

ACM SIGIR Business Meeting July 23, 2008

Liz Liddy
Chair, ACM SIGIR

SIGIR

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Agenda

- Introductions
- Brief Administrative Reports
 - Goals of Executive Committee
 - Member Services
 - Membership & Financial
- SIGIR Conferences
 - Past, Present, & Future
 - SIGIR Sponsored Conferences
- Topics for Members' Consideration

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Elected SIGIR Officers

- Chair: Liz Liddy
- Vice-Chair: Mounia Lalmas
- Secretary: Dave Lewis
- Treasurer: Alistair Moffat
- Past Chair: Jamie Callan

- Web: <http://www.acm.org/sigir>

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SIGIR Advisors and Volunteers

- Regional Representative to the EC:
 - Tetsuya Sakai
- Information Officer: Djoerd Hiemstra
- SIG-IRList Editor: Raman Chandrasekar
 - Seeking volunteer for new editor
- Forum Editors:
 - Fall: Diane Kelly
 - Spring: Ian Ruthven
- JCDL Liason: Edie Rasmussen
- Awards Chair: Alistair Moffat

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SIGIR Members Named ACM Fellows

- *Honors contributors to computing technology that have brought advances in the way people live and work throughout the world.*
- Andrei Broder from Yahoo! Research
 - For contributions to algorithms & web technology
- Rajeev Motwani from Stanford University
 - For contributions to algorithms & complexity theory

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Goals of Executive Committee

- Ensure continued high quality of SIGIR
- Meet needs of SIGIR's members
 - EC must stay tuned to changing needs & preferences of members, both new & experienced
- Ensure financial stability of SIGIR and a visible presence within ACM
 - Representation at SIG Governing Board Meetings

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SIGIR Member Services

- SIGIR Forum (paper & online)
- Reduced conference registration fees
 - Sponsored and “in cooperation” conferences
- Access to ACM Digital Library
- Optional Proceedings and DiSC Packages
- SIGIR 25th Anniversary CD
- SIG-IRList ... electronic newsletter

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Salton Award

- Honors those who have made "... *significant, sustained and continuing contributions to research in information retrieval*".
- Awarded triennially at SIGIR Conference – 2009 is a Salton year
- Selection committee consists of available past Salton Award winners:

Karen Sparck Jones	Steve Robertson
Cyril Cleverdon	Bruce Croft
Bill Cooper	Keith van Rijsbergen
Tefko Saracevic	
- SIGIR Chair coordinates discussion & nomination
 - Send suggestions to liddy@syr.edu

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SIGIR Conference Support & Awards

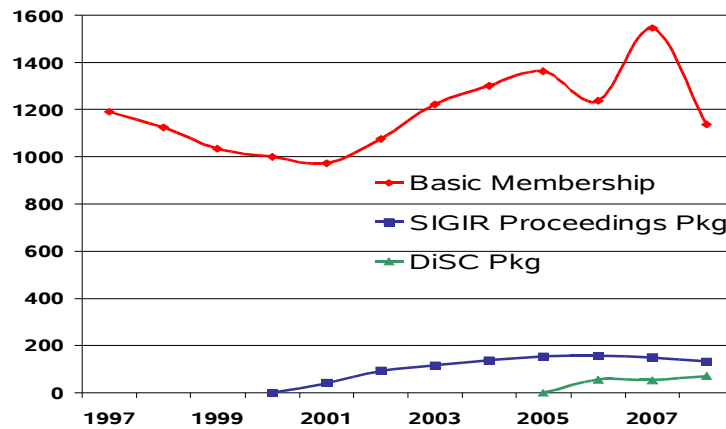
- Best Paper & Best Student Paper Awards
 - Sponsored by IBM Research

- Support for student travel to SIGIR
 - Amit Singhal in honor of Donald B. Crouch
 - Microsoft Research in honor of Karen Sparck Jones
 - Google for Doctoral Consortium participants

