

# ACM SIGIR Business Meeting

## August 8, 2006

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***SIGIR***

# Agenda

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- Introductions
- Reports (General, Financial, Membership)
- SIGIR Services
- New initiatives and directions
- Conferences (CIKM, JCDL, SIGIR)
- Other issues
- Your issues and questions

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## Elected SIGIR Officers

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- Chair: Jamie Callan
- Vice-Chair: Fabrizio Sebastiani
- Secretary: David Lewis
- Treasurer: Justin Zobel
  
- Email: [sigir-ec@acm.org](mailto:sigir-ec@acm.org)
- Web: <http://www.acm.org/sigir>

# SIGIR Advisors and Volunteers

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- Regional Representative to the EC:
  - Noriko Kando (Asia)
- Information Officer: Mounia Lalmas
- SIG-IRList Editor: Raman Chandrasekar
- Forum Editors:
  - Fall: Peter Anick
  - Spring: Ian Ruthven
- JCDL Liason: Edie Rasmussen
- Awards Chair: Alistair Moffat

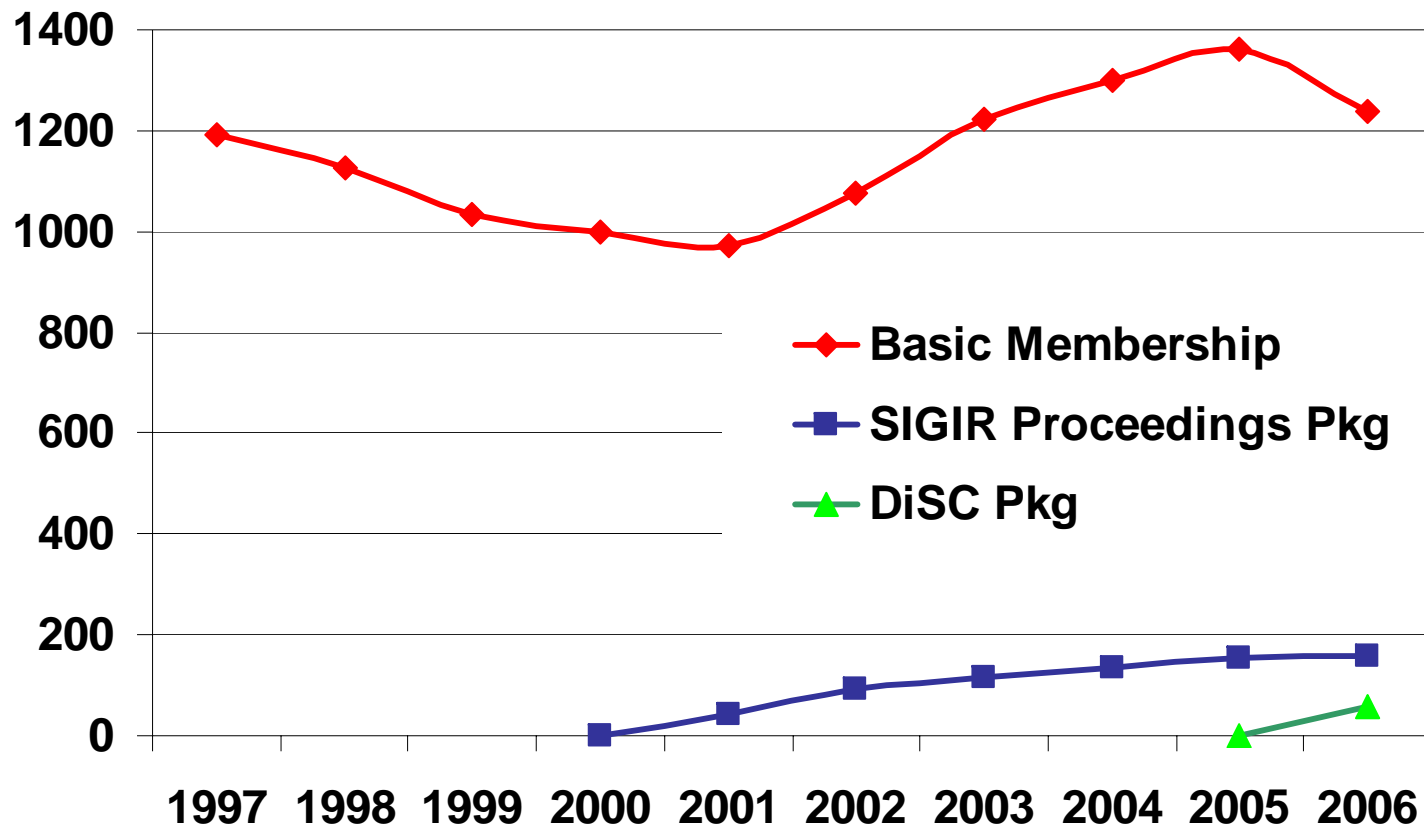
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# SIGIR by the Numbers: Members

