
From the Chair...

At our annual business meeting this July, we were pleased to announce the creation of the ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR). In this issue of Forum, the chair of the new CHIIR steering committee, Ryen White, provides us with some information on the conference, which will be held for the first time in 2016. CHIIR represents the merger of IiX and HCIR, two existing related conferences. IiX (Information Interaction in Context conference) grew out of a workshop organized by Peter Ingwersen, Nick Belken and Kal Järvelin at SIGIR in 2004 and 2005. In 2006, IiX became an independent event organized by Peter, Pia Borlund, and Ian Ruthven in Copenhagen, and it has been held biannually since. The first HCIR (symposium on Human-Computer Interaction and Information Retrieval) was organized by Michael Bernstein and Robin Stewart at MIT in 2007. Under the guidance of Bill Kules, Daniel Tunkelang, Ryen, and others, HCIR became an annual conference held from 2008–2013.

Earlier this year, Peter Ingwersen initiated a special task-force to discuss the possibility of merging HCIR and IiX. The task-force was chaired by Diane Kelly (representing IiX) and consisted of the following members: Robert Capra (HCIR), Peter Ingwersen (IiX), Ian Ruthven (IiX), Catherine Smith (HCIR) and Ryen White (HCIR). Through the task-force's efforts, a charter was created for CHIR, which was then proposed to SIGIR for sponsorship. The SIGIR Executive Committee was very happy to receive the proposal and to welcome CHIIR to our family of sponsored and co-sponsored conferences. My thanks to the task-force for making CHIIR a reality. I'm looking forward to attending the conference in 2016.

CHIIR joins ICTIR and SIGIR itself as our third sole-sponsored conference. At the business meeting, we announced that SIGIR 2017 will be organized in Tokyo by Noriko Kando, Tetsuya Sakai, and Hideo Joho. We also heard informal proposals from several groups hoping to host SIGIR 2018 in the Americas. In 2019, SIGIR moves back to the Europe/Africa region. If you might be interested in hosting SIGIR in 2019, or another year, please get in touch.

At the SIGIR banquet we announced the first recipient of a new SIGIR Test-of-Time Award, to be awarded annually to a SIGIR paper from ten-to-twelve years ago, recognized as having made a substantial and lasting contribution to IR. The award went to Cheng XiangZhai, William W. Cohen and John Lafferty for their SIGIR 2003 paper "Beyond independent relevance: Methods and evaluation metrics for subtopic retrieval." We also announced honorable mentions for three papers from SIGIR 2002. For this first year, the award was restricted to papers published at SIGIR itself, but we are working to broaden the award to all SIGIR-sponsored conferences. In this issue, Fernando Diaz, our Awards Chair, provides some additional information about the new award, including a full list of the papers receiving honorable mentions and details about our plans going forward.

SIGIR is sponsoring or co-sponsoring five conferences in 2015. In February, WSDM will be held in Shanghai. In June, JCDL will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee. In August, SIGIR will be held in Santiago, Chile. For the first time this year, SIGIR will sponsor ICTIR, which will be held in Northampton, Massachusetts in September. In October, CIKM will be held in Melbourne, Australia. I look forward to seeing you somewhere in world in the New Year. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me, or any other member of the Executive Committee.

Charles Clarke
Chair of the SIGIR Executive Committee
chair_SIGIR@acm.org