Welcome from the Program Chairs
ICDAR 2013

The Program Chairs are pleased to welcome you to ICDAR 2013. The technical program is, of course, the foundation of any conference, and ICDAR 2013 is no exception. As the Program Chairs, we take primary responsibility for deciding the program, but its content and quality derive from the vision and hard work of a large number of people.

We wish to thank the authors for choosing ICDAR as the event where they want to present the results of their research. ICDAR in its 12th year has grown to be recognized as the venue of great impact and quality for presenting document research. This is largely because of the quality of the submissions. The Program Committee and the Reviewers deserve tremendous thanks for the critical job they did in helping to select the papers for this year’s conference. Their names are listed on the pages that follow as a small measure of our deep appreciation.

As the General Chairs have noted, we received a total of 429 submissions to the conference. We were joined by 97 distinguished members of the international research community from 18 different countries who served as the Program Committee. Reviews were assigned to Program Committee members through a bidding process based on technical expertise and interests, with each member receiving an average of 13 papers. Between the Program Committee and outside Reviewers, a total of 1,239 reviews were collected, with the vast majority of submissions receiving three reviews. These formed the basis for our acceptance decisions. For the first time we implemented a rebuttal phase to let authors clarify points with reviewers to try and remove minor misunderstandings. While there were certainly things that should be done better next time this is done, the general feedback was that it was a step in the right direction.

The final program is organized into three parallel tracks incorporating 23 oral sessions, three poster sessions, three keynote talks, and the results of the ICDAR competitions spread over three days. A total of 45 different countries are represented in the technical program. Again this year the greatest number of authors come from China, and France. They are followed by the United States, India, Japan, and Germany.

While in one sense our job as the Program Chairs is done after the papers have been selected and the program set, we eagerly look forward to seeing all of the members of our community in Washington. We want to thank the local organizing committee, the Executive Chairs, and the General Chairs for providing such an attractive venue for ICDAR 2013. Washington DC is a great city for ICDAR, and we have no doubt that this in part explains the large number of submissions we received for the conference. We hope that you find ICDAR 2013 an enjoyable and valuable experience.

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