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SIGIR Memberships



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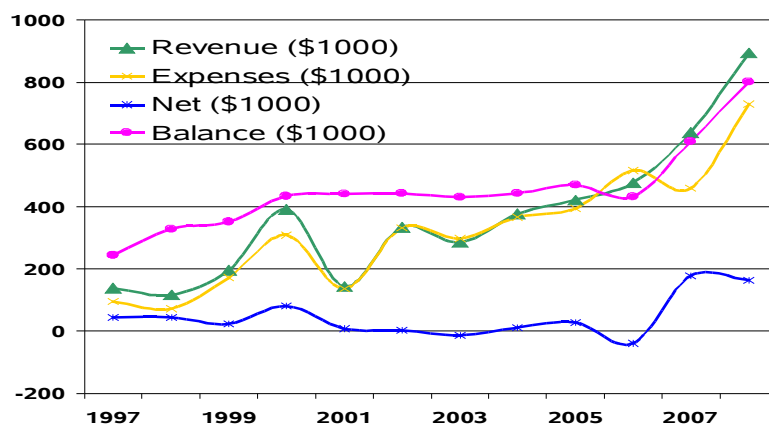
SIGIR Memberships

- Numbers peaked because of 2006 conference registrations.
- In 2007, fewer new non-members attended conference.
- Professional memberships stable at around 850.
- We need to increase our associate to professional conversion rate.

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SIGIR Finances



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SIGIR Finances

- SIGIR had a \$164K surplus in FY2008.
- Reasons
 - Strong conference income for 2nd year
 - DL income of \$62K from 329K downloads, up from 177K downloads in 2005
 - More income from DL than from membership subscriptions.

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SIGIR Finances - Looking forward

- Reserves remain > 1.0 x annual conference expenditure.
- Strong profit from 2006 (Seattle) and 2007 (Amsterdam) conferences
- Dues last increased in 2005
- Spent \$50K on student travel for 2008, largest single outgoing item in budget.
- What else are reserves for?

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- Registration
 - main conference 599
 - tutorials 363
 - workshops 292
 - industry event ~100
 - total unique ~700
- 38 countries
- Financial outcome
 - ACM service fee: EUR 48,515
 - Net result SIGIR: EUR 50,497
- General Chairs
 - Arjen de Vries & Wessel Kraaij
- Program Chairs
 - Charlie Clarke, Norbert Fuhr, Noriko Kando



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ACM SIGIR 2008

The 31st Annual International ACM
SIGIR Conference

20-24 July 2008, Singapore



Association for
Computing Machinery



NUS
National University
of Singapore



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY



SMU
Singapore Management
University



Institute for
Infocomm Research
A*STAR



NLB
National Library Board
Singapore

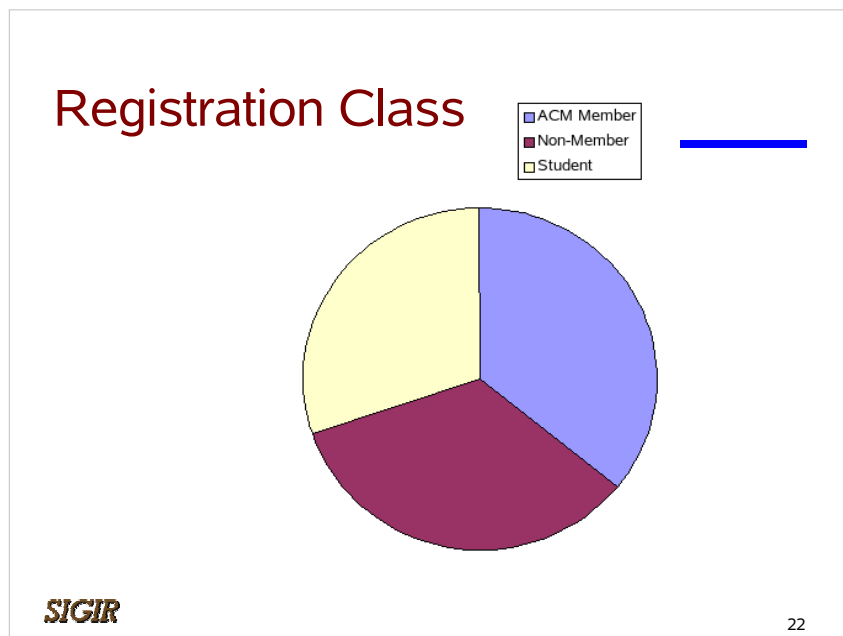
