

## Preface

The 2016 Asian Information Retrieval Societies Conference (AIRS 2016) was the 12th instalment of the conference series, initiated from the Information Retrieval with Asian Languages (IRAL) workshop series back in 1996 in Korea. The conference was held from November 30 to December 2, 2016, at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.

The annual AIRS conference is the main information retrieval forum for the Asia-Pacific region and aims to bring together academic and industry researchers, along with developers, interested in sharing new ideas and the latest achievements in the broad area of information retrieval. AIRS 2016 enjoyed contributions spanning the theory and application of information retrieval, both in text and multimedia.

This year we received 74 submissions from all over the world, among which 57 were full-paper submissions. Submissions were peer reviewed in a double-blind process by at least three international experts and one session chair. The final program of AIRS 2016 featured 21 full papers divided into seven tracks: “Machine Learning and Data Mining for IR,” “IR Models and Theories” (two tracks), “IR Applications and User Modeling,” “Personalization and Recommendation” (two tracks) and “IR Evaluation.” The program also featured 11 short or demonstration papers.

AIRS 2016 featured three keynote speeches: “New Ways of Thinking About Search with New Devices” from Emine Yilmaz (University College London); “Will Question Answering Become the Main Theme of IR Research?” from Hang Li (Huawei Noah’s Ark Lab); and “NLP for Microblog Summarization” from Kam-Fai Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong).

The conference and program chairs of AIRS 2016 extend our sincere gratitude to all authors and contributors to this year’s conference. We are also grateful to the Program Committee for the great reviewing effort that guaranteed AIRS 2016 could feature a quality program of original and innovative research in information retrieval. Special thanks go to our sponsors for their generosity: GridSum Incorporation, Sogou.com Incorporation, Alibaba Group, and Airbnb. We also thank Springer for supporting the best paper award of AIRS 2016 and the Special Interest Group in Information Retrieval (SIGIR) for supporting AIRS by granting it in-cooperation status and sponsoring the student travel grant.

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