Search systems today are mostly viewed as tools to satisfy immediate information needs instead of complex information environments in which humans learn while interacting with information content. Research on the design, development and evaluation of search systems that foster learning and enhance the learning experience is scarce. Equally scarce is our current understanding of search as a human learning process. Opportunities exist today to not only observe and interpret users’ behavior through the lens of search logs but also to enrich this information with detailed multimodal data streams gathered by tracking devices and sensors.

In this special issue, we aim to provide a forum for researchers who explore the role of search in the learning process to examine challenging research questions, showcase the state-of-the-art and share breakthroughs.

**Topics of interest**

Topics of interest for this issue include but are not limited to:

- Log/lab-based studies on when and how learning occurs in the search process;
- The relationship between the learning process and searchers’ work task contexts;
- Search system features that foster learning (both searching to learn and learning to search);
- Search interface designs in support of learning;
- The implications of search for learning for different populations (children, low-literacy searchers, non-experts, etc.);
- The roles of affect and engagement on learning whilst searching;
- Methods and measures to assess searchers’ learning;
- Measuring learning outcomes to assess IR system performance;
- Learning analytics for search contexts;
- Collaborative aspects of search as learning;
- Interaction monitoring, modeling and optimization for learning outcomes.
**Special Issue Editors**

Carsten Eickhoff, ETH Zurich  
Jacek Gwizdka, University of Texas Austin  
Claudia Hauff, Delft University of Technology  
Jiyin He, Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI)

**Important Dates**

Initial submission due: October 15th, 2016  
Initial reviewer feedback: November 21st, 2016  
Revised submission due: December 21st, 2016  
Final decision: February 15th, 2017

**Paper Submission**

Papers submitted to this special issue for possible publication must be original and must not be under consideration for publication in any other journal or conference. Previously published or accepted conference papers must contain at least 30% new material to be considered for the special issue.

All papers are to be submitted by referring to [http://www.springer.com/10791](http://www.springer.com/10791) (submit online). At the beginning of the submission process in Editorial Manager, under “Article Type”, please select the appropriate special issue.

All manuscripts must be prepared according to the journal publication guidelines which can also be found on the website provided above. Papers will be evaluated following the journal's standard review process.

For inquiries on the above please contact Claudia Hauff, c.hauff@tudelft.nl.