Synergistic Activities
Kenneth Church

1. Team leader for JSALT (2023 Jelinek Summer Workshop on Speech and Language Technology), an 8-week program in France. Our team worked on methods for combining Specter embeddings and ProNE embeddings for academic search.
2. Honors: Fellow of ACM (2023), Fellow of ACL (2015), a founder of EMNLP (and president of EMNLP's ACL SIGDAT from 1993 to 2011), President of ACL (2012), AT&T Fellow (2001)
3. Advisor for VecML.com, a start-up company founded by co-author and former intern student, Ping Li. This company works on vector databases, approximate nearest neighbors, chatbots, RAG. They are deploying such functionality both in the cloud as well as at the edge (phones and laptops).
4. Tutorials, Surveys & Workshops: Gave tutorials at ACL-2022, CIKM-2023, WSDM-2023; Write the Emerging Trends column for Journal of Natural Language Engineering which includes tutorials and surveys; Organize workshop such as WVLC-93 which evolved into EMNLP, and more recently a workshop at ACL-2021 on benchmarking. Since that was during COVID, talks and discussions on Zoom are posted on GitHub under kwchurch.
5. Early advocate of empiricism; author of Church & Hanks (1990), paper that introduced what is now known as PMI (pointwise mutual information). PMI, Word2vec and BERT are all based on collocations in lexicography, following Firth's famous quote, "You shall know a word by the company it keeps."