

# Preface

These proceedings contain the full papers, short papers, and demonstrations selected for presentation at the 39th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2017). The event was organized by the School of Computing Science and Digital Media, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland. The conference was held during April 8–13, 2017, in Aberdeen, Scotland, UK.

ECIR 2017 received a total of 248 submissions in three categories: 135 full papers, 101 short papers, and 12 demonstrations. The geographical distribution of the authors was as follows: 53% were from Europe, 33% from Asia, 11% from North and South America, 1% from Australia, and 2% from Africa. All submissions were reviewed by at least three members of an international two-tier Program Committee. Of the full papers submitted to the conference, 36 were accepted for oral presentation (27% of the submitted ones). Of the short papers submitted to the conference, 35 were accepted for poster presentation (35% of the submitted ones). In addition, seven demonstrations (58% of the submitted ones) were accepted. The accepted contributions represent the state of the art in information retrieval, cover a diverse range of topics, propose novel applications, and indicate promising directions for future research. We thank all Program Committee members for their time and effort in ensuring the high quality of the ECIR 2017 program.

ECIR 2017 included a panel on “Information Retrieval” organized by Maarten DeRijke. The panel stems from the fact that information retrieval (IR) has always been concerned with retrieving the most relevant information from huge amounts of data including user interaction data. IR is in the midst of a radical paradigm shift, common also to many other research fields, in becoming an increasing data-driven science due to, for example, recent developments in deep learning, crowdsourcing, user interaction analysis, and so on. The goal of the panel was to discuss the emergent trends in this area, their advantages, their pitfalls, and their implications for the future of our field.

ECIR 2017 hosted one half-day tutorial: “Efficient Query Processing Infrastructure” by Nicola Tonellotto (Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell’Informazione, Italy) and Craig Macdonald (University of Glasgow, UK). In addition, ECIR 2017 hosted four workshops covering a range of IR topics. These workshops were:

- The Fifth International Workshop on Bibliometric-Enhanced Information Retrieval (BIR2017)
- Exploitation of Social Media for Emergency Relief and Preparedness (SMERP)
- The Second International Workshop on Online Safety, Trust and Fraud Prevention (OnST’2017)
- Social Media for Personalization and Search (SoMePeAS)

Short descriptions of these workshops and tutorial are included in the proceedings. In addition, a doctoral consortium was organized on the first day of the conference.

We would like to thank our invited speakers for their contributions to the program: Laura Dietz (University of New Hampshire, USA), Jaime Teevan (Microsoft Research), and Alexander Hauptmann (CMU). We are grateful to the panel led by Stefan Ruger for selecting the recipient of the 2016 Microsoft BCS/BCS IRSG Karen Sparck Jones Award, and we congratulate Jaime Teevan on receiving this award. In addition, we are continuing with the Test of Time Award, to recognize research that had long-standing influence. We thank Norbert Fuhr for chairing this committee.

The final day of the conference was dedicated to the Industry Day; it brought together academic researchers and industry by offering a mix of invited talks by industry leaders and presentations of novel and innovative ideas from research. Finally, ECIR 2017 would not have been possible without the generous financial support from our sponsors. We thank all of these sponsors.

February 2017

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-56607-8>

Advances in Information Retrieval

39th European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2017,  
Aberdeen, UK, April 8-13, 2017, Proceedings

Jose, J.M.; Hauff, C.; Altingövde, I.S.; Song, D.; Albakour,  
D.; Watt, S.; Tait, J. (Eds.)

2017, XXXI, 799 p. 146 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-56607-8