

David E. Losada

Juan M. Fernández-Luna (Eds.)

LNC3 3408

Advances in Information Retrieval

27th European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2005
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, March 2005
Proceedings

 Springer

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Proceedings

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2005921726

CR Subject Classification (1998): H.3, H.2, I.2.3, I.2.6, H.4, H.5.4, I.7

ISSN 0302-9743

ISBN 3-540-25295-9 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 11406761 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

Commenced Publication in 1973

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Preface

Welcome to Santiago de Compostela! We are pleased to host the 27th Annual European Conference on Information Retrieval Research (ECIR 2005) on its first visit to Spain.

These proceedings contain the refereed full papers and poster abstracts presented at ECIR 2005. This conference was initially established by the Information Retrieval Specialist Group of the British Computer Society (BCS-IRSG) under the name “Annual Colloquium on Information Retrieval Research.” The colloquium was held in the United Kingdom each year until 1998, when the event was organized in Grenoble, France. Since then the conference venue has alternated between the United Kingdom and Continental Europe, reflecting the growing European orientation of ECIR. For the same reason, in 2001 the event was renamed “European Conference on Information Retrieval Research.” In recent years, ECIR has continued to grow and has become the major European forum for the discussion of research in the field of information retrieval.

ECIR 2005 was held at the Technical School of Engineering of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In terms of submissions, ECIR 2005 was a record-breaking success, since 124 full papers were submitted in response to the call for papers. This was a sharp increase from the 101 submissions received for ECIR 2003, which was the most successful ECIR in terms of submissions. ECIR 2005 established also a call for posters, and 41 posters were submitted. Paper and poster submissions were received from across Europe and further afield, including North America, South America, Asia and Australia, which is a clear indication of the growing popularity and reputation of the conference. All papers and posters were reviewed by at least three reviewers. Out of the 124 submitted papers, 34 (27%) were accepted; 17 (41%) posters were accepted.

Students are well represented, since 22 out of 34 full papers and 10 out of 17 posters involve a full-time student as the primary author, which means that the traditional student focus of the conference has been very well preserved.

The increasing presence of research papers from leading companies is also remarkable.

We had an outstanding set of research contributions this year, reflecting the full range of information retrieval research areas. The proceedings start with two invited papers, from Keith van Rijsbergen and Ricardo Baeza-Yates. van Rijsbergen's work shows how logic emerges from the geometry of the popular vector space model. Baeza-Yates proposes two applications of analyzing and clustering queries stored in server logs of search engines and website logs. The topics covered by the papers and posters include peer-to-peer systems, formal models, text summarization, classification, fusion, user studies, evaluation, efficiency issues, image and video retrieval, web IR, and XML retrieval.

The success of ECIR owes a lot to many individuals involved in the reviewing tasks. We are deeply grateful to all involved in this process for their dedication and professionalism in meeting the very tight deadlines. We would like to extend our warm thanks to the researchers who submitted their results for consideration. Many thanks also to our keynote speakers Keith van Rijsbergen and Ricardo Baeza-Yates for agreeing to present at ECIR 2005. We are also extremely grateful to Fabio Crestani, Pia Borlund and Gianni Amati for facing the difficult task of deciding which student paper deserved the Best Student Paper Award. A special word of thanks is extended to Fabio Crestani, who has supported us from the very beginning of the bidding process.

We wish also to thank the companies and institutions who sponsored ECIR 2005: the Information Retrieval Specialist Group of the British Computer Society (BCS-IRSG), the University of Granada, the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS), Microsoft Research, Sharp Laboratories of Europe, Ltd., and the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM).

We would also like to thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee for their hard work over many months. They enthusiastically supported us in every small task related to the conference. Not all these persons may be visible to conference participants but the efforts of all are invaluable in making the conference a success.

Most of all, we would like to thank our wives, Maria and Nuria, for their endless patience and tolerance through the long hours dedicated to ECIR.

January 2005

David E. Losada
Juan M. Fernández-Luna

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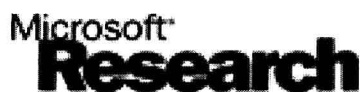
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