ACM SIGIR 2019 Chairs' Welcome

Welcome to SIGIR 2019, the 42nd Annual International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval, the premier scientific conference in the broad area of information retrieval. We are delighted to welcome you to the Museum of Science and Industry located in the north-east of Paris. The conference is supported by the French Association for Information Retrieval and Applications, which organizes the yearly French IR conference. Its members actively participated in the organization of this conference.

We received good quality submissions in all tracks and events: full papers, short papers, demos, industry papers, tutorials, workshops, and the doctoral consortium. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the paper selection process, including 100 Senior Program Committee (SPC) members, 317 Program Committee (PC) members, and 80 additional reviewers for their contributions to paper selection.

For the full paper track, we had 426 valid submissions, out of which 84 papers were accepted. We were happy to observe the highest number of submissions since 2013, again passing the 400 submission bar (as started last year with 409 valid submissions). This trend suggests a renewed interest in our field, and we hope that we will soon again exceed 500 submissions as in 2010 (Geneva) and 2011 (Beijing). In terms of acceptance rate, we reached 19.7%, which is in the range [15.5% - 21.5%] of past acceptance rates.

The submissions were made by 1480 authors from 38 countries: 141 papers were contributed by 557 authors from China (taking all author affiliations of each paper equally into account), 99 papers by 323 authors from the United States, and 186 papers by 600 authors from the rest of the world. The top five countries in terms of accepted papers are: China (36), the United States (22), Australia (4.7), Singapore (3.8) and Netherlands (3.2). In terms of acceptance rate, Chile (83%), Denmark (44%), Finland (44%), the Netherlands (44%), and Australia (30%) were the top five countries. Among the topic areas, Content Analysis, Recommenda-tion and Classification is the most popular area (with 197 submissions and 34 accepted papers), followed by Search and Ranking (127 submissions and 26 accepted), Artificial Intelligence, Semantics, and Dialog (94 submissions and 18 accepted), Domain-Specific Applications (82 submissions and 10 accepted), Human Factors and Interfaces (45 submissions and 11 accepted), Future Directions (41 submissions and 4 accepted) and Evaluation (31 submissions and 7 accepted).

SIGIR 2019 used a two-tier double-blind review process. For all papers, 3 PC members and 1 SPC member were assigned to provide first-round reviews. Subsequently, if the SPC member believed that the review process would benefit from additional expert opinion, a further SPC member was assigned to provide a second-round review. The first SPC would then make a preliminary recommendation. The recommenda-tions, reviews and discussions held on EasyChair between all assigned SPC and PC members were carefully examined and final acceptance decisions made at the in-person PC meeting held in Köln, Germany, on April 11-12, 2019. Video conferencing was provided at the PC meeting to allow remote participation of additional SPC members. The program committee carefully reviewed all 426 valid submissions, and each received three or more reviews and a metareview. 32 additional reviews were then conducted by the SPC members, which provided further feedback to the authors of the discussed papers.

We received 443 short paper submissions and accepted 108 (24%) of them. A two-tier double-blind review process was followed, and each paper was assigned 3 PC members and 1 SPC member. The SPC made a preliminary recommendation. As for long papers, recommendations, reviews and discussions were carefully examined and final acceptance decisions were also made at the in-person PC meeting. The short paper chairs were Zhicheng Dou, Mounia Lalmas and Marc Najork.

We received 46 submissions for demonstrations and accepted 21 (45%) of them. Demonstration proposals could optionally include online materials. The demo chairs were Arjen P. de Vries and Tie-Yan Liu.

This year's industry track - Symposium on IR in Practice (SIRIP) includes two keynotes, three invited talks, nine accepted talks (75% acceptance rate) and a panel to be held in the primary session. SIRIP was chaired by Isabelle Moulinier and Hugo Zaragoza, and helped by a committee of seven academic and industry experts.

Fourteen student submissions were accepted for the doctoral consortium, chaired by Gabriella Kazai and Charles Clarke.

Thirteen out of nineteen (68%) tutorial proposals were accepted. Among these, three were merged into one full-day tutorial, giving a total of eleven tutorials (three full-day and eight half-day) to be presented at the conference. The tutorial chairs were Yashar Moshfeghi and Min Zhang.

Nineteen workshop proposals were received, of which 8 (42%) were accepted. Claudia Hauff and Tat-Seng Chua chaired the workshop review process.

This year's conference program also includes presentations for 31 papers from ACM Transactions on Information Systems volume 36 (12 oral and 19 poster presentations), continuing the tradition of supporting knowledge transfer.

We sincerely thank all of the track chairs, the program committee members, the senior committee members, the reviewers, and the best paper selection committee (chaired by Evgeniy Gabrilovich) for all of their hard work and contributions in creating an outstanding technical program for SIGIR 2019.

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