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# Multilingual and Multimodal Information Access Evaluation

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In its first ten years of activities (2000-2009), the Cross-Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF) played a leading role in stimulating investigation and research in a wide range of key areas in the information retrieval domain, such as cross-language question answering, image and geographic information retrieval, interactive retrieval, and many more. It also promoted the study and implementation of appropriate evaluation methodologies for these diverse types of tasks and - dia. As a result, CLEF has been extremely successful in building a wide, strong, and multidisciplinary research community, which covers and spans the different areas of expertise needed to deal with the spread of CLEF tracks and tasks. This constantly growing and almost completely voluntary community has dedicated an incredible amount of effort to making CLEF happen and is at the core of the CLEF achievements. CLEF 2010 represented a radical innovation of the "classic CLEF" format and an experiment aimed at understanding how "next generation" evaluation campaigns might be structured. We had to face the problem of how to innovate CLEF while still preserving its traditional core business, namely the benchmarking activities carried out in the various tracks and tasks. The consensus, after lively and community-wide discussions, was to make CLEF an independent four-day event, no longer organized in conjunction with the European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries (ECDL) where CLEF has been running as a two-and-a-half-day workshop. CLEF 2010 thus consisted of two main parts: a peer-reviewed conference – the first two days – and a series of laboratories and workshops – the second two days.

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