

Preface

The annual colloquium on information retrieval research provides an opportunity for both new and established researchers to present papers describing work in progress or final results. This colloquium was established by the BCS IRSG (British Computer Society Information Retrieval Specialist Group), and named the Annual Colloquium on Information Retrieval Research. Recently, the location of the colloquium has alternated between the United Kingdom and continental Europe. To reflect the growing European orientation of the event, the colloquium was renamed “European Annual Colloquium on Information Retrieval Research” from 2001.

Since the inception of the colloquium in 1979 the event has been hosted in the city of Glasgow on four separate occasions. However, this was the first time that the organization of the colloquium had been jointly undertaken by three separate computer and information science departments; an indication of the collaborative nature and diversity of IR research within the universities of the West of Scotland.

The organizers of ECIR 2002 saw a sharp increase in the number of good-quality submissions in answer to the call for papers over previous years and as such 52 submitted papers were each allocated 3 members of the program committee for double blind review of the manuscripts. A total of 23 papers were eventually selected for oral presentation at the colloquium in Glasgow which gave an acceptance rate of less than 45% and ensured a very high standard of the papers presented.

The colloquium consisted of well-attended sessions on IR Models, Document Categorization, Web IR, Soft Computing and IR, Interactive IR Systems, Multimedia IR, Structured Document Retrieval, Cross Lingual IR, and Query Modification.

Browsing through the table of contents the reader will also note that in addition to contributions from European authors just over 20% of the papers presented were authored by researchers from the USA and Asia which added a slight international flavor to ECIR 2002.

Acknowledgements

The organizing committee would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work for consideration and the participants of ECIR 2002 for making the event a great success. Special thanks are due to the members of the program committee who worked very hard to ensure the timely review of all the submitted manuscripts, and to the invited speaker Rik Belew, of the University of California at San Diego. We also thank the sponsoring institutions CEPIS-IR, BCS-IRSG, and Memex Technology for their generous financial support of the colloquium, and Glasgow City Council for civic hospitality.

Organization

Organizing Institutions

ECIR 2002 was jointly organized by the Department of Computer and Information Sciences of the University of Strathclyde, the School of Information and Communication Technologies of the University of Paisley, and the Department of Computer Science of the University of Glasgow.

Conference Chairs

Fabio Crestani (University of Strathclyde, UK)
Mark Girolami (University of Paisley, UK)
Keith van Rijsbergen (University of Glasgow, UK)

Sponsoring Institutions

British Computer Society – Information Retrieval Specialist Group
CEPIS-IR (Special Interest Network on Information Retrieval of the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies)
Memex Technology, East Kilbride, Scotland
Glasgow City Council

Program Committee

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Kenneth Wood (AT&T, UK)

Previous Venues of the Annual Colloquium

2001 Darmstadt (organized by GMD)
2000 Cambridge (organized by Microsoft Research)
1999 Glasgow (organized by Strathclyde University)
1998 Grenoble (organized by CLIPS-IMAG)
1997 Aberdeen (organized by Robert Gordon University)
1996 Manchester (organized by Manchester Metropolitan University)
1995 Crewe (organized by Manchester Metropolitan University)
1994 Drymen (organized by Strathclyde University)
1993 Glasgow (organized by Strathclyde University)
1992 Lancaster
1991 Lancaster
1990 Huddersfield
1989 Huddersfield
1988 Huddersfield
1987 Glasgow

1986 Glasgow
1985 Bradford
1984 Bradford
1983 Sheffield
1982 Sheffield
1981 Birmingham
1980 Leeds
1979 Leeds

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Finally thanks are due to the local team of student volunteers (in particular Heather Du and Puay Leng Lee), secretaries (Linda Hunter and Anne Sinclair), and information officers (Paul Smith, Jon Ritchie, and Naveed Khan) whose efforts ensured the smooth organization and running of the colloquium.

March 2002

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