

Preface

The 8th Russian Summer School in Information Retrieval (RuSSIR 2014) was held on August 18–22, 2014 in Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia.¹ The school was co-organized by the National Research University Higher School of Economics² and the Russian Information Retrieval Evaluation Seminar (ROMIP).³

The RuSSIR school series started in 2007 and has developed into a renowned academic event with solid international participation. Previously, RuSSIRs took place in Yekaterinburg, Taganrog, Petrozavodsk, Voronezh, Saint Petersburg, Yaroslavl, and Kazan. RuSSIR courses were taught by many prominent international researchers in information retrieval (IR) and related areas.

The 2014 RuSSIR program featured a track of courses focusing on visualization for information retrieval along with other topics related to IR. The program led to fruitful discussions among participants coming from different domains and allowed students to learn cross-disciplinary competencies. The school program consisted of two invited lectures, six courses running in two parallel sessions, two sponsor talks, and the RuSSIR 2014 Young Scientist Conference.

The school welcomed 91 participants selected based on their applications. The majority of students came from Russia, but there were also 12 students from the European Union and 8 students from the rest of the world. The RuSSIR audience comprised of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students, as well as young academic faculty and industrial developers. The total number of attendees was 119 including students, sponsor representatives, lecturers, and organizers.

School participation was free of charge thanks to the sponsorship support. In addition, 20 accommodation grants were awarded to Russian participants and nine of the European-based students received travel support from the European Science Foundation (ESF)⁴ through the ELIAS network⁵. Travel expenses of three school teachers from Europe were also funded through the ELIAS/ESF grant.

The RuSSIR program was compiled based on reviewing of submitted course proposals by the Program Committee. Each course proposal was reviewed by at least six PC members. In total, 17 course proposals were submitted, six of which were selected for the school program. Additionally, there were two invited lectures. Each of the six courses consisted of five 90-minute lectures taught during five subsequent days. The invited lectures ran as plenary sessions, the other six courses ran in two parallel sessions.

¹ <http://romip.ru/russir2014/>

² <http://www.hse.ru/en/>

³ <http://romip.ru/en/>

⁴ <http://www.esf.org/>

⁵ <http://www.elias-network.eu/>

- Seeking Simplicity in Search User Interfaces – Marti Hearst, UC Berkeley, USA
- Multimedia Analysis and Multimedia Visualization – Marcel Worring, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Large Scale Information Retrieval – Katja Hofmann, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK
- Web as a Corpus: Going Beyond the n-gram – Preslav Nakov, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar
- Visualization and Data Mining for High-Dimensional Data – Alfred Inselberg, Tel Aviv University, Israel and Pei Ling Lai, Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Tainan, Taiwan
- Introduction to Formal Concept Analysis and Its Applications in Information Retrieval and Related Fields – Dmitry I. Ignatov, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
- Document Analysis and Retrieval in Scientific Digital Libraries: Case Studies in Applying Machine Learning for Information Retrieval – Sujatha Das G., Institute for Infocomm Research, Agency for Science and Technology Research, Singapore
- Author Profiling and Plagiarism Detection – Paolo Rosso, Technical University of Valencia, Spain

Sponsoring organizations made two scientific presentations additionally to the school program. Ludmila Ostroumova (Yandex) presented an overview of efficient approaches for crawling and indexing newly created web pages such as news, and posts in blogs and forums. Dmitry Solovyov (Mail.Ru) gave a talk on application of self-organizing maps to search engines analytics.

For the eight time the RuSSIR Young Scientist Conference has been held within the school program. The conference provided a platform for a dialog between young researchers from different areas such as mathematics, computer science, and linguistics as well as social and media sciences. The conference ran over two consecutive evenings and consisted of two parts, oral presentations and poster sessions.

There were two types of submissions: full papers that went the thorough reviewing process and short poster notes. Out of 22 submitted full papers, 8 papers were accepted for oral presentation at the conference and published in the school proceedings.

At the poster sessions all participants had an opportunity to discuss and exchange their research results and ideas. In total about 70 posters were displayed. As in the previous years, the Young Scientist Conference was one of the main highlights of the school program.

The volume features two sections: six tutorial notes and eighth revised papers from the associated Young Scientist Conference.

The 8th Russian Summer School in Information Retrieval was a successful event: It brought together researchers and students with different background, and facilitated interdisciplinary ideas exchange. Students had an unique opportunity to learn new material that is not usually presented in university curricula and got feedback from peers and teachers during the poster sessions and informal communications. The event contributed to supporting a lively IR community in Russia and establishing ties with international colleagues. We received very positive feedback from attendees on all the different aspects of the school.

We thank all the local Organizing Committee members (namely, Alexey Malafeev, Dmitry Zelonkin, Cyril Sherstnev, and Julia Baranova) for their commitment, which made the school possible, all the Programme Committee members for their time and efforts ensuring a high level of quality for the RuSSIR 2014 program and, in particular, all the lecturers and students who came to Nizhny Novgorod and made the school such a success. We also thank the student volunteers who contributed to the school organization on-site. Our special gratitude goes to Maxim Gubin, who was responsible for legal and financial matters.

We appreciate the generous financial support from our sponsors: National Research University Higher School of Economics⁶ (main organizer), Yandex⁷ and Mail.Ru⁸ (gold level), Google⁹ and ABBYY¹⁰ (bronze level). We are also grateful to the ELIAS network¹¹ of the European Science Foundation, and Springer representatives, namely, Alfred Hofmann and Aliaksandr Birukou, for their support.

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⁶ <http://www.hse.ru/>

⁷ <http://yandex.com>

⁸ <http://go.mail.ru/>

⁹ <http://google.com/>

¹⁰ <http://abbyy.com/>

¹¹ <http://www.elias-network.eu/>

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Selected Papers

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