

Beyond Single-shot Text Queries: Bridging the Gap(s) between Research Communities (MindTheGap'14)

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Abstract

This workshop brings together researchers from different streams and communities that deal with information access in the widest sense. The general goal is to foster collaboration between the different communities and to showcase research that sits at the border between different areas of research.

Keywords: natural language processing, information retrieval, human-computer interaction

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1 Motivation

Our research communities are remarkably scattered. For an outsider it must seem obvious that information science (IS), information retrieval (IR), human-computer interaction (HCI) and natural language processing (NLP/HLT) go hand in hand. However, there is surprisingly little overlap between these communities, perhaps best illustrated by conducting a simple citation analysis of the papers published at the top annual conferences in each area which reveals that there is little cross-disciplinarity. Going deeper into the research conducted in each discipline we find that even the basic assumptions to access and utilise information vary from one field to another, e.g. while researchers in IR tend to start with the “bag-of-words” assumption, a researcher in NLP would never dare doing something like this; while information scientists often face structured documents that need to be accessed (e.g. digital libraries), such structures must first be acquired from a database of images created in a lifelogging scenario before any access is possible, and so on.

Users have started to become centre-stage of information access research even within the IR community (as illustrated by a substantial number of relevant papers presented at SIGIR 2013) but there is still a long way to go to identify and employ information systems that incorporate both state-of-the-art methods for information access, search, navigation as well as human computer interaction and user experience (one just needs to pick a few randomly selected university library catalogues as evidence). The reason we identified the iConference as the best place to organise the workshop is that the urge to integrate the user in the information access process is deeply integrated in the research conducted by some of the best known iSchool research groups, e.g. the idea of human-computer information retrieval developed by Gary Marchionini (UNC) and human-centered information retrieval identified by Nick Belkin (Rutgers). Some of these ideas have sparked a lot of interest in working at the interface between different disciplines and this has also been demonstrated by newly established conferences such as IiiX (Information Interaction in Context) and affected some of the primarily technical evaluation efforts in the IR community such as the Text Retrieval Conference (TREC) series, in particular the Interactive track and the Session track. Nevertheless, the majority of the researchers in the different fields remain ignorant of what is going on outside their main topics of interest and that is partly because there is no appropriate forum to bring these ideas together and discuss them. Ultimately there is a forum where researchers from different communities feel at home and exchange ideas for future research directions.

The workshop presents a mix of keynotes, submitted research papers/posters/demos and a panel discussion. We are very pleased to have Nick Belkin (Rutgers) as a keynote speaker at the workshop.

We issued a Call for Papers asking for submissions of position papers as well as novel research papers and posters/demos addressing problems at the interface of IS, IR, HCI and NLP listing these topics as a general guideline:

- Interactive IR
- Adaptive IR
- Recommender Systems
- Novel methods to access to digital libraries
- User studies
- User/group profiling
- Lifelogging
- Multimedia information access

All papers have been peer-reviewed by the programme committee consisting of experts drawn from the different communities guaranteeing a mix of industrial and academic backgrounds.

2 Programme Committee

- Leif Azzopardi, University of Glasgow (United Kingdom)
- Paul Clough, University of Sheffield (United Kingdom)
- Martin Halvey, Glasgow Caledonian University (United Kingdom)
- Hideo Joho, University of Tsukuba (Japan)
- Evangelos Kanoulas, Google (Switzerland)
- Jussi Karlgren, Gavagai (Sweden)
- Birger Larsen, Aalborg University (Denmark)
- Jochen Leidner, Thomson Reuters (United Kingdom)
- Gary Marchionini, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA)
- Doug Oard, University of Maryland (USA)
- Alan Said, CWI (The Netherlands)
- Klaus Schoeffmann, Klagenfurt University (Austria)
- Pavel Serdyukov, Yandex (Russia)
- Jialie Shen, Singapore Management University (Singapore)
- Ryen White, Microsoft Research (USA)
- Max Wilson, University of Nottingham (United Kingdom)

3 Workshop Site

More details about the workshop can be found at: <http://mindthegap2014.dai-labor.de/>