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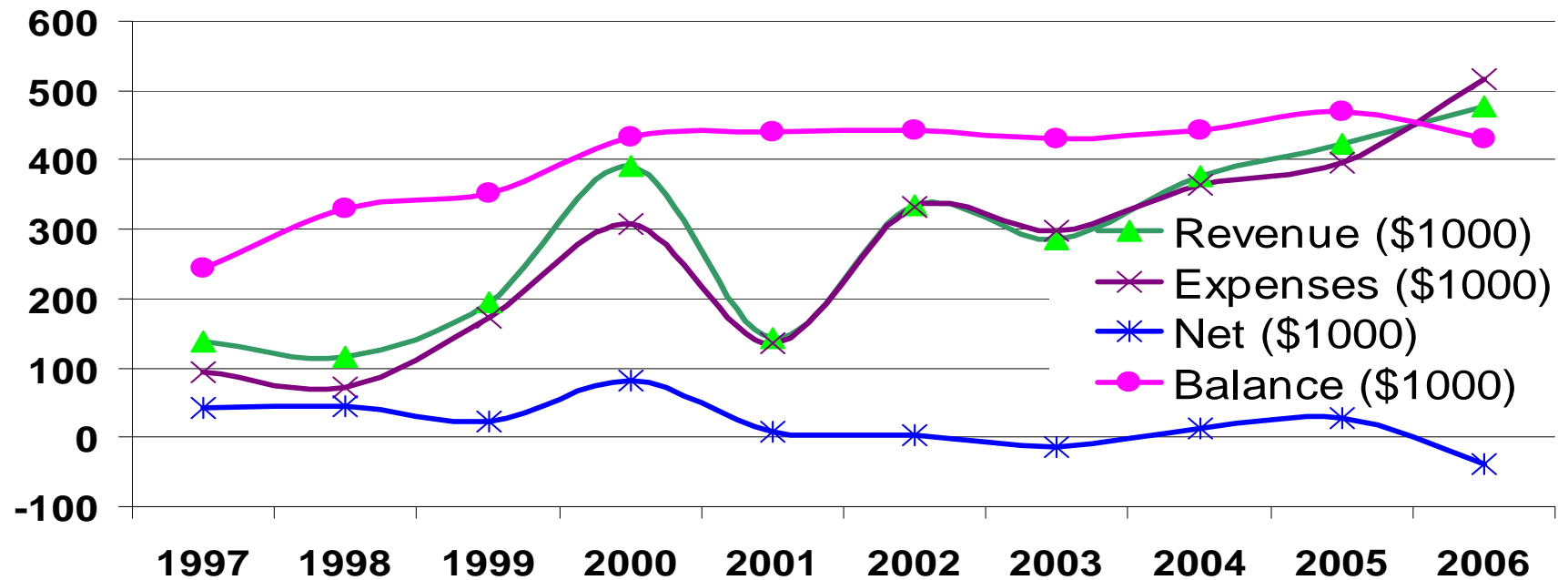
# SIGIR Membership: Assessment

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9% drop in membership

- Causes (in order of significance)
  - Failure to enroll new members after SIGIR 2005
  - Natural result of large influx of new members after SIGIR 2004
  - Dues increases?
- We're working with ACM to correct problems
- We will monitor this more closely

# SIGIR by the Numbers: Finances



# SIGIR Financial Outlook: Assessment

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- SIGIR lost about \$38K this year
  - Not a surprise – we had become too dependent on conference income
- Reasons
  - \$27K drop in conference income
    - JCDL '05 barely profitable
    - SIGIR '05 profits affected by unfavorable exchange rates
    - CIKM '05 profits not yet included
  - \$10K additional student travel costs (Brazil)
    - The EC chose to dip into savings for this
  - Dues increases hadn't yet taken effect

# SIGIR Financial Outlook: Assessment

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Changes already underway will close the deficit

- Dues increases
  - Effect of last year's increase will be felt this year
  - Possibly another increase next year for Proceedings Package only
- Lowered costs
  - SIGIR Forum "Special issue" switching to DVD beginning in 2007

