

Web Science Research Initiative



Professor Dame Wendy Hall

Wendy Hall, DBE, FREng is Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton, UK. She was Head of the School of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) from 2002 to 2007.

One of the first computer scientists to undertake serious research in multimedia and hypermedia, she has been at its forefront ever since. The influence of her work has been significant in many areas including digital libraries, the development of the Semantic Web, and the emerging research discipline of Web Science.

Her current research includes applications of the Semantic Web and exploring the interface between the life sciences and the physical sciences. She is a Founding Director, along with Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Professor Nigel Shadbolt and Daniel J. Weitzner, of the Web Science Research Initiative.

In addition to playing a prominent role in the development of her subject, she also helps shape science and engineering policy and education. Through her leadership roles on national and international bodies, she has shattered many glass ceilings, readily deploying her position on numerous national and international bodies to promote the role of women in SET, and acting as an important role model for others.

She became a Dame Commander of the British Empire in the 2008 UK New Year's Honours list.

She was elected President of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) in July 2008, and is the first person from outside North America to hold this position.

Until July 2008, she was Senior Vice President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, is currently a member of the UK Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology, a founder member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council. She was President of the British Computer Society (2003-4) and an EPSRC Senior Research Fellow from 1996 to 2002.

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Professor Nigel Schadbolt

Nigel Shadbolt is a Professor of Artificial Intelligence in the School of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) at the University of Southampton. He is a member of the Intelligence, Agents, Multimedia Group and Director of Interdisciplinary Research within ECS. His research concentrates on two ends of the spectrum of AI - namely, Knowledge Technologies and Biorobotics.

In 2000 he led a consortium of five Universities that secured an EPSRC Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration in Advanced Knowledge Technologies (AKT). Professor Shadbolt is the Director of this multi-million pound, six-year research programme that is pursuing basic and applied research in the provision of technologies to support Knowledge Management and realise the promise of the Semantic Web. He has published some 250 articles on various facets of AI, and has written and co-edited five books. Since 1985, Professor Shadbolt has, singly or jointly, secured and directed 30 research grants worth over \rightarrow £20M.

In its 50th Anniversary year, Nigel is President of the British Computer Society. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Academy of Engineering and the British Computer Society. From 2001 to 2004 he was Editor in Chief of IEEE Intelligent Systems and in 2005 he was appointed Emeritus Editor in Chief. He is also a Fellow of the European AI Association (ECCAI). He is a member of various national committees including the UK EPSRC Strategic Advisory Team (SAT) for ICT and the Human Sciences and Technology Sub-Committee of the UK Defence Scientific Advisory Committee (DSAC).
