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# Document Analysis and Recognition – ICDAR 2021 Workshops

Lausanne, Switzerland, September 5–10, 2021 Proceedings, Part II



Editors Elisa H. Barney Smith Boise State University Boise, ID, USA

Umapada Pal D Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, India

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#### **Foreword**

Our warmest welcome to the proceedings of ICDAR 2021, the 16th IAPR International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition, which was held in Switzerland for the first time. Organizing an international conference of significant size during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of welcoming at least some of the participants physically, is similar to navigating a rowboat across the ocean during a storm. Fortunately, we were able to work together with partners who have shown a tremendous amount of flexibility and patience including, in particular, our local partners, namely the Beaulieu convention center in Lausanne, EPFL, and Lausanne Tourisme, and also the international ICDAR advisory board and IAPR-TC 10/11 leadership teams who have supported us not only with excellent advice but also financially, encouraging us to setup a hybrid format for the conference.

We were not a hundred percent sure if we would see each other in Lausanne but we remained confident, together with almost half of the attendees who registered for on-site participation. We relied on the hybridization support of a motivated team from the Lule University of Technology during the pre-conference, and professional support from Imavox during the main conference, to ensure a smooth connection between the physical and the virtual world. Indeed, our welcome is extended especially to all our colleagues who were not able to travel to Switzerland this year. We hope you had an exciting virtual conference week, and look forward to seeing you in person again at another event of the active DAR community.

With ICDAR 2021, we stepped into the shoes of a longstanding conference series, which is the premier international event for scientists and practitioners involved in document analysis and recognition, a field of growing importance in the current age of digital transitions. The conference is endorsed by IAPR-TC 10/11 and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year with the 16th edition. The very first ICDAR conference was held in St. Malo, France in 1991, followed by Tsukuba, Japan (1993), Montreal, Canada (1995), Ulm, Germany (1997), Bangalore, India (1999), Seattle, USA (2001), Edinburgh, UK (2003), Seoul, South Korea (2005), Curitiba, Brazil (2007), Barcelona, Spain (2009), Beijing, China (2011), Washington DC, USA (2013), Nancy, France (2015), Kyoto, Japan (2017), and Syndey, Australia in 2019.

The attentive reader may have remarked that this list of cities includes several venues for the Olympic Games. This year the conference was hosted in Lausanne, which is the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee. Not unlike the athletes who were recently competing in Tokyo, Japan, the researchers profited from a healthy spirit of competition, aimed at advancing our knowledge on how a machine can understand written communication. Indeed, following the tradition from previous years, 13 scientific competitions were held in conjunction with ICDAR 2021 including, for the first time, three so-called "long-term" competitions, addressing wider challenges that may continue over the next few years.

Other highlights of the conference included the keynote talks given by Masaki Nakagawa, recipient of the IAPR/ICDAR Outstanding Achievements Award, and Mickaël Coustaty, recipient of the IAPR/ICDAR Young Investigator Award, as well as our distinguished keynote speakers Prem Natarajan, vice president at Amazon, who gave a talk on "OCR: A Journey through Advances in the Science, Engineering, and Productization of AI/ML", and Beta Megyesi, professor of computational linguistics at Uppsala University, who elaborated on "Cracking Ciphers with 'AI-in-the-loop': Transcription and Decryption in a Cross-Disciplinary Field".

A total of 340 publications were submitted to the main conference, which was held at the Beaulieu convention center during September 8–10, 2021. Based on the reviews, our Program Committee chairs accepted 40 papers for oral presentation and 142 papers for poster presentation. In addition, nine articles accepted for the ICDAR-IJDAR journal track were presented orally at the conference and a workshop was integrated in a poster session. Furthermore, 12 workshops, 2 tutorials, and the doctoral consortium were held during the pre-conference at EPFL during September 5–7, 2021, focusing on specific aspects of document analysis and recognition, such as graphics recognition, camera-based document analysis, and historical documents.

