Invited Talks

Time-Biased Gain
Charles L. A. Clarke (University of Waterloo)

Time-biased gain provides a unifying framework for information retrieval evaluation, generalizing many traditional effectiveness measures while accommodating aspects of user behaviour not captured by these measures. By using time as a basis for calibration against actual user data, time-biased gain can reflect aspects of the search process that directly impact user experience, including document length, near-duplicate documents, and summaries. Unlike traditional measures, which must be arbitrarily normalized for averaging purposes, time-biased gain is reported in meaningful units, such as the total number of relevant documents seen by the user. In work reported at SIGIR 2012, we proposed and validated a closed-form equation for estimating time-biased gain, explored its properties, and compared it to standard approaches. In work reported at CIKM 2012, we used stochastic simulation to numerically approximate time-biased gain, an approach that provides greater flexibility, allowing us to accommodate different types of user behaviour and increases the realism of the effectiveness measure. In work reported at HCIR 2012, we extended our stochastic simulation to model the variation between users. In this talk, I will provide an overview of time-biased gain, and outline our ongoing and future work, including extensions to evaluate query suggestion, diversity, and whole-page relevance. This is joint work with Mark Smucker.

The Challenges of Building Online Community Museums
Nigel Stanger (University of Otago)

Over the past few years I have been involved in the development of online museums for two different communities in Central Otago, New Zealand. Developing digital archives for the general public raises some interesting issues, including usability, copyright, curation of items, and potentially dealing with unusual document types. In this talk I will discuss these and other issues, and chronicle the development of both museums.

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Proceedings of the Seventeenth Australasian Document Computing Symposium
University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand
5-6 December 2012

Chair's Preface

These proceedings contain the papers of the Seventeenth Australasian Document Computing Symposium hosted by the University of Otago and held in Dunedin, New Zealand.

The quality of submissions was again very high this year. Of the 24 papers submitted, 11 were accepted for full presentation at the symposium (46%) and 8 were accepted for short presentation (32%). The full written version of each submission received three anonymous reviews by independent, qualified international experts in the area. Dual submissions were explicitly prohibited.

We would like to thank the members of the program committee for their reviewing efforts. We would also like to thank ACM SIGIR, Google, NICTA, Bing, Funnelback, and the University of Otago for their generous support of the event.

The symposium includes many formal presentations, but perhaps its greatest benefit lies in the opportunity it provides for document computing practitioners and researchers to get together and informally share ideas. Once again we have collocated with The Australasian Language Technology Workshop (ALTA), sharing a joint paper session, a poster session, and social events.

Andrew Trotman (Chair)
7 November 2012

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