

Preface

These proceedings contain the full papers, short papers, and demonstrations selected for presentation at the 38th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2016). The event was organized by the Information Management Systems (IMS) research group¹ of the Department of Information Engineering² of the University of Padua³, Italy. The conference was held during March 20–23 2016, in Padua, Italy.

ECIR 2016 received a total of 284 submissions in three categories: 201 full papers out of which seven papers in the reproducibility track, 66 short papers, and 17 demonstrations.

The geographical distribution of the submissions was as follows: 51 % were from Europe, 21 % from Asia, 19 % from North and South America, 7 % from North Africa and the Middle East, and 2 % from Australasia.

All submissions were reviewed by at least three members of an international two-tier Program Committee. Of the full papers submitted to the conference, 42 were accepted for oral presentation (22 % of the submitted ones) and eight as posters (4 % of the submitted ones). Of the short papers submitted to the conference, 20 were accepted for poster presentation (30 % of the submitted ones). In addition, six demonstrations (35 % of the submitted ones) were accepted. The accepted contributions represent the state of the art in information retrieval, cover a diverse range of topics, propose novel applications, and indicate promising directions for future research.

We thank all Program Committee members for their time and effort in ensuring the high quality of the ECIR 2016 program.

ECIR 2016 continued the reproducibility track introduced at ECIR 2015, which specifically invited the submission of papers reproducing a single paper or a group of papers from a third party, where the authors were not directly involved in the original paper. Authors were requested to emphasize the motivation for selecting the papers to be reproduced, the process of how results were attempted to be reproduced (successfully or not), the communication that was necessary to gather all information, the potential difficulties encountered, and the result of the process. Of the seven papers submitted to this track, four were accepted (57 % of the submitted ones).

A panel on “Data-Driven Information Retrieval” was organized at ECIR by Maristella Agosti. The panel stems from the fact that information retrieval has always been concerned with finding the “needle in a haystack” to retrieve the most relevant information from huge amounts of data, able to best address user information needs. Nevertheless, nowadays we are facing a radical paradigm shift, common also to many other research fields, and information retrieval is becoming an increasingly data-driven science due, for example, to recent developments in machine learning, crowdsourcing,

¹ <http://ims.dei.unipd.it/>

² <http://www.dei.unipd.it/>

³ <http://www.unipd.it/>

user interaction analysis, and so on. The goal of the panel is to discuss the emergent trends in this area, their advantages, their pitfalls, and their implications for the future of the field.

Additionally, ECIR 2016 hosted four tutorials and four workshops covering a range of information retrieval topics. These were selected by workshop and tutorial committees.

The workshops were:

- Third International Workshop on Bibliometric-Enhanced Information Retrieval (BIR2016)
- First International Workshop on Modeling, Learning and Mining for Cross/Multilinguality (MultiLingMine 2016)
- ProActive Information Retrieval: Anticipating Users' Information Needs (ProAct IR)
- First International Workshop on Recent Trends in News Information Retrieval (NewsIR 2016)

The following ECIR 2016 tutorials were selected:

- Collaborative Information Retrieval: Concepts, Models and Evaluation
- Group Recommender Systems: State of the Art, Emerging Aspects and Techniques, and Research Challenges
- Living Labs for Online Evaluation: From Theory to Practice (LiLa2016)
- Real-Time Bidding Based Display Advertising: Mechanisms and Algorithms (RTBMA 2016)

Short descriptions of these workshops and tutorials are included in the proceedings.

We would like to thank our invited speakers for their contributions to the program: Jordan Boyd-Graber (University of Colorado, USA), Emine Yilmaz (University College London, UK), and Domonkos Tikk (Gravity R&D, Hungary). Short descriptions of these talks are included in the proceedings.

We are grateful to the panel led by Stefan R ger for selecting the recipients of the 2015 Microsoft BCS/BCS IRSG Karen Sp rck Jones Award, and we congratulate Jordan Boyd-Graber and Emine Yilmaz on receiving this award (unique to 2015, the panel decided to make two full awards).

Considering the long history of ECIR, which is now at its 38th edition, ECIR 2016 introduced a new award, the Test of Time (ToT) Award, to recognize research that has had long-lasting influence, including impact on a subarea of information retrieval research, across subareas of information retrieval research, and outside of the information retrieval research community (e.g., non-information retrieval research or industry).

On the final day of the conference, the Industry Day ran in parallel with the conference session with the goal of bringing an exciting program containing a mix of invited talks by industry leaders with presentations of novel and innovative ideas from the search industry. A short description of the Industry Day is included in these proceedings.

ECIR 2016 was held under the patronage of: Regione del Veneto (Veneto Region), Comune di Padova (Municipality of Padua), University of Padua, Department of Informatics Engineering, and Department of Mathematics.

Finally, ECIR 2016 would have not been possible without the generous financial support from our sponsors: Google (gold level); Elsevier, Spotify, and Yahoo! Labs (palladium level); Springer (silver level); and Yandex (bronze level). The conference was supported by the ELIAS Research Network Program of the European Science Foundation, University of Padua, Department of Informantion Engineering and Department of Mathematics.

March 2016

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Advances in Information Retrieval

38th European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2016,

Padua, Italy, March 20-23, 2016. Proceedings

Wolf, I.; Crestani, F.; Moens, M.-F.; Mothe, J.; Silvestri, F.;

Di Nunzio, G.M.; Hauff, C.; Silvello, G. (Eds.)

2016, XXXIX, 906 p. 124 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-30670-4