Information Retrieval

Information retrieval is a dynamic area of research, which forms the basis for many of today's applications on the Internet. Without the retrieval strategies developed by the IR community we would be hopelessly lost.

This special issue of the Journal on Digital Information Management contains a selection of the papers accepted for the annually organized Dutch-Belgian Information Retrieval Workshop (DIR'5), which was held from 10-11 January 2005, in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The primary aim of the workshop is to provide an international meeting place where researchers, who are working in the domain of information retrieval and related disciplines, can exchange information and present new research developments. This year, there was a special interest in contributions focusing on multimedia- and structured document retrieval.

The articles cover a wide variety of topics within the information retrieval domain, and reflect the different views and ongoing developments in the field. Interesting to see is that a lot of effort is put in the development of new challenging test reference collections and evaluation measures in specific domains. The related articles in this issue discuss this for a number of domains, such as music retrieval, cross-lingual text retrieval, hierarchical topic detection, focused information retrieval, and temporal information retrieval. Besides those topics you will learn more about the automatic building of stop word lists, multi-document question answering, and how information retrieval can facilitate automated formulation of a physician's information need.

At this stage we would also like to thank the other Program Committee members, Anne Diekema, Theo Huibers, Franciska de Jong, and Marie-Francine Moens for their high quality reviews.

We hope that you will enjoy reading the special issue on Information Retrieval.

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