

# **Notes from 2019 GC**

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# Documents

- Lack of documents (at the beginning of the 2019 term)
  - ACL Conference Handbook
  - Take home messages from 2018 GC
  - Reports from 2018 PCs, Student Award Chairs, Childcare Chairs
  - Monthly brief reports by 2016 GC
- Lists of action items, potential issues, FAQs, etc. should be created and inherited (I will encourage 2019 chairs to make some)
  - e.g., Questions from WS organizers:
    - Beginning and end of the day fixed already?
    - Breakfast, coffees and lunch provided by EMNLP onsite?
    - Schedule of breakfast, lunch break, etc?
    - Dimensions of the poster?
    - Remote presentations technically feasible?
    - Extension of the deadline for the workshop schedule?
    - Metadata to provide with the schedule order file?
    - Voucher for the free registration includes main conference?
    - ISBN numbers for our workshop proceedings?
    - Possible to print poster in or close to the venue?

# Publication

- Workload increases exponentially
  - Requests to update camera-ready after the deadline (60-70 out of 680)
  - Format error: Contact all the authors whose papers are not compliant (around 20%!)
    - Material may not appear outside the margins, or within the column break (figures, tables, equations, author names, etc.)
    - Images must be legible in grayscale
- Needs more resources
  - Pub chairs
    - 2018: 1 Senior + 1 Junior
    - 2019: 1 Senior + 2 Juniors
  - What can be done? It is a matter of money?
    - Hire more co-pub chairs to fulfill the requirement
    - Recruit helpers to manage ACL anthology
    - Outsource to part-time staff

# Space

- Hard to estimate the number of attendees precisely
  - EMNLP 2019:
    - Initial estimation: 1400~1600
    - HK issue: ????
    - Early registrations: 1700+
    - Reality: 1900+
  - Reallocated rooms for both main conf and workshops after early registration due
- “Plan B” of room allocation should be prepared in case registrations go beyond initial estimate?

# Workshop/tutorial oversubscription

- EMNLP (but \*not\* ACL or NAACL?) allows registrants to sign up for as many workshop/tutorials that they want. Many people greatly oversubscribe. (from Ellen)
- Stats of EMNLP 2019

	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	W1	W2
Day	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1&2	1
	AM	AM	PM	PM	AM	AM	PM	PM		
(1) counts	96	47	66	56	36	38	52	29	88	28
(2) double counted	215	94	149	164	151	195	261	100	95	44
(3) triple counted	164	81	145	138	139	168	224	94	318	32
<b>total (1)+(2)+(3)</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>rough estimate (1)+(2)/2+(3)/3</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>61</b>

# Remote presentation

- Tried to discourage non-essential requests
  - EMNLP-IJCNLP 2019 will be accepting applications for remote presentations in circumstances where none of the authors can attend the conference due to reasons such as:
    - illness, disability, or any other reason that physically prevent attending,
    - visa issues or government travel restrictions that legally prevent attending,
    - special circumstances such as death in immediate family.
  - Excessive remote presentations change the character of the conference, and we wish to provide a positive experience for the conference attendees.
  - Please refrain from requesting remote presenting for personal reasons or for reasons regarding the demonstrations in Hong Kong.
- Applications
  - Oral: 9 (out of 212)
  - Poster: 13 (471), Demo: 2 (44)
  - Workshop: 7
  - All accepted (Most are due to visa issues)

# Diversity & Inclusion

- Several new initiatives for D&I launched at NAACL 2019
- EMNLP 2019 appointed D&I Chairs to follow/enhance those initiatives
- To be presented by Jackie (D&I Co-chair)

# Communication in the committee

- Excessively relied on email communications
  - Overwhelming messages
    - GC sent out 1700+ emails
  - Lack of place to stock important info, fixed agenda
- wiki? slack? trello?
  - ACL 2020 trying slack?