

The **2017 ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications (TOMM) Nicolas D. Georganas Best Paper Award** is provided to the paper “**Automatic Generation of Visual-Textual Presentation Layout**” (TOMM vol. 12, Issue 2) by **Xuyong Yang, Tao Mei, Ying-Qing Xu, Yong Rui, and Shipeng Li**.

The purpose of the named award is to recognize the most significant work in ACM TOMM (formerly TOMCCAP) in a given calendar year. The Associate Editors of ACM TOMM were invited to nominate articles which were published during calendar year 2016. Based on the nominations, the winner has been chosen by the TOMM Editorial Board. The main assessment criteria have been quality, novelty, timeliness, clarity of presentation, in addition to relevance to multimedia computing, communications, and applications.

Automatic multimedia content authoring has been an emerging and hot topic for both industrial and academic communities. The good combination of visual elements and readable texts can result in an eye candy touch to attract human attention and therefore has great business potential. Although active and important, automatic generation of visually appealing visual-textual layout presentation is still challenging due to heterogeneous media elements, design principles, and layout optimization.

This is one of the first very few works that realizes the integration of topic-dependent template with domain-specific designing principles to supervise layout creation, solves the problem with an innovative computational framework dealing with heterogeneous data, and reports very promising results.

The contribution of this paper is beyond the multimedia community. Though the proposed framework is for visual-textual layout creation, it can be extended to any form of rich media. The concept of combining art design, image analysis, and psychology study (color harmonic model) can be also applied to computer vision, ubiquitous computing, and human-computer interaction communities.

The award honors the founding Editor-in-Chief of TOMM, Nicolas D. Georganas, for his outstanding contributions to the field of multimedia computing and his significant contributions to ACM. He exceedingly influenced the research and the whole multimedia community. The Editor-in-Chief Prof. Alberto Del Bimbo and the Editorial Board of ACM TOMM cordially congratulate the winner. The award will be presented to the authors at the ACM Multimedia 2017 in Mountain View, CA USA.