

## The Third Information Interaction in Context Symposium (IiX'10)

**Diane Kelly**

University of North Carolina, USA  
*dianek@email.unc.edu*

**Nicholas J. Belkin**

Rutgers University, USA  
*belkin@rutgers.edu*

*For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.iiix2010.org>.*

### Abstract

The 3<sup>rd</sup> *Information Interaction in Context Symposium (IiX'10)* was held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, USA on 18-21 August, 2010. This report provides an overview of the purpose and program of the conference, as well as information about how to access the Proceedings.

## 1 Purpose

The major purpose of the *Information Interaction in Context Symposia (IiX)* is to explore the role of context in people's interactions with information, in order to improve the systems which support these interactions. The structure and format of *IiX'10* is based on the understanding that to accomplish this goal, it is necessary to foster interdisciplinary collaboration amongst members of the information behavior, information retrieval, and human-computer interaction fields. *IiX'10* follows two prior and successful symposia in Copenhagen, Denmark (2006) and London, UK (2008). *IiX'10* was sponsored in part by, and held in cooperation with, *ACM SIGIR*.

## 2 Program

The call for papers attracted 75 submissions from Asia, Canada, Europe, Australia, and the United States. The program committee accepted 26 papers and 22 posters covering a variety of topics, including information seeking behavior, search user interfaces and system design. Authors of accepted papers and posters represented 15 different countries and academic, industry and government institutions. The papers and posters described theoretical and empirical research and used a variety of methods including longitudinal, naturalistic approaches, laboratory approaches and content analysis. A doctoral consortium, where 12 students from 7 countries presented their research and obtained feedback from senior researchers, was held prior to the conference.

Sanna Kumpulainen and Kalervo Järvelin (University of Tampere, Finland) were awarded the Best Paper Award for their paper, *Information Interaction in Molecular Medicine: Integrated Use of Multiple Channels*. Two posters won the Best Poster Award (as determined by *IiX* participants): Jingjing Liu, Chang Liu, Jun Zhang, Ralf Bierig, and Michael Cole's (Rutgers University, USA) poster, *Identifying Queries in the Wild, Wild Web* and Fernando Loizides and George Buchanan's (City University London, UK) poster, *Performing Document Triage on Small Screen Devices. Part 1: Structured Documents*.

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The program included a keynote speech by Tefko Saracevic about the history and notion of context in information seeking and retrieval research. Saracevic identified five necessary axioms when talking about context. These axioms included:

- One cannot not have context in information interaction.
- Interaction has two parts: content and relationships.
- Information interaction is asymmetric (i.e., the system has some idea of the context and the user has a different idea).
- Context is multi-layered. It extends beyond systems and users.
- Context is not self-revealing and not self-evident.

Saracevic stated that there is no information retrieval without interaction and identified several grand research challenges, including development of useful metrics.

The program included a lively and entertaining Oxford-style debate on the use of searcher simulations in research around the proposition that searcher simulation is the way to move forward with the evaluation of interactive search systems. The team arguing in support of this proposition consisted of: Leif Azzopardi, Kalvero Järvelin, Jaap Kamps and Mark Smucker. Prior to this debate, these researchers organized a workshop at the *2010 SIGIR Conference* about this topic (see this issue for a report describing this workshop). The team arguing against this proposition consisted of: Nicholas J. Belkin, Pia Borlund, Ian Ruthven and Elaine Toms. Ross Todd was the moderator. The highly structured format of the debate required debaters to be concise and pointed with their responses, and to quickly respond to the arguments of their opponents. A vote followed the debate and many *IiX* participants commented positively about the format and content of the debate.

The *Human Computer Information Retrieval (HCIR)* workshop, which focuses on the intersection of human-computer interaction and search, was held in conjunction with *IiX* (see this issue for a report describing this workshop and <http://hcir.info> for additional information). This workshop attracted 70 attendees and the program consisted of a mix of activities, including a keynote, papers, posters, demonstrations and a design/evaluation challenge.

### 3 Proceedings

The *IiX'10* Proceedings contain the full text of all papers and posters, along with thumbnail images of the actual posters that were presented at the conference. The proceedings from *IiX'10* serve to benchmark current research about information interaction in context and provide a valuable reference for future research and teaching. Research about the general theme of the conference is typically found across a range of diverse publications. The *IiX'10* Proceedings, as well as previous *IiX* Proceedings, provide interested researchers and students easier access to this material. All of these Proceedings can be accessed through the *ACM Digital Library*: <http://portal.acm.org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/event.cfm?id=RE296&CFID=116063653&CFTOKEN=17359967>.

### 4 IiX'12

The fourth *Information Interaction in Context Symposium* will be held in August 2012 in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.