

Best Paper and Best Department Article Unveiled

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Over the years, *IEEE MultiMedia* has inspired scholars, developers, practitioners, and students around the world with its high-quality content. Its editorial commentary, conference and standards reports, and insightful contributions have been driving the growth of the magazine, supporting industry development, and facilitating academic multimedia research. To celebrate outstanding contributions and contributors, we established the Best Paper and Best Department Article awards in 2015.

Today, I am very pleased to announce the 2017 winners of these two awards:

- Best Paper: “Multimodal Spatio-Temporal Theme Modeling for Landmark Analysis,” by Weiqing Min, Bing-Kun Bao, and Changsheng Xu; and
- Best Department Article: “Person-Centered Multimedia Computing: A New Paradigm Inspired by Assistive and Rehabilitative Applications,” by S ethuraman Panchathan, Shayok Chakraborty, Troy McDaniel, and Ramin Tadayon.

This year’s Best Paper comes from the July–Sept. 2014 issue and explores spatiotemporal characteristics of landmarks by pinpointing and analyzing different kinds of themes from multimodal signals of social media with geo-tag and timestamp information. This is the first work that focuses on both characteristics. The analytical results will help users get a better understanding of the characteristics of landmarks and improve their travel planning experiences considerably.

The Best Department Article, which appeared in the Visions and Views department

of the July–Sept. 2016 issue, studies a person-centered, adaptive approach to multimedia computing to meet the specific and individualized needs of people with disabilities. While much of today’s multimedia technology is largely focused on the “able” population, this article finds that meeting the explicit needs of people with disabilities can also help address implicit needs of the broader population.

Congratulations to the winners! And I thank all of the multimedia authors and experts who make *IEEE MultiMedia* what it is! *MM*

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