future research in the field, as well as some awareness-raising with regard to the needs and potential of authoring aids.

Workshop Topics
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The topics of interest for this workshop include, but are not limited to:

- writing processes, and computational tools to support the writer;
- resources to assist in writing;
- NLP techniques that can be used or have been used for assisting in writing, including: grammar checking, document structuring, thematic segmentation, and information retrieval for the writer;
- development of practical tools and resources for assisting writers and their evaluation.

Submissions
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Submissions of papers on original work are invited on any aspect (empirical research and theoretical/methodological issues) of the topics of the workshop,
and should address the relevance for the development of tools. Submitted papers should not exceed 6 pages (style files will be provided later by LREC for camera-ready versions of accepted papers), and should be sent by email in PDF format to aurelien.max@limsi.fr. As reviewing will be blind, submitted papers should be anonymized.

For more details, visit the following website:

http://perso.limsi.fr/amax/recherche/lrec2008-authoring-aids

Important dates
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Submission deadline            February 11, 2008
Notification of acceptance     March 17, 2008
Final papers due               April 4, 2008
Workshop                       June 1st, 2008 (morning session)

Organizing committee
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Robert Dale (Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia)
Aurélien Max (LIMSI, Université Paris-Sud 11, Orsay, France) (contact person)
Michael Zock (LIF, Marseille, France)

Scientific committee
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John Bateman (Universitat Bremen, Germany)
Nadjet Bouayad-Agha (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain)
Eric Brunelle (Druide Informatique, Montréal, Canada)
Dan Cristea (University of Iasi, Romania)
Robert Dale (Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia)
Marc Dymetman (XRCE, Grenoble, France)
Patrice Enjalbert (GREYC, Université de Caen, France)
Nicolas Hernandez (LINA, Université de Nantes, France)
Graeme Hirst (University of Toronto, Canada)
Eduard Hovy (ISI, University of Southern California, USA)
Aurélien Max (LIMSI, Université Paris-Sud 11, Orsay, France)
Thierry Olive (LMDC, Poitiers, France)
Marie-Paule Péry-Woodley (ERSS, Université de Toulouse 2, France)
Gisela Redeker (University of Groningen, The Netherlands)
Ehud Reiter (University of Aberdeen, UK)
Michael Zock (LIF, Marseille, France)