Letter from the Chair

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Greetings SIGIR Community! We are very excited for SIGIR 2025 beginning in just a few weeks in Padova Italy (July 13-17), co-located with ICTIR (July 18) (serendipitously happening at the same time as the Iron Maiden Run for Your Lives World Tour (concert in Padova July 13)).

The ACM, including SIGIR, remains committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and this year we successfully petitioned the ACM to add caste as a protected group to the ACM's DEI statement. For more information about DEI and the ACM, please see https://www.acm.org/diversity-inclusion. If you are interested in promoting DEI at SIGIR, we are currently seeking volunteers to lead the SIGIR DEI initiatives. Please reach out to exec_SIGIR@acm.org for more information.

In the last three years we experimented with adding a few new volunteer roles (Community Relations Coordinator intended to serve as a contact point for folks wishing to organize social events at the conferences), and separated the roles of Information Director and IRList Moderator. We get an 'E' for Effort on that - it was a good thought. Moving forward we will merge the three roles to the Information Director role, to be shared by two volunteers. We are currently considering the role of the Student Affairs Chairs, as the conferences usually have their own Student Affairs Chairs, and it is not clear that the role is needed at the SIG level.

The Exec Committee began two initiatives that will be picked up by the next Exec Committee. The first is a revamp of the of the sigir.org website to make it more functional, and to highlight current activities. The second is a re-examination of the reviewing process. We have taken feedback from the community, and talked to other organizations about their processes and efforts to improve the quality of reviews, and how they transitioned from an annual submission model, to rolling submission deadlines, revise and resubmit, open review, etc.

The Gerard Salton Award Committee suggested to change the cadence of the award from every three years to every two, because the community is now large enough to support the additional awards. The Gerard Salton Award is SIGIR's highest honor. It recognizes those who have made significant, sustained and continuing contributions to research in information retrieval. The Salton Award honored **Ellen Voorhees** in 2024 for her contributions to the systematic evaluation of information retrieval systems at scale. The next award will be in 2026.

We would like to congratulate the new members of the SIGIR Academy: **David Carmel**, **Evgeniy Gabrilovich**. **Don Metzler**, **Chirag Shah**, **Ian Soboroff**, and **Min Zhang**. Thank you to committee Chairs **Yoelle Maaek** and **Marc Najork**, and members of the Selection Committee: **Tetsuya Sakai**, **Yiming Yang**, **Mounia Lalmas**, **Jimmy Lin**, **Yiqun Liu**, **Jian-**

Yun Nie, and **Justin Zobel**. More information can be found at https://sigir.org/awards/sigir-academy/.

Upcoming Events

This year **SIGIR-AP 2025**[1] will be held in Xi'an, China December 7-10. Tutorial proposals are due September 5. **CHIIR 2026**[2] will be held in Seattle, Washington, March 22-26.

SIGIR 2025 is here![3] (chaired by **Nicola Ferro, Maria Maistro** and **Gabriella Pasi**), along with **ICTIR** (chaired by **Hamed Zamani**), in Padova, Italy. We look forward to seeing many of you in Padova. SIGIR 2026 will be in Melbourne, Australia, General Chairs **Alistair Moffat** and **Falk Scholer**. The location of SIGIR 2027 will be announced at the SIGIR 2025 business meeting.

ACM Open Access

By the end of 2025, the ACM will have fully transitioned to an open access model. To remain "revenue neutral", to cover the costs of publication, institutions will pay tiered rates based on the number of publications in ACM venues affiliated with the institution. More specifically, it is determined by the average number of its affiliated corresponding authored peer-reviewed research articles published in ACM publications over the last 3 full-year period. To see whether your institution is participating, please visit [4]. If your institution is currently not participating, you may qualify for a need-based waiver. Write to apcwaivers@acm.org to request a waiver. For more information please visit the ACM website [5], or for a more concise explanation visit https://medium.com/sigchi/about-acm-open-cd544408559c.

SIGIR Volunteers and Officers

Most of the volunteer positions are three year terms, and are ready for a change of hands. Volunteering is a great way to get to know, and be known by, the community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Exec Committee (exec_SIGIR@acm,org)!

Thank you

SIGIR sits on the shoulders of its volunteers. We would like to thank SIGIR Academy Chairs **Yoelle Maarek** and **Marc Najork**, Awards Chairs **Mark Sanderson** and **Hamed Zamani**, and Early Career Awards Chair **James Allan**. A thank you also to Sustainability Chairs **Tetsuya Sakai** and **Paul Thomas**, Student Affairs Chairs **Maria Maistro** and **Qingyao Ai**, Student Travel Chair **Sole Pera** and Community Relations Coordinator **Bhaskar Mitra**. We would also

[1] https://www.sigir-ap.org/sigir-ap-2025/
[2] https://chiir2026.github.io/index.html
[3] https://sigir2025.dei.unipd.it/
[4] https://libraries.acm.org/acmopen/open-participants
[5] https://authors.acm.org/open-access

like to thank DEI Chair **Hussein Suleman**, Women in IR Chair **Gabriella Pasi**, Information Director **Joel MacKenzie**, who recently stepped up, SIGIR Historian **Donna Harman** and SIGIR Forum Editors **Tirthankar Ghosal**, **Josiane Mothe**, and **Julián Urbano**. If you are interested in volunteering, please let the Executive Committee know. You can contact the Exec Committee at exec_SIGIR@sigir.org.

A Big Welcome to the New Executive Committee!

This is my final Letter from the Chair. Thank you for the honor of serving as your Chair for the last three years. This has been an interesting time for the field of IR, as we move into a new information landscape brought to us by generative AI.

The SIGIR Executive Committee (currently myself, Chair; **Ryen White**, Vice-Chair; **Carsten Eickhoff**, Treasurer; **Laura Dietz**, Secretary; **Ben Carterette**, Past Chair) terms end July 1, 2025. We are handling the reins to **Nicola Ferro** (Chair), **Yi Zhang** (Vice-Chair), **Chirag Shah** (Treasurer) and **Bhaskar Mitra** (Secretary). (I will continue to serve on the committee as Past Chair.) This will be an extremely strong and experienced Executive Committee. Each of these folks has a long history of leadership and contributions to the SIGIR community.

As always, thank you all for your ideas, input and enthusiasm! The organization is in exceptionally good hands with Nicola, Yi, Chirag and Bhaskar.

Vanessa Murdock
Chair, ACM SIGIR Executive Committee