ECIR 2016 CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Papers, Demos, Workshops and Tutorials

The 38th European Conference on Information Retrieval
Padua, Italy
March 20-23, 2016
http://ecir2016.dei.unipd.it/
https://twitter.com/ecir2016

The 38th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2016) will take place in Padua, Italy from 20-23 March 2016. ECIR is the main European forum for the presentation of new research results in the field of Information Retrieval (IR).

ECIR encourages the submission of high quality research papers reporting original, previously unpublished results. With the rapidly increasing amount of data produced in the world and the increasing adoption of IR techniques beyond the traditional search for documents, papers on IR applied to eScience and to the Internet of Things are particularly encouraged.

ECIR has a strong student focus, hence papers whose sole or main author is a postgraduate student are especially welcome. Through the student mentoring programme, PhD students can request the assistance of a mentor, who can give advice and suggest improvements to an almost complete paper. More details on the student mentoring programme are on the website.

FULL PAPERS AND SHORT PAPERS

We are seeking the submission of high-quality and original full papers, short papers and demos. Submissions will be reviewed by experts on the basis of the originality of the work, the validity of the results, chosen methodology, writing quality and the overall contribution to the field of IR.
Short Paper submissions addressing any of the areas identified in the conference topics are also invited. Authors are encouraged to describe work in progress and late-breaking research results.

**REPRODUCIBLE IR TRACK**

We are happy to announce the Reproducible IR Research Track introduced at ECIR 2015 will continue for ECIR 2016. Reproducibility is key for establishing research to be reliable, referenceable and extensible for the future. Experimental papers are therefore most useful when their results can be tested and generalised by peers. This track specifically invites submission of papers reproducing a single or a group of papers, from a third-party where you have *not* been directly involved (e.g., *not* been an author or a collaborator). Emphasise your motivation for selecting the paper/papers, the process of how results have been attempted to be reproduced (successful or not), the communication that was necessary to gather all information, the potential difficulties encountered and the result of the process. A successful reproduction of the work is not a requirement, but it is important to provide a clear and rigid evaluation of the process to allow lessons to be learned for the future.

**DEMONSTRATIONS**

Demonstrations present research prototypes or operational systems. They provide opportunities to exchange ideas gained from implementing IR systems and to obtain feedback from expert users. Demonstration submissions are welcome in any of the areas related to aspects of Information Retrieval (IR), as identified in the call for papers on the ECIR website. The demonstration submission should address clear research questions like: What problem does my system solve? Who is my target user?

Demonstrations that make their source code freely available are especially encouraged. We ask all authors to either provide a URL to a live online version of their demo or, alternatively, provide a URL to a video showcasing the main features of their demo.

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TUTORIALS

ECIR 2016 solicits proposals for tutorials of either half-day (3 hours plus breaks) or full day (6 hours plus breaks) duration. The goal of the ECIR 2016 Tutorials is to offer conference attendees and local participants a stimulating and informative selection of tutorials reflecting current topics in information retrieval and related areas. Proposals are welcomed on all topics of information retrieval and its applications. Each tutorial should cover in detail a single topic out of state-of-the-art methods in core information retrieval, related research, or novel and emerging applications. For example, tutorials may cover an established information retrieval topic in depth, introduce an emerging application of information retrieval technologies, or update the information retrieval community on recent advances in related fields.

WORKSHOPS

We cordially invite you to submit proposals for one-day or half-day workshops to be run on the first day of the ECIR 2016 conference, the 20th of March 2016. ECIR workshops provide a platform for presenting novel ideas in a less formal and possibly more focused way than the main conference. We therefore expect that the workshops offer a common forum to engage and encourage researchers, especially PhD students and early career researchers, to present and discuss their work, and obtain valuable feedback in an interactive, supportive and friendly environment.

The format of each workshop is to be determined by the workshop organisers. Workshops are encouraged to be as dynamic and interactive as possible and should lead to a concrete outcome, such as the publication of a summary paper and/or workshop proceedings. Researchers and practitioners from all areas of the information retrieval community are invited to submit proposals for review. The organisers of approved workshops are expected to define the focus of the workshop, gather and review submissions, and decide upon its content. The organisers are also responsible for selecting the channels for publishing the workshop proceedings.

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STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAMME

ECIR 2016 is offering a student mentoring programme with the objective to help and support students with the writing of their papers to be submitted to the ECIR conference - and hereby increase the quality of submissions.

