

The SIGIR 2007 Workshop Program

Josiane Mothe
IRIT, UMR5505,
Université de Toulouse, France
mothe@irit.fr

The SIGIR workshop program aims at providing a framework for exploring new areas and ideas, and for presenting them in a less formal and possibly more focused way than the conference itself. It also encourages interaction with contributors and/or participants from related fields. These goals have been fully achieved in 2007 *vintage*.

We received twenty workshop submissions. The number of workshop submission is increasing; it was twelve in 2006. This shows how dynamic is the field not only in terms of submissions in the main conference (491 paper submissions at SIGIR 2007 compared to 259 paper submissions at SIGIR 2003) but also in terms of new directions and new ways to consider information retrieval.

The reviewing committee was balanced considering IR areas, geographical and gender perspectives. All the members reviewed all the workshop submissions. Once done, they started an intensive and very rewarding email discussion in order to rank the submissions. This ranked list was approved by the general SIGIR Program Committee. Notification to organizers was sent more than three month and a half before the conference.

Considering originality and novelty, possible participation, design and organization, and variety, we selected the nine following workshops:

Learning to Rank for Information Retrieval (LR4IR 2007)

Web Information Seeking and Interaction

Plagiarism Analysis, Authorship Identification, and Near-Duplicate Detection (PAN'07)

Improving Non-English Web Searching (iNEWS07)

Multimedia Information Retrieval

Large-Scale Distributed Systems for Information Retrieval

Information Retrieval and Applications of Graphical Models (IRGM 2007)

Focused Retrieval

Searching Spontaneous Conversational Speech

Some workshops correspond to an area that is emergent in Information Retrieval such as the *Learning to Rank for Information Retrieval* and *Plagiarism Analysis, Authorship Identification, and Near-Duplicate Detection* workshops.

Some of the workshops aim at posing a different though related issues to those explored in previous SIGIR workshops or in the main conference. This is the case of the *focused retrieval*, the *Improving Non-English Web Searching*, the *Multimedia Information Retrieval*, and the *Large scale distributed Information Retrieval workshops*.

The *Web Information Seeking and Interaction* workshop treats a key issue for Information Retrieval, looking into its use in real life settings. On the other hand, the *Information Retrieval and Applications of Graphical Models* is a theoretically-oriented workshop.

Attendance was high, with 310 registrants overall from which 29 registered on site. It corresponds to a mean of 34 registrants per workshop; however as expected and agreed, popularity varied over the workshops, from 98 to 13.

Workshops are also a way to foster interactions, discussions and experiences sharing among participants with different background. As in recent years, 2007 workshops play this game through panels, brainstorming and role-playing activities, and group lunch.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the workshop program committee who selected the nine workshops held in conjunction with SIGIR as well as all the reviewers who help the organizers to decide the presentations to be part of their workshop program. "*Peer review is crucial to scholarly publication, but it is also the most time-intensive step. Reviewers are asked to volunteer their time to read and write critical and constructive reviews and this takes time*"¹. I also thank the local organization staff for having been always prompt to answer our questions and find a response to individual workshop requirements.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to submit a workshop to future SIGIR. I do believe this is a great opportunity to foster new directions in IR and to mine some more traditional ones.

Reference:

¹G. Marchionini; T. Saracevic, J. Carroll, D. Kraft, W. Hersh, J. Mothe, J. Zobel, P. Herson, C. Schwartz (2007), Reviewer merits, *Information Processing and Management: an International Journal*, 43(1), pp 1-2.

Links to the workshops:

Learning to Rank for Information Retrieval	http://research.microsoft.com/users/LR4IR-2007/
Web Information Seeking and Interaction	http://research.microsoft.com/~ryenw/wisi/
Plagiarism Analysis, Authorship Identification, and Near-Duplicate Detection	http://www.uni-weimar.de/medien/webis/research/pan-07
Improving Non-English Web Searching	http://rea.teimes.gr/~lazarinf/ir7w/
Multimedia Information Retrieval	http://www.yr-bcn.es/events/mir2007-workshop
Large-Scale Distributed Systems for Information Retrieval	http://www.tel.fer.hr/llds-ir/
Information Retrieval and Applications of Graphical Models	http://irgm.bpiwowar.net
Focused Retrieval	http://www.cs.otago.ac.nz/sigirfocus/
Searching Spontaneous Conversational Speech	http://hmi.ewi.utwente.nl/sscs

Workshop program committee:

Peter Anick (Yahoo!, US)
Peter Bruza (University of Queensland, Australia)
Tat-Seng Chua (National University of Singapore, Singapore)
Kalervo Jarvelin (University of Tampere, Finland)
Gareth Jones (Dublin City University, Ireland)
Gina-Anne Levow (University of Chicago, US)
Josiane Mothe (Université de Toulouse, France)
Jian-Yun Nie (Université de Montréal, Canada)
Iadh Ounis (University of Glasgow, UK)