

▼ Information Retrieval and Search Effectiveness Minitrack

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This minitrack addresses a broad range of issues related to the design of the next generation of information retrieval systems, especially related to improving web search effectiveness from the user perspective. The core of this research is how to help the user access and make use of digital data. These issues are of prime interest to researchers, developers, and information managers. The multidisciplinary nature of this emerging area allows us to engage as a community of participants with a wide range of interests, including retrieval design, HCI, information seeking behavior, and information management.

Information Retrieval supports the computerized search of large document and digital media collections (millions or billions of items) to select small subsets of those documents relevant to a user's information need. Such algorithms are the basis for internet search engines and question-answering systems. At the same time, we know relatively little about the users who deal with a multi-billion-page Web. Further research is needed to address the user issues related to effectiveness and quality of experience when interacting with search engines. New metrics and methodologies are needed for retrieval evaluation as both the data sets of interest and user expectations grow exponentially. A focus on the user perspective allows us to align the user focus and the system focus in a multi-disciplinary forum that includes theoretical foundations, evaluation

measures, methodologies, case studies and user study results.

This year in the Information Retrieval and Search Effectiveness Minitrack we present papers that bring to the fore this multidisciplinary approach. Two papers, *An Evaluation of How Search Engines Respond to Greek Language Queries* and *Cross-Language Information Retrieval by Domain Restriction using Web Directory*, address the emerging area of multi-lingual access to Web documents. Two papers are related to specialized searching needs of the user. The paper, *Document Retrieval using Proximity-based Phrase Searching*, focuses on improving the results of phrase searching on the Web using post search algorithms to rerank generic results and the paper, *Video Content Description Using Fuzzy Spatio-Temporal Relations*, examines support for queries based on video content. Two papers examine the patterns of search behavior of users. The paper, *Automatic New Topic Identification in Search Engine Transaction Logs using Multiple Linear Regression*, examines the emerging area of topic shifting and multitasking of users during Web search sessions and the paper, *Relationship between Uncertainty and Patterns of Pre-purchase Consumer Search in Electronic Markets*, examines the impact of uncertainty of the user on user search behavior.