If you are a student who plans to submit a paper to ECIR ´16, you may consider the ECIR student mentoring programme. The ECIR student mentoring programme offers help, guidance, and feedback on the writing of your draft paper by assigning a mentor to you, who help you in preparing and maturing the paper for submission.

PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All submissions must be written in English following the ECIR guidelines (http://irsg.bcs.org/proceedings/ECIR_Draft_Guidelines.pdf) and the LNCS author guidelines (http://www.springer.com/computer/lncs?SGWID=0-164-6-793341-0) and submitted electronically through the conference submission system available at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ecir2016 selecting the proper track.

Full papers must not exceed 12 pages, short papers must not exceed 6 pages, demonstration papers must not exceed 4 pages, reproducible IR track papers must not exceed 12 pages, including references and figures.

Full paper, short paper and reproducible IR track paper submissions will be refereed through double-blind peer review. Demonstration papers will undergo single-blind review.

Accepted full papers, short papers, demos and reproducible IR track papers will be published in the conference proceedings published in the Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science series. The proceedings will be distributed to all delegates at the Conference. Accepted full papers, short papers, demos and reproducible IR track papers will have to be presented at the
conference. Short papers and reproducible IR track papers will either be presented as a poster or as an oral presentation.

Accepted workshops and tutorials will have a 4 pages summary published in the conference proceedings.

WORKSHOP SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposals should be a maximum of 6 pages in length and contain the following information:

1. Title and abstract of the workshop;
2. Background, motivation, and relevance to ECIR;
3. Workshop goals/objectives coupled with desired outcomes;
4. Format/structure of the workshop (planned activities and a tentative schedule of events);
5. Intended audience, the selection process for participants, whether it will be a full day or half day workshop, and what resources are required;
6. If the workshop is related to or follows on from another workshop (if the workshop has been held previously at ECIR or another conference, then the organisers should indicate this and describe briefly past attendance and outcomes, and why another workshop is needed);
7. Short biographies of the organisers;
8. Any other relevant information to support your proposal (e.g., programme committee, list of invited speakers, overall vision/approach etc.).

Workshop proposals must be written in English. Proposals should be submitted in PDF format via EasyChair in the “Workshop Proposal” track via the ECIR 2016 EasyChair instance.

The submissions will be reviewed by senior members of the Information Retrieval research community. Organisers of accepted workshops will be invited to submit a brief description of the workshop for inclusion in the ECIR 2016 conference proceedings.
TUTORIAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A tutorial proposal should include the following:

- Title of the tutorial;
- Instructor(s) and their credentials (brief CVs);
- Aims/Learning objectives;
- Description of topics;
- Scope of the tutorial, its relevance to the IR community;
- Tutorial history (previous offerings of tutorial, if any);
- Format of the tutorial (1/2 day or 1 day);
- Resources required (computer teaching labs are available);
- a 300 Word abstract (1-2 paragraphs to be included in conference materials);
- Full description (1-2 pages to be used for evaluation);
- Target audience (introductory, intermediate, advanced) and expected prerequisite knowledge of the audience;
- Citations to publications covered by the tutorial.

Tutorial proposals must be written in English. Proposals should be submitted in PDF format. The submissions will be reviewed by senior members of the Information Retrieval research community.

Presenters of accepted tutorials will be invited to submit a brief description of the tutorial for inclusion in the ECIR conference proceedings.

STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

1. You send an email to Jaana Kekäläinen (jaana.kekalainen@uta.fi). In the email you describe the topic of your paper and possibly the problems you might have concerning the paper. Signing up takes place in the period of July 6 - August 7, 2015.

2. Then we match you with a relevant and competent scholar, basically based on your description of your topic of the paper.

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3. We email you the name and email address of the assigned mentor (August 21, 2015).
4. You contact by email the mentor with your draft paper (attached the email), including
an outline of what in particular you need help with, that is, what you wish the mentor
to focus on in the reading of your draft paper.
5. Having read the draft paper the mentor emails the feedback to you. This may develop
into an email correspondence.

Some notes:
- Please note, when submitting the draft paper to the assigned mentor, the paper
should be a completed draft that allows the mentor to provide you with constructive
feedback.
- Do also note that participation in the ECIR student mentoring programme does not
guarantee acceptance of research papers at the ECIR 2016 conference.
- Finally, it should be noted that all mentors help out on a voluntary basis and should be
acknowledge and respected for this willingness to contribute their spare time.