## Dues Increases

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|   | <u>Old</u> | <u>New</u> |
|---|------------|------------|
| Basic membership                              | \$20       | \$30       |
| Student membership                            | \$10       | \$15       |
| Air service option                            | \$3        | \$14       |
| Proceedings package option                    | \$30       | \$45*      |
| Digital Symposium Collection<br>(DiSC) option | N/A        | \$10       |

**\* SIGIR is still losing money on this**

# Dues Increases: The Proceedings Package

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- The Proceedings Package is very costly
  - Breakeven cost is \$60-65/year (today)
- We don't want to kill this program
  - But we can't let it continue to lose so much money
- Strategy:
  - Increase cost to breakeven in 2-year stages
  - Encourage migration to the DiSC DVD package
  - If membership falls below N, drop the program

# SIGIR Financial Outlook: Assessment

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- Overall
  - We have a very healthy fund balance
  - As long as we close our deficit on schedule, we'll be fine

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# SIGIR Member Service Summary

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- SIGIR Forum (paper, online)
- Reduced conference registration fees
  - Sponsored and “in cooperation” conferences
- Access to IR-related content in ACM Digital Library
- Optional Proceedings and DiSC Packages
- SIGIR 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CD
- Student travel awards
- Best Paper and Best Student Paper awards
  - Sponsored by IBM this year...thanks!
- SIG-IRList ... electronic newsletter

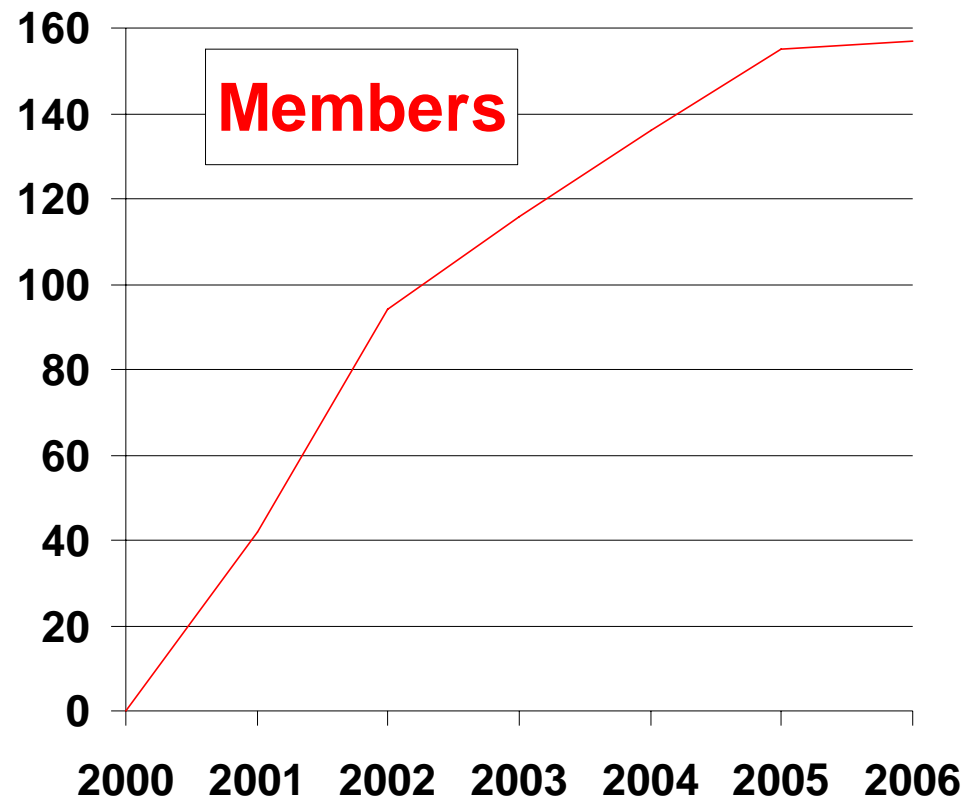
# SIGIR Forum

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- Editors: Peter Anick and Ian Ruthven
- Online - <http://www.acm.org/sigs/sigir/forum/>
- Upcoming content:
  - SIGIR, CIKM, JCDL workshop overviews
  - TREC Track overviews
  - PhD Dissertation abstracts
  - Invited talks
  - Community and SIGIR announcements
- Your suggestions ... Better yet, your content

# SIGIR Proceedings Package

- CIKM and JCDL proceedings
  - Paper copies, mailed to you
- Cost: \$45 / year





**DiSC**

2004 Digital  
Symposium Collection

## The Digital Symposium Collection (DiSC) Package

- A DVD that includes SIGIR, CIKM, JCDL, SIGMOD, SIGKDD, ... and many more conference proceedings and newsletters
- Cost: \$10/year
- Started July 2004
  - Maybe not mentioned on renewal materials
  - Ask for it by name!

