

The SIGIR 2006 Workshop Program

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The SIGIR workshop program aims to facilitate the development of subcommunities within the greater SIGIR population, encourage the exploration of new areas and foster interaction with participants from related fields. The 2006 program achieved all these goals with a broad range of workshops that both reunited researchers from previous workshops (such as multilingual information access and exploratory search) and introduced new topics (such as personal information management and faceted search).

Nine workshops were selected out of twelve proposals submitted:

- Adversarial Information Retrieval on the Web (AIRWeb 2006)
- Evaluating Exploratory Search Systems (ESS 2006)
- Faceted Search
- Geographic Information Retrieval (GIR06)
- New Directions In Multilingual Information Access
- Open Source Information Retrieval (OSIR 2006)
- Stylistics for Text Retrieval in Practice
- XML Element Retrieval Methodology
- Personal Information Management: Now that we're talking, what are we learning?

Attendance was high, with 310 registrants overall. Of these, 247 also registered for the full conference (39% of conference attendees), while 63 participated solely in the workshop. Individual workshop sizes ranged from 13 to 51, with a median of 33.

As in recent years, the chairs urged organizers to encourage participant interaction and to utilize the sessions to “workshop” issues rather than simply present papers. Organizers achieved this through panels, interactive brainstorming activities, demos, breakout sessions, “team” summary presentations and post-workshop group dinners.

In the course of planning this year's workshops, a number of questions were raised which are likely to be of interest to future organizers. We present some of those questions and answers below (keeping in mind that things can change).

Will ACM publish the workshop papers or will we need to arrange for publication with a separate journal?

Copies of proceedings (in the form of a single file) need to be submitted to the conference chair up to a month in advance for photocopying and distribution at the conference. Copyrights should be held by the authors. Any subsequent publication and access to papers on the web is up to the workshop organizers. SIGIR publishes summaries of the workshops in the Forum and all workshop organizers are expected to submit summaries in time for the December issue.

Will attendees be able to register for the workshop without registering for SIGIR?

Yes. By default, SIGIR allows open registration up till the date of the workshop. Closed registration or capping the number of participants is discouraged and would need permission of the program committee in advance (prior to acceptance of the workshop proposal).

Does SIGIR allow advertising a CFP in advance of the official 'acceptance date' for workshop proposals?

No.

What financial or administrative support does SIGIR offer to workshops?

SIGIR provides administrative support for registration, printing handouts, room and audio-visual needs, and provision of student helpers. SIGIR provides no workshop-specific financial support. All participants, including organizers and keynote speakers, must register. It is also a requirement that all workshop organizers actually attend the workshop.

We wish to extend our thanks to this year's workshop organizers, program committee and excellent local arrangements staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and flexibility which made the 2006 workshop program such a success.