IMPORTANT DATES
- Papers:
  - 09 October 2015 - Full/Short Paper submission deadline
  - 09 October 2015 - Reproducible IR Track submission deadline
  - 23 October 2015 - Demo submission deadline
  - 04 December 2015 - Notification
- Mentoring
  - 07 August 2015 - Request for mentoring deadline
  - 21 August 2015 - Mentor assignment deadline
- Workshops / Tutorials
  - 11 September 2015 - Workshops / Tutorials submission deadline
  - 19 October 2015 - Notification on Workshops / Tutorials

TOPICS

http://ecir2016.dei.unipd.it/
• IR Theory and Practice
  ○ Searching, browsing, meta-searching
  ○ Data fusion, filtering and indexing
  ○ Language models, probabilistic IR, neural network based models
  ○ Learning to rank
  ○ Content classification, categorisation, clustering
  ○ Relevance feedback, query expansion, faceted retrieval
  ○ Topic detection and tracking, novelty detection
  ○ Recommender systems
  ○ Content-based filtering, collaborative filtering
  ○ Spam detection and filtering
  ○ Personalised, collaborative or user-adaptive IR
  ○ Adversarial IR
  ○ Privacy in IR
  ○ Contextual IR
  ○ Mobile, Geo and local search
  ○ Temporal IR, time-based modelling
  ○ Entity IR
• Web and Social Media IR
  ○ Link analysis
  ○ Query log analysis
  ○ Advertising and ad targeting
  ○ Spam detection
  ○ Trust, authority, reputation, ranking
  ○ Blog and online-community search, microblogs
  ○ Social search
  ○ Social tagging
  ○ Social networking and Web based communities
  ○ Trend identification and tracking
  ○ Time series and forecasting

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User aspects
- User modelling, user studies, user interaction and history
- Interactive IR
- Task-based IR
- Click models
- Novel user interfaces for IR systems
- Visualisation of queries, search results or content
- Multimodal aspects, multimodal querying

IR system architectures
- Distributed and peer to peer IR
- Cloud IR
- Federated IR
- Aggregated Search
- Fusion/Combination
- Open, interoperable and flexible systems
- Performance, scalability, efficiency
- Architectures and platforms
- Crawling and indexing
- Compression, optimisation
- Map/Reduce for IR

Content representation and processing
- IR for semi-structured documents
- IR for semantically annotated collections, semantic search
- Reasoning for IR
- Meta information and structures, metadata
- Query representation, query reformulation
- Text categorisation and clustering
- Text data mining
- Opinion mining, sentiment analysis, argumentation mining
- Cross-language retrieval, multilingual retrieval
• Machine translation for IR
• Question answering
• Natural language processing
• Summarization for IR

• Evaluation
  • Evaluation methods and metrics
  • Building test collections
  • Experimental design
  • Crowdsourcing for evaluation, human computing
  • User-oriented and user-centred test and evaluation
  • Metric comparison and evaluation
  • Offline vs online evaluation

• Multimedia and cross-media IR
  • Speech retrieval
  • Image and video retrieval
  • Entity retrieval
  • Digital music, radio and broadcast retrieval
  • Virtual reality and information access
  • Cross-modal processing and search

• Applications
  • Digital libraries
  • Enterprise and intranet search
  • Desktop search
  • Mobile IR
  • Genomic IR, IR for chemical structures
  • Medical IR
  • Legal IR, patent search
  • eScience
  • The Internet of Things

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ORGANIZERS

- **General Chair:**
  - Nicola Ferro, University of Padua, Italy

- **Programme Chairs:**
  - Fabio Crestani, University of Lugano (USI), Switzerland
  - Marie-Francine Moens, KU Leuven, Belgium

- **Short Paper Chairs:**
  - Josiane Mothe, ESPE, IRIT, Université de Toulouse, France
  - Fabrizio Silvestri, Yahoo! Labs, London

- **Student Mentor Chairs:**
  - Jaana Kekäläinen, University of Tampere, Finland
  - Paolo Rosso, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

- **Workshop Chairs:**
  - Paul Clough, University of Sheffield, UK
  - Gabriella Pasi, University of Milano Bicocca, Italy

- **Demo Chairs:**
  - Giorgio Maria Di Nunzio, University of Padua, Italy
  - Claudia Hauff, TU Delft, The Netherlands

- **Industry Day Chairs:**
  - Omar Alonso, Microsoft Bing, USA
  - Pavel Serdyukov, Yandex, Russia

- **Tutorial Chairs:**
  - Christina Lioma, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
  - Stefano Mizzaro, University of Udine, Italy

- **Local Organization Chair:**
  - Gianmaria Silvello, University of Padua, Italy

- **Sponsorship Chair:**
  - Emanuele Di Buccio, University of Padua, Italy