Welcome Message from Technical Program Chairs

We are very pleased to present the technical program we have prepared for this 13th edition of ICDAR. We are so pleased to have received over 400 submissions (488 summaries submitted and 401 complete submissions in the end). The papers were submitted from 46 countries across the 5 continents: Africa (6 countries / 50 papers), Americas (4 countries / 35 papers), Asia (20 countries / 173 papers), Australia (1 country / 3 papers), and Europe (15 countries/140 papers).

In order to improve the quality of submissions as well the review process, we, as Technical Program Chairs, decided to organize this ICDAR’2015 edition into "areas". The topics of ICDAR were divided into areas, and the authors were instructed to submit their papers to the appropriate area. Each area was chaired by two chairs. Eight areas were created: (1) Character and symbol recognition, (2) Printed/Handwritten text recognition, (3) Graphics analysis and recognition, (4) Document analysis (5)Document understanding, (6) Historical documents and digital libraries, (7) Document based forensics, (8) Camera and video based scene text analysis. The distribution of 401 papers along with the assigned reviewers over the 8 areas is as follows: area 1: (45 papers / 12 reviewers), area 2: (106 papers / 28 reviewers), area 3: (24 papers / 7 reviewers), area 4: (81 papers / 18 reviewers), area 5: (48 papers / 12 reviewers), area 6: (40 papers / 14 reviewers), area 7: (26 papers / 7 reviewers) and area 8: (31 papers / 9 reviewers).

The area chairs mediated between the TP chairs and the PC Members, and had the mission to carefully monitor the reviewing process, such as pre-filtering of questionable papers, examining the reviews, exchanging views with PC members during rebuttal, solving possible contradictions between reviews, and preparing a meta-review for the TP chairs. Thus, each area contained a smaller number of papers belonging to the same theme, which could ensure better control of the quality of submissions and reviews. The role of the TP chairs was to manage the exchange with the authors and to send notifications. In addition, another nice feature was adopted for the second time in this ICDAR’2015 Edition: allocation of a period of rebuttal to allow the authors to respond to the reviewers' comments and concerns. The PC members had the ability to change or they could maintain their reviews. All these were done under the sharp eyes and coordination of the area chairs.

As part of the pre-screening three types of control were introduced in this ICDAR’2015 Edition: plagiarism, out of scope and non-conformity of the format. All papers were processed through an automatic plagiarism checker. The area chairs were instructed to examine the paper titles and abstracts, and when necessary the papers, to verify the topics were appropriate to ICDAR, and that the length and style were within the prescribed format specifications (primarily length). This reduced the number of papers assigned to the reviewers, and reduced the workload of the reviewers during the reviewing period. 52 papers were rejected during this screening process: 35 during the pre-screening and 17 afterwards, 13 for plagiarism, 26 for out-of-scope, and 13 for the non-conformity of the format.

Regarding the review process, the program committee was composed of 107 active colleagues in the scientific community from 23 countries. To this, were added 172 sub reviewers. For each paper, 3 reviews were requested, resulting in a total of 1,318 reviews. If reviews were missing on some papers, the area chairs assigned those to others reviewers or read the papers themselves. In case of conflicting reviews, here also, the area chairs asked for explanations from the reviewers and mediated between them. The area chairs also monitored the depth of the provided reviews and in many cases encouraged the reviewers to elaborate on their findings.
The results are overall good, maintaining a very decent selection level for a conference of rank A like ICDAR. From the results of each area, the area chairs sorted the papers into 6 categories: oral, probably oral, poster, probably poster, probably reject and reject. We selected 90 oral papers and 144 posters. 167 papers were rejected. In terms of rates, this gives 58.3% acceptance (22.4% oral, 35.9% poster) and 41.7% rejection. The papers accepted as oral will be presented in 17 sessions of 4, 5 or 6 papers per session. Papers accepted as posters will be presented in 3 sessions. Each poster session includes papers from all areas to keep consistency in the presentations.

The acceptance results per area are (#submissions/total acceptance): area 1: (45/22), area 2 (106/71), area 3 (24/11), area 4 (81/40), area 5 (48/30), area 6 (40/24), area 7 (26/18) and area 8 (31/17).

Similarly, the results per continent are (#submissions/total acceptance): Africa (49/15), Americas (35/15), Asia (173/97), Australia (3/3) and Europe (139/104).

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the area chairs for their careful and effective help. Their insight has allowed us to better control the reviewing process and achieve a good level of selection. We are also grateful to all the reviewers and sub-reviewers who were active and have often made very relevant reviews.

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ICDAR’2015 Technical Program Chairs