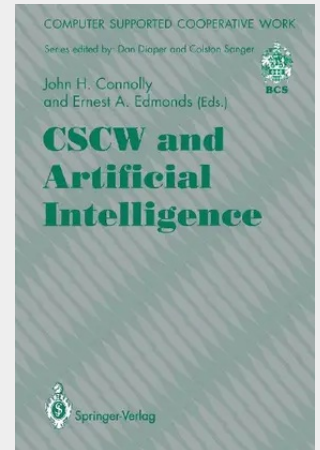


CSCW and Artificial Intelligence

Computing, despite the relative brevity of its history, has already evolved into a subject in which a fairly large number of subdisciplines can be identified. Moreover, there has been a noticeable tendency for the different branches of the subject each to develop its own intellectual culture, tradition and momentum. This is not, of course, to suggest that any individual subdiscipline has become a watertight compartment or that developments in one branch of the subject have tended to take place in total isolation from developments in other related areas. Nevertheless, it does mean that a deliberate effort is required in order to bring different subdisciplines together in a fruitful and beneficial manner. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) jointly constitute a good example of two branches of computing that have emerged separately and given rise to largely distinct research communities and initiatives. On the one hand, the history of AI can be traced back to the 1950s, the term "Artificial Intelligence" being generally attributed to John McCarthy, who first used it in print in 1956. "Computer Supported Cooperative Work", on the other hand, is a term of more recent coinage, having been devised by Irene Greif and Paul Cashman in 1984.

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53,49 €

49,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9783540198161
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-3-540-19816-1
Verlag: Springer
Erscheinungstermin: 30.09.1994
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: 1. Auflage, 1994
Serie: Computer Supported Cooperative Work
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 335 g
Seiten: 192
Format (B x H): 155 x 235 mm

