

PANEL: AUTHORING A PROFESSIONAL BOOK

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Abstract – *This session is an interactive panel whose purpose is to provide participants a background of the steps of writing a professional book. This panel contrasts the process of writing a profession book to the process of writing a textbook.*

- What activities should an author include in supporting production and sales of the book?

Much of the time of the panel session will be devoted to questions and answers.

PANEL SUMMARY

Educators are acutely aware of textbooks - they use them in their classrooms all the time. Educators may not be aware of some of the other types of publications produced. These products include conference proceedings, tutorials, references, standards, and other technical "non-classroom" books. In fact, visit any Barnes and Noble store and you can see shelves of books not intended for the classroom.

Educators have specific knowledge that can be translated into textbooks or a professional book. For example, someone who is extremely knowledgeable of genetic algorithms could write a few chapters for a tutorial book on the subject, and then include several of the subject's preeminent papers in the book. Often writing a professional book is not as ominous as writing a textbook.

This panel is for anyone who has thought about writing a non-classroom book, but may not know where to start. Panel members include authors and publishers. Panel members will briefly discuss publishing topics including:

- How does one determine if material is best suited for a textbook or a professional book?
- What are the important skills needed to prepare book materials?
- How does one find a publisher for your professional book?
- What is included in a book proposal?
- What is important in an author agreement? (Translation of the legal terminology and how to tell if the agreements are reasonable for the author and the publisher.)
- Does one have to sign over copyrights to this material, and can the author use it elsewhere?
- How does one best complete the work on this book?

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