
FROM THE CHAIR

In April, I was thrilled to learn that the ACM had selected Sue Dumais as the ACM-W Athena Award Lecturer for 2014-15. The ACM-W Athena Award celebrates women researchers who have made fundamental contributions to Computer Science. Sue is a long-standing member of our community, making many theoretical and applied contributions across our field. In 2009 she was awarded SIGIR's highest honor, the Salton Award. She has also served as PC Chair for SIGIR and as Chair of our Executive Committee. Sue will give her Athena Lecture in July at SIGIR 2014 in the Gold Coast, Australia. Congratulations, Sue!

Also in early 2014, we officially welcomed the International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR) into the family of conferences we sponsor and co-sponsor. ICTIR grew from a series of SIGIR workshops on mathematical and formal methods for IR, regularly held during the years 2000 to 2005, and organized by Sándor Dominich, Keith van Rijsbergen, Mounia Lalmas, and Iadh Ounis. In 2007, ICTIR was founded as a fully independent conference by Keith and Sándor, held in Budapest. Since then, ICTIR has been held bi-annually in Cambridge (2009), Bertinoro, Italy (2011) and Copenhagen (2013). Over these years, ICTIR was supported by the BCS-IRSG, and this support will continue, with SIGIR as a new partner and sponsor. I thank the many people involved with the BCS-IRSG who helped to make this relationship happen, particularly John Tait.

The first SIGIR-sponsored ICTIR will be held at a venue close to Amherst, Massachusetts in September 2015, with James Allan and Bruce Croft as the General Chairs. This location was selected by a new conference steering committee headed by Oren Kurland. ChengXiang Zhai and Arjen de Vries will be the PC Chairs for full papers; Norbert Fuhr and Yi Zhang will be the PC Chairs for short papers. Submissions are due in May 2015, with more information available at ictir2015.org. I thank Bruce and James for their tremendous work in bringing ICTIR to North America as a SIGIR-sponsored conference.

Starting in 2015, ICTIR becomes an annual conference. In future years, ICTIR will rotate around the world, following a pattern similar to that of other SIGIR-sponsored conferences, while maintaining an awareness of the dates and locations of these other conferences. If you would like to host ICTIR in 2016, or some other time in the future, please contact Oren. He will also be happy to answer any other questions you might have.

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I was amazed to realize that we're sponsoring conferences on four different continents this year. A very successful WSDM was held in New York in late February. SIGIR will be held on the Gold Coast of Australia in early July. In September, JCDL will be held jointly with TPDL in London. In early November, CIKM will be held in Shanghai.

I hope to see you somewhere in the world in the coming months, but please contact me any time if you have questions or comments about SIGIR.

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