Nivio Ziviani – Biography

Nivio Ziviani started his mechanical engineering studies at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in 1966 and finishing in 1971. In 1975 he started a M.Sc. in Informatics at Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, defending his thesis in 1976. In 1978 he started a Ph.D. in Computer Science in University of Waterloo, Canada, defending his dissertation in April 1982, supervised by Gaston Gonnet. He started his academic career at UFMG in 1972. At UFMG he is Full Professor in Computer Science since 1991 and Professor Emeritus of Computer Science since 2005. He is a member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and of the National Order of the Scientific Merit in the class Comendador.

At UFMG he was Chair of the Department of Computer Science, Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Computer Science for three times, he lead the criation of the Ph.D. program in the DCS in 1991, criated the undergraduate program in Data Processing in 1973, started the department library and was his coordinator for 20 years.

He was Coordinator of the Steering Committee in Computer Science at the Brazilian Agency CAPES, Member and Coordinator of the Steering Committee in Computer Science at the Brazilian Research Council (CNPq), Member of the University Council (CEPE) at UFMG, Member of the Research Chamber at UFMG. Nowadays, he is a member of the Steering Committee in Computer Science at CAPES, member of the Chamber of Innovation and Technology Transfer (CT&IT) at UFMG, and member of the Administration Board of the Technological Park of the city of Belo Horizonte (BH-TEC).

He founded the Laboratory for Treating Information (LATIN) in 1994. He is a co-founder of Miner Technology Group, a company owner of the technology "Miner Family of Agents for the Web", sold to Folha de São Paulo / UOL group in 1999, and Akwan Information Technologies, a company owner of the Web search engine TodoBR, sold to Google Inc. in 2005. He was General Co-Chair of the 28th ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval n 2005 and co-founder of the International Conference on String Processing and Information Retrieval (SPIRE) in 1993.

He has obtained research funds from the Brazilian Research Council (CNPq), Brazilian Agency CAPES, and private institutions. He has been a visiting professor or invited speaker at many universities and research institutions around the world. He has been in program committees and referee of journals, conferences, agencies, etc. Until 2006, he has supervised 3 Ph.D. dissertations and 30 M.Sc. theses. He has co-authored of over 100 refereed papers and 5 books in the areas of algorithm design and information retrieval, the latter his primary area of research. He edited 5 proceedings from conferences and wrote 3 chapters of books.

He has received the following awards: *Honra da Inconfidência* Award, given by the Governor of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, April 2006; Informatics and Telecommunications 1999 Award from SUCESU, with the work "Miner Family of Agents for the Web"; Compaq Award for Scientific Production, best scientific publication in 1997; *Santos Dumont* Award, given by the Governor of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, October 1991.