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VisEL: Visualisation of expertise level in a special interest group knowledge portal.

Badioze Zaman, Halimah (ed.) et al., Visual informatics: Bridging research and practice. First international visual informatics conference, IVIC 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 11–13, 2009. Proceedings. Berlin: Springer (ISBN 978-3-642-05035-0/pbk). Lecture Notes in Computer Science 5857, 779-788 (2009).

Summary: A variety of portals are available nowadays to support diverse purposes such as commercial, publishing, personal, affinity and corporate portals. Affinity portals promote electronic communities who share common interest such as a special interest group (SIG). Knowledge portal is an emerging trend that benefits the existing portal technology by designing such portals with proper representation of the members' shared knowledge. Besides textual representation for diverse expertise levels, graphical visualisation will be able to support the requirements in searching and representing expertise level among e-community. There is a number of existing SIG portals available. However, they do not visualise effectively and accurately the expertise level of members and make it difficult for users to search their targeted experts for instance searching the highest expertise level to have a discussion and to solve their problems related to a project. The goal of this paper is to propose a graphical visualisation of expertise level method (VisEL) using an interactive tag cloud technique that represents expertise level of each member based on their knowledge in a software engineering SIG portal.

Keywords: expertise level; information visualisation; knowledge base; data visualisation; expert evaluation; visualisation technique
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