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Advances in Information Retrieval

32nd European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2010
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Proceedings

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Preface

These proceedings contain the papers presented at ECIR 2010, the 32nd European Conference on Information Retrieval. The conference was organized by the Knowledge Media Institute (KMi), the Open University, in co-operation with Dublin City University and the University of Essex, and was supported by the Information Retrieval Specialist Group of the British Computer Society (BCS-IRSG) and the Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (ACM SIGIR). It was held during March 28-31, 2010 in Milton Keynes, UK.

ECIR 2010 received a total of 202 full-paper submissions from Continental Europe (40%), UK (14%), North and South America (15%), Asia and Australia (28%), Middle East and Africa (3%). All submitted papers were reviewed by at least three members of the international Program Committee. Out of the 202 papers 44 were selected as full research papers. ECIR has always been a conference with a strong student focus. To allow as much interaction between delegates as possible and to keep in the spirit of the conference we decided to run ECIR 2010 as a single-track event. As a result we decided to have two presentation formats for full papers. Some of them were presented orally, the others in poster format. The presentation format does not represent any difference in quality. Instead, the presentation format was decided after the full papers had been accepted at the Program Committee meeting held at the University of Essex. The views of the reviewers were then taken into consideration to select the most appropriate presentation format for each paper.

In addition to the full research papers, ECIR 2010 also received a total of 73 poster/demo submissions, each of which was reviewed by three members of the Program Committee. Out of the 73 poster/demo submissions, 23 posters and 5 demos were accepted.

The total of 72 accepted papers consists of 35 from Europe (49%), 14 from UK (19%), 16 from North and South America (22%), 7 from Asia and Australia (10%). The accepted contributions represent the state of the art in information retrieval (IR) and cover a diverse range of topics including NLP and text mining, Web IR, evaluation, multimedia IR, distributed IR and performance issues, IR theory and formal models, personalization and recommendation, domain-specific IR, cross-language IR, and user issues.

As in recent years, ECIR was preceded by a day of workshops and tutorials. This format has proven to be very successful and for ECIR 2010 we accepted four tutorials and five workshops. Following the success of previous BCS-IRSG Industry Days, we organized an Industry Day as part of ECIR 2010 that provided a topical selection of talks, panels and case studies from the world of search and information access, with the emphasis on content drawn from the IR practitioner community. Industry Day was held at the same venue as the main conference.

The BCS-IRSG in conjunction with the BCS has created an annual award to commemorate the achievements of Karen Spärck Jones. This annual award is to encourage and promote talented researchers who have endeavored to advance our understanding of IR and natural language processing with significant experimental contributions. To celebrate the commemorative event, the recipient of the award would be invited to present a keynote lecture at the BCS-IRSG's annual conference – the ECIR. The 2009 KSJ Award was given to Mirella Lapata. She shared her results of work in image and natural language processing for multimedia information retrieval at the conference.

We would like to thank another two invited speakers, Hinrich Schütze and Barry Smyth, for their stimulating contributions to the conference. We would also like to thank all authors who spent their time and effort to submit their work, and all the participants and student volunteers for their contributions and help. Our gratitude goes to the ECIR 2010 Program Committee members and other invited reviewers for their objective and thorough reviews of the submitted papers.

We are very grateful to the sponsors for generously providing financial support for the conference including Apriorie Ltd., Active Web Solutions, Exalead, Flax, Funnelback, GCHQ, Google, Information Retrieval Facility, Microsoft Research, and Yahoo! Research. In particular, Yahoo! Research sponsored the best-paper award and GCHQ sponsored the banquet in association with Bletchley Park.

We would also like to thank the Knowledge Media Institute (KMi) at the Open University for hosting the event, dealing with all local arrangements, and providing registration and financial management. Our special thanks go to Damian Dadswell (Web), Jane Wilde, Rachel Barnett, Aneta Tumilowicz and the Open University's Finance Division (budget and financial management).

Last but not least, we wish to convey our sincere thanks to Springer for providing excellent professional support in preparing this volume.

March 2010

Cathal Gurrin
Yulan He
Gabriella Kazai
Udo Kruschwitz
Suzanne Little
Thomas Roelleke
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