

The ACM SIGIR International Conference on Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR)

<http://sigir.org/general-information/hosting-ictir/>

The International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR) provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of research related to the foundational aspects of Information Retrieval (IR), including, for example, new or improved models of relevance, ranking, representation, information needs, and evaluation. The need for formal frameworks is universal across the many applications of information retrieval. In addition to the established approaches in IR, the conference encourages the submission of papers that are attempting to define new tasks, develop new search paradigms, or apply methods from related disciplines, such as natural language processing, machine learning, statistics, or quantum mechanics. Large-scale experimental studies are not required for ICTIR papers, although solid evidence (theoretical or empirical) in support of new theories is expected.

ICTIR grew from a series of SIGIR workshops on mathematical and formal methods for IR held during the years 2000 to 2005 and organized by Sándor Dominich, Keith van Rijsbergen, Mounia Lalmas, and Iadh Ounis. In 2007, ICTIR became a full conference founded by Keith and Sándor. Until 2013, ICTIR was held biennially: 2007 (Budapest, Hungary), 2009 (Cambridge, UK), 2011 (Bertinoro, Italy) and 2013 (Copenhagen, Denmark). ICTIR has been supported by the BCS-IRSG throughout these years.

In 2014, ICTIR became a fully-sponsored ACM conference with BCS-IRSG maintaining its support. Starting in 2015, ICTIR will be held annually.

In September 2015, ICTIR was hosted by the Center for Intelligent Information Retrieval, University of Massachusetts Amherst. The conference chairs were James Allan and Bruce Croft. The conference had 93 registrants and was very successful. (See <http://ictir2015.org/> for further details.)

ICTIR 2016 will be held at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, in September of 2016, co-chaired by Ben Carterette and Hui Fang. Delaware is very easy to reach; Philadelphia International Airport, served by direct flights from all over Europe and the Middle East, is only a 45-minute drive away. Program chairs Mounia Lalmas and Jian-Yun Nie, along with short paper chairs Fernando Diaz and Stefano Mizzaro, will continue to ensure that ICTIR has a strong slate of foundational work.

The ICTIR steering committee is currently soliciting bids for organizing ICTIR 2017 and 2018. Information regarding bid submissions is available at: <http://sigir.org/general-information/hosting-ictir>.

ICTIR Steering Committee

Leif Azzopardi, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Peter Bruza, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Susan Dumais, Microsoft Research, USA

Jaap Kamps, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (SIGIR representative)

Oren Kurland, Technion, Israel (chair)

Birger Larsen, Aalborg University, Denmark

Donald Metzler, Google, USA

Stefan Ruger, The Open University, UK (BCS-IRSG representative)

ICTIR Honorary Chair: Keith van Rijsbergen