The conference would not have been possible without hundreds of hours of work done by volunteers in the organizing committee. First of all we would like to express our deepest gratitude to our Program Committee chairs, Joseph Lladós, Dan Lopresti, and Seiichi Uchida, who oversaw a comprehensive reviewing process and designed the intriguing technical program of the main conference. We are also very grateful for all the hours invested by the members of the Program Committee to deliver high-quality peer reviews. Furthermore, we would like to highlight the excellent contribution by our publication chairs, Liangrui Peng, Fouad Slimane, and Oussama Zayene, who negotiated a great online visibility of the conference proceedings with Springer and ensured flawless camera-ready versions of all publications. Many thanks also to our chairs and organizers of the workshops, competitions, tutorials, and the doctoral consortium for setting up such an inspiring environment around the main conference. Finally, we are thankful for the support we have received from the sponsorship chairs, from our valued sponsors, and from our local organization chairs, which together enabled us to put in the extra effort required for a hybrid conference setup.

Our main motivation for organizing ICDAR 2021 was to give practitioners in the DAR community a chance to showcase their research, both at this conference and its satellite events. Thank you to all the authors for submitting and presenting your outstanding work. We sincerely hope that you enjoyed the conference and the exchange with your colleagues, be it on-site or online.

September 2021

Andreas Fischer Rolf Ingold Marcus Liwicki

#### **Preface**

Our heartiest welcome to the proceedings of the ICDAR 2021 Workshops, which were organized under the 16th International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR) held in Lausanne, Switzerland during September 5–10, 2021.

We are delighted that this conference was able to include 13 workshops. The workshops were held in Lausanne during September 5–7, 2021. Some were held in a hybrid live/online format and others were held entirely online, with space at the main conference for in-person participants to attend. The workshops received over 100 papers on diverse document analysis topics, and these volumes collect the edited papers from 12 of the workshops.

We sincerely thank the ICDAR general chairs for trusting us with the responsibility for the workshops, and for assisting us with the complicated logistics in order to include remote participants. We also want to thank the workshop organizers for their involvement in this event of primary importance in our field. Finally, we thank the workshop presenters and authors without whom the workshops would not exist.

September 2021

Elisa H. Barney Smith Umapada Pal

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Richard Zanibbi Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
Motoi Iwata Osaka Prefecture University, Japan
Pau Riba Universitat Autnoma de Barcelona, Spain

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Sheraz Ahmed DFKI, Kaiserslautern, Germany Muhammad Muzzamil La Rochelle University, France

Lugman

Organization

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Adel M. Alimi University of Sfax, Tunisia

Bidyut Baran Chaudhur Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India

Fadoua Drira

Tarek M. Hamdani

Amir Hussain

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Edinburgh Napier University, UK

Deakin University, Australia

#### W04-Computational Document Forensics (IWCDF)

Nicolas Sidère
Imran Ahmed Siddiqi
Jean-Marc Ogier
Chawki Djeddi
La Rochelle University, France
Bahria University, Pakistan
La Rochelle University, France
Larbi Tebessi University, Algeria

Haikal El Abed Technische Universitaet Braunschweig, Germany

Xunfeng Lin Deakin University, Australia

#### W05-Machine Learning (WML)

Umapada Pal Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India Yi Yang University of Technology Sydney, Australia

Xiao-Jun Wu Jiangnan University, China

Faisal Shafait National University of Sciences and Technology,

Pakistan

Jianwen Jin South China University of Technology, China Miguel A. Ferrer University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

#### W06-Open Services and Tools for Document Analysis (OST)

Fouad Slimane University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Oussama Zayene University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western

Switzerland, Switzerland

Lars Vögtlin University of Fribourg, Switzerland Paul Märgner University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Ridha Ejbali National School of Engineers Gabes, Tunisia

#### W07-Industrial Applications of Document Analysis and Recognition (WIADAR)

Elisa H. Barney Smith Boise State University, USA

Vincent Poulain d'Andecy Yooz, France Hiroshi Tanaka Youz, France Fujitsu, Japan

#### W08-Computational Paleography (IWCP)

Isabelle Marthot-Santaniello University of Basel, Switzerland University of Hamburg, Germany

#### W09-Document Images and Language (DIL)

Andreas Dengel DFKI and University of Kaiserslautern, Germany Cheng-Lin Liu Institute of Automation of Chinese Academy of

Sciences, China

David Doermann University of Buffalo, USA

Errui Ding Baidu Inc., China Hua Wu Baidu Inc., China Jingtuo Liu Baidu Inc., China

# W10-Graph Representation Learning for Scanned Document Analysis (GLESDO)

Rim Hantach Engie, France

Rafika Boutalbi Trinov, France, and University of Stuttgart, Germany

Philippe Calvez Engie, France
Balsam Ajib Trinov, France
Thibault Defourneau Trinov, France

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