
From the Chair...

Earlier this year, SIGIR members elected a new Executive Committee, which took office for a three-year term on July 1. I would like to thank the outgoing Executive Committee for their service: James Allan (Chair), Ian Ruthven (Vice-Chair), Ian Soboroff (Treasurer), Andrew Trotman (Secretary) and Elizabeth Liddy (Past Chair). Service on the Executive Committee represents a substantial investment in time and energy, including a surprising volume of email to handle, and we very much appreciate their hard work over the past three years.

Along with myself as Chair, your new Executive Committee members are Yoelle Maarek (Vice-Chair), Diane Kelly (Treasurer), and Jaap Kamps (Secretary). James will continue on the Executive as Past Chair. I particularly thank James for helping to make the transition smooth and painless. The new Executive is still busy learning what's what, but we're always happy to hear from you with any questions or concerns.

We count on many volunteers to keep SIGIR running. This year, Djoerd Hiemstra stepped down as our Information Director, and we thank him for everything he did to keep our information services up and running. We also welcome Krisztian Balog, who has volunteered as our new Information Director. Other volunteers organize conferences, review papers, serve on committees, edit newsletters, and do countless other tasks. The continuing strength of the SIGIR community depends on these many thousands of hours of volunteer work. If you'd like to help out, please let us know.

SIGIR 2013 was held in Dublin, Ireland at the end of July. Along with a very strong technical program, we also had a few good parties, including a reception at the Guinness Storehouse and a wild night of Irish dancing at the banquet. General Chairs Gareth Jones and Praic Sheridan, along with their entire teams of organizers, did a fabulous job. We couldn't have felt more welcome.

At the SIGIR 2013 business meeting, we announced the location of SIGIR 2016, which will be held in Pisa, Italy with Fabrizio Sebastiani as General Chair. Other upcoming conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by SIGIR include WSDM 2014 (New York City), SIGIR 2014 (Gold Coast, Australia), TPDF/JCDL 2014 (London), CIKM 2014 (Shanghai), and SIGIR 2015 (Santiago, Chile). If you're interested in hosting one of our sponsored conferences, we'd like to hear from you.

SIGIR has a long history of supporting students and student conference travel, which we hope to expand. The SIGIR friends program offers funding to support events related to SIGIR's mission, particularly to facilitate student participation in these events. Such events can include small workshops and regional events directly related to information retrieval. We provide support of up to US\$5000. If you'd like to submit a proposal, you can find more information on our website (sigir.org/friends.html). We look forward to working with you over the next three years.

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