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <i>CIKM'03</i>      |
| <i>DASFAA'03</i>    |
| <i>DBPL'03</i>      |
| <i>DE Bulletin</i>  |
| <i>DEBS</i>         |
| <i>DMKD'03</i>      |
| <i>DOLAP'03</i>     |
| <i>DPDJ</i>         |
| <i>ER</i>           |
| <i>GIS'03</i>       |
| <i>Hypertext'03</i> |
| <i>ICDE'03</i>      |
| <i>ICDM'03</i>      |
| <i>ICDT'03</i>      |
| <i>JCDL'03</i>      |
| <i>KRDB'03</i>      |
| <i>MIR'03</i>       |
| <i>MIS'03</i>       |
| <i>MMDB'03</i>      |
| <i>RIDE'03</i>      |
| <i>SBBD'03</i>      |
| <i>SIGIR'03</i>     |
| <i>SIGIR FORUM</i>  |

**These  
and more**

**SIGIR**

# Student Travel Awards, 2006

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- About \$41,450 awarded
  - £4,500 from BCS-IRSG...thanks very much!
  - \$2,500 from IBM...thanks very much!
- 54 students
- North America (36)
- South America (2)
- Australia / Asia (6)
- Europe (10)

Probably declining to \$25-30K, steady state

# Doctoral Forum – Third Run at SIGIR'06

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- Forum for senior PhD students to discuss dissertation ideas with experienced IR researchers and other students
- Occurred on the “Tutorial” day
- By invitation, based on application
- Comments welcome
  - Contact: Nick Belkin, Wanda Pratt

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## Paper vs. Plastic

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- Paper proceedings keep getting larger
  - Very expensive to print and mail
    - SIGIR Forum Special Issue
- In 1-3 years dues won't cover costs
  - Even with the fee increase we just had
- Beginning in 2007 the "Special Issue" will be distributed on CD or DVD
  - Conference attendees will continue to receive a paper copy

# Updating the SIGIR Bylaws

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- Motivating factors
  - Increase EC terms from 2 years to 3 years
    - Remove “automatic renewal” option
  - The bylaws do not describe how SIGIR is actually run
- Our current plan
  - New bylaws that reflect what how SIGIR is actually run
  - No substantive changes

# Updating the SIGIR Bylaws

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- Process
  - The members make suggestions
  - The EC drafts a new set of bylaws
  - The members vote on it
    - Probably when new officers are elected
  - If passed, the new bylaws take effect next July 1, when new officers take office
- Your comments?

# Preserving Our History

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- Important early IR papers/reports are hard to find, but some of our members have copies
- A new SIGIR initiative:
  - Scan, organize, save (somewhere)
  - Maybe distribute on CD/DVD
- We need your help
  - Ideas about how to organize, how to use, ...
  - Volunteer(s) to help with the work
- Contact: Donna Harman

# SIGIR Elections

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- Our terms expire in one year
- We will be recruiting candidates
- Approximate timetable
  - Sep 30: Candidates to ACM
  - Nov 30: Notify members about candidates
  - Feb 28: Ballots mailed
  - Apr 30: Results announced

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# SIGIR Conferences

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## SIGIR-Sponsored:

- SIGIR 2004-2009
- CIKM 2005-2006
  - w/SIGWEB in 2006
- JCDL 2005-2007
  - w/ SIGWEB and IEEE's TCDL

## In Cooperation:

- AIRS 2005
- CORIA 2005
- CIVR 2005
- ECIR 2005

Watch the SIGIR Web site for  
in cooperation conferences

# SIGIR Conferences

... past, present, and future

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- 2005: Salvador, Brazil (N. Ziviani, R. Baeza-Yates)
- 2006: Seattle, WA USA (E. Efthimiadis )
- 2007: Amsterdam, Netherlands (W. Kraaij, A. de Vries)
- 2008: Singapore (M. Leong, T. Chua)
- 2009: Boston (J. Allan, J. Aslam)
- 2010: Soliciting proposals....

# SIGIR '05 – Salvador, Brazil

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- General Chairs: Nivio Ziviani and Ricardo Baeza-Yates
- First SIGIR in South America
- 309 in attendance
- Profitable! \$12,651 to SIGIR
  - Thank you Nivio & Ricardo!
  - Profits used for student travel



**SIGIR·2005**

# SIGIR'06 – Seattle, USA

- August 6-11
- General Chair: Efthimis Efthimiadis
- Program Chairs:
  - Susan Dumais
  - David Hawking
  - Kalervo Järvelin
- You are there....



