

Candidate for Chair

Rui Lopes
LaSIGE, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

MSc., University of Lisbon, 2005, Time-based hypermedia processing models and applications.

Professional Experience:

Researcher, LaSIGE, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal, 2005 – 2008;
Junior researcher, LaSIGE, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal, 2003 – 2005.

Professional Interest:

Universal usability; Web accessibility; Web science; Semantic accessibility assessment; Information credibility.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Invited expert, W3C, 2005 - 2008

Awards Received:

Other: Best paper award at W4A 2008, 2008.

STATEMENT

We are seeing an interesting convergence of factors regarding the importance of accessibility in our lives. Legislation throughout the World is pushing forward the Accessibility agenda as a matter of Rights; an ageing population is increasingly more active; developing countries are becoming more connected, especially due to mobile devices. Accessibility is, hence, an “umbrella” keyword for all efforts on levelling information access and interaction across a large, rich, and diversified spectrum of users.

Consequently, as Chair for SIGACCESS, I will be pushing forward an agenda aligned to these principles, as follows:

- 1) Promote universal usability and universal accessibility practices, by augmenting the perception of Accessibility as something essential for the disabled as well as the elderly, the illiterate, etc.
- 2) Fight for a scientific and multidisciplinary approach to understand the fundamentals of Accessibility, serving as a framework for supporting better engineering solutions.

3) Bridge the gap between research and industry on the application of Accessibility best practices in the real world. Without this proximity, all of the best efforts coming out of SIGACCESS members might be of limited practical use.