

## From the Chair....

**Jamie Callan**  
*chair\_sigir@acm.org*

Greetings SIGIR Members. I hope that your travel preparations for the **SIGIR 2006 conference in Seattle** are settled, and that the only conference-related question on your mind is who will win the **Salton Award** this year. Come to Seattle to find out!

### Record Submissions to SIGIR 2006

The number of papers submitted to the SIGIR 2006 conference continues to grow. 399 papers were submitted, about 9% more than last year. 74 papers were accepted, which will make SIGIR 2006 the largest SIGIR conference so far.

### Don't Forget the ACM Digital Library

It sometimes takes quite awhile for the "special issue" of SIGIR Forum (the SIGIR conference proceedings mailed to members) to reach you. We use inexpensive mailing options, which keeps costs down, but is slow. However, don't forget that you can access the SIGIR conference proceedings immediately following the conference via the ACM Digital Library. The conference proceedings are normally posted the week following the conference. If you subscribe to "TOC Service", the table of contents will be sent to you in an email message when the proceedings are added to the Digital Library. An ACM web account is needed for this service, to verify your SIGIR or ACM membership.

### Paper is Expensive

As mentioned in previous columns, the EC plans to move the "special issue" of SIGIR Forum (the SIGIR conference proceedings mailed to members) to CD or DVD, to help control costs. It is likely that 2006 will be the last year that the "special issue" is printed on paper. We are interested in hearing your opinions about this change. Keep in mind that our options are limited: Either we continue to increase membership fees to cover costs, or we replace the paper proceedings with a CD or DVD.

### Ophir Frieder Named an ACM Fellow

In January ACM announced that Ophir Frieder, the IITRI Chair Professor of Computer Science and the Director of the Information Retrieval Laboratory at the Illinois Institute of Technology, was named an ACM Fellow for contributions to search systems for distributed data. Congratulations Ophir!

### Two New IR Books

Although I don't call every IR-related book to your attention, there are two new books that SIGIR members may find particularly interesting. Karen Spärck Jones, who received the ACL Lifetime Achievement award in 2004, is now honored by her colleagues with *Charting a New Course: Natural Language Processing and Information Retrieval. Essays in Honour of Karen Spärck Jones*, edited by

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John Tait (Springer, 2005). The long-awaited *TREC: Experiment and Evaluation in Information Retrieval*, edited by Ellen Voorhees and Donna Harman (The MIT Press, 2005) is also now available.

### **Sigir.org Redesign**

If you haven't seen the SIGIR Web site ([www.sigir.org](http://www.sigir.org)) in awhile, it is worth another look. Mounia Lalmas, SIGIR's Information Director, has given it a new look and feel, and has updated much of the content. One new feature is links to videos of talks given by well-known members of the IR community. Try it out. If you have suggestions about how the Web site could be improved, let me or Mounia know.

### **SIGIR 2009 in Boston**

SIGIR received bids to host SIGIR 2009 in Boston, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. The winning bid was from a Boston team led by James Allan (UMass) and Javad Aslam (Northeastern). The SIGIR Executive Committee thanks David Grossman and Ophir Frieder (Chicago) and Doug Oard and Jimmy Lin (Washington, D.C.) for their hard work on their bids.

Don't forget...SIGIR 2007 will be in Amsterdam, and SIGIR 2008 will be in Singapore.

### **SIGIR 2010 in Europe**

2010 is a European year. If you are interested in hosting SIGIR 2010, please let me know before the SIGIR 2006 conference.

### **New Elections on the Horizon**

The terms of the current SIGIR officers end on June 30, 2007. In the coming months the SIGIR Executive Committee will appoint a Nominations Chair to select candidates for an election that will occur March-May 2007. As in recent elections, our goal will be a choice of three strong candidates for each position. If you would be interested in serving as an officer of SIGIR, watch the SIGIR Web site ([www.sigir.org](http://www.sigir.org)) for details.

### **New ACM Member Grades**

FYI, ACM recently created two new advanced membership categories: *Senior*, and *Distinguished*. A member may self-nominate for these new categories. There is no additional cost. See [http://www.acm.org/awards/amg\\_call.html](http://www.acm.org/awards/amg_call.html) for details

As always, we value your opinion. If you have ideas about how SIGIR can be improved, please let me know by email.