# SIGIR'07 – The Netherlands

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- Dates: July 23-27, 2007
- General Chairs:  
Arjen de Vries, Wessel Kraaij
- Program Chairs:
  - Charlie Clarke
  - Norbert Fuhr
  - Noriko Kando
- First SIGIR with an RSS feed ☺

# SIGIR'08 – Singapore

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- General Chairs:

Mun-kew Leong , Tat-Seng Chua

# SIGIR'09 – Boston

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- General Chairs:

James Allan , Javed Aslam

# SIGIR '10 – Proposals being solicited

- 2010 is a European year
- Interest expressed by
  - Glasgow (Contact: Mounia Lalmas)

# CIKM 2005

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- Bremen, Germany
  - October 31 – Nov 5
    - First CIKM outside the USA
    - Co-sponsored with GI
- General Chair: Otthein Herzog
- 425 submitted papers
  - 18% acceptance rate
- Probably profitable! ~ \$10,000 to SIGIR
  - Thank you Otthein!
  - Profits used for student travel



# CIKM 2006

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- Arlington, Virginia  
November 6 – 11
  - Co-sponsored with SIGWEB
- General Chair: Philip Yu
- Program Chairs:
  - Vassilis Tsotras (DB)
  - Edward Fox (IR)
  - Bing Liu (KM)
  - Kun-lung Wu (Industrial)
  - Eric Brown (Industrial)



- Denver, Colorado, USA  
June 7-11, 2005
- General Chair: Mary Marlino
- 295 attendance
- Profitable: \$127 to SIGIR



- Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA  
June 11-15, 2006
- General Chair: Gary Marchionini
- Program Chairs:
  - Michael Nelson
  - Cathy Marshall

# JCDL 2007

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- Vancouver, BC  
June 17-23, 2007
- General Chair
  - Edie Rasmussen



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# AOL's Data Release

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- Last week AOL released search data for > 500,000 users over a 3-month period
- The goal was to promote IR research
  - The kind of research published at SIGIR
- Each person's queries were linked by an anonymous user id
  - This seemed to protect privacy
  - Perhaps it didn't

# AOL's Data Release

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- AOL has suffered significant criticism
  - Mainly in the blogosphere
  - Also in the mainstream press

# The Blogosphere

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## [More on AOL Just Assume Your Being Spied On](#)

43 minutes ago in [Kevin Burton's Feed Blog](#) by [burtonator](#) · [286 blogs link here](#)

Calacanis is pissed that his corporate overlords released the data they accumulated while spying on us. Of course this would be equivalent to your...



## [AOL Releases Search Queries by 650K Users](#)

58 minutes ago in [Simplicitas](#) by [kyliu99](#) · [1 blog links here](#)

Yesterday, AOL released the log of all searches done by about 650,000 of their users over a three-month period. The release came from AOL's research...



## [AOL: "Nous avons commis une grosse erreur"](#)

1 hour ago in [TechCrunch en français](#) by [misteroo](#) · [450 blogs link here](#)

AOL s'excuse aujourd'hui après avoir volontairement diffusé les données des recherches de 650 000 de leurs utilisateurs Après la décision AOL de...



## [Why the big fuss over some AOL data?](#)

3 hours ago in [Mathew Ingram: mathewingram.com/work](#) by [mathewi](#) · [418 blogs link here](#)

I know I'm late to the party on this one, but I have to say I'm kind of confused about the huge outcry over AOL releasing a pile of supposedly...



## [AOL: Be Careful What You Search For](#)

3 hours ago in [The News is NowPublic.com](#) | [NowPublic.com: The News is...](#) · [815 blogs link here](#)

AOL: Be Careful What You Search For plentyoffish.wordpress.com: AOL released data on what people are searching for. And now the impossible job of...

# Sharing Data for Research Purposes: Issues for the IR Community

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- Companies won't share data if it is a negative experience
- Possible approaches
  - Help companies share data safely
    - E.g., partner with privacy experts
  - Help educate the public and policy makers about the benefits of sharing data (safely)
  - Your comments?

# Funding for Research on this Topic

- The U.S. National Science Foundation
  - Cybertrust
  - Intelligent Information Systems Division
  - Human and Social Dynamics
  - Methodology, Measurement, & Statistics
  - Research, Evaluation, and Communication

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# Audience Participation: What Do You Like (Or Not)?

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- Questions ...
- Issues ...
- Suggestions ...
- ... or see any of us after meeting
- ... or email [sigir-ec@acm.org](mailto:sigir-ec@acm.org)