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Advances in Information Retrieval

42nd European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2020
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Proceedings, Part II

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Preface

The 42nd European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR) was held on April 14–17, 2020, and brought together hundreds of researchers from all over the world. ECIR 2020 was to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, but due to the COVID-19 lockdown and travel restrictions enforced worldwide, the conference was held online. The conference was organized by Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal, and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain, in cooperation with the British Computer Society's Information Retrieval Specialist Group (BCS-IRSG). It was supported by the ACM Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (ACM SIGIR), Bloomberg, Amazon, Salesforce, TextKernel, NTENT, Google, and Levi Strauss.

These proceedings contain the papers presented and the summaries of workshops and tutorials given during the conference. This year the ECIR 2020 program boasted a variety of novel works from contributors located all around the world and also provided a platform for information retrieval-related (IR) activities from the CLEF Initiative. In addition, a new collaboration was instated between BCS-IRSG and the *Information Retrieval Journal*, whereby selected papers from the journal were presented at the conference, and a selection of ECIR 2020 papers were invited to submit an extended version for publication in a special issue of the journal.

In total, 457 submissions were fielded across all tracks from 57 different countries – adding the papers submitted to workshops, ECIR 2020 broke the 500 submissions barrier. The final program included 55 full papers (26% acceptance rate), 46 short papers (28% acceptance rate), 10 demonstration papers (30% acceptance rate), 8 reproducibility papers (38% acceptance rate), and 12 invited CLEF papers. All submissions were peer reviewed by at least three international Program Committee members to ensure that only submissions of the highest quality were included in the final program. The acceptance decisions were further informed by discussions among the reviewers for each submitted paper, led by a senior Program Committee member. A call for reviewers was set forth aiming to strengthen and update the Program Committee, integrating and catching up with both new and accomplished reviewing workforce in the field.

The accepted papers cover the state of the art in IR: deep learning based information retrieval techniques, use of entities and knowledge graphs, recommender systems, retrieval methods, information extraction, question answering, topic and prediction models, multimedia retrieval, etc. As with tradition, the ECIR 2020 program has seen a high proportion of papers with students as first authors, as well as papers from a variety of universities, research institutes, and commercial organizations.

In addition to the papers, the program also included three keynotes, three tutorials, four workshops, a doctoral consortium, and an industry day. The first keynote was presented by this year's BCS IRSG Karen Sparck Jones Award winner, Chirag Shah, the second keynote was presented by Jamie Callan, and the third keynote by Joana Gonçalves de Sá. The tutorials covered a range of topics including entity repositories,

similar-question retrieval, and geographic IR, while the workshops brought together participants around such areas as narrative extraction, bibliometric IR, algorithmic bias, and health IR. ECIR 2020 also featured a CLEF session to enable CLEF organizers to report on and promote their upcoming tracks. The program introduced a new activity where recently published papers from the *Information Retrieval Journal* were presented at the conference – a selection of nine papers was included in this track. Such links between related forums added to the success and diversity of ECIR and helped build bridges between communities. The Industry Day was held on the last conference day, bringing together academic researchers and industry, offering a mix of talks by industry leaders (including Farfetch, Doctrine, Microsoft, TigerGraph, eBay) and presentations of novel and innovative ideas from industry research.

The success of ECIR 2020 would not have been possible without all the help from the team of volunteers and reviewers. We wish to thank all our track chairs for coordinating the different tracks, along with the teams of meta-reviewers and reviewers who helped ensure the high quality of the program. Thanks are due to the demo chairs: Nuno Correia and Ana Freire; reproducibility track chairs: Edleno Moura and Pável Calado; doctoral consortium chairs: Stefan Rueger and Suzan Verberne; workshop chairs: Suzane Little and Sérgio Nunes; tutorial chairs: Laura Dietz and Allan Hanbury; industry day chairs: Vanessa Murdock and Bruno Martins; publicity chair: Carla Teixeira Lopes and Ricardo Campos; and sponsorship chair: Dyaa Albakour. We would like to thank our webmaster, Flávio Martins, and our local chairs, Rui Nóbrega and Filipa Peleja, along with all the student volunteers who helped to create an excellent online and offline experience for participants and attendees.

ECIR 2020 was sponsored by: Bloomberg, Amazon, Salesforce, Google, Textkernel, Ntent, Levi Strauss, Signal AI, SIGIR, and Springer. We thank them all for their support and contributions to the conference. Finally, we wish to thank all the authors, contributors, and participants in the conference.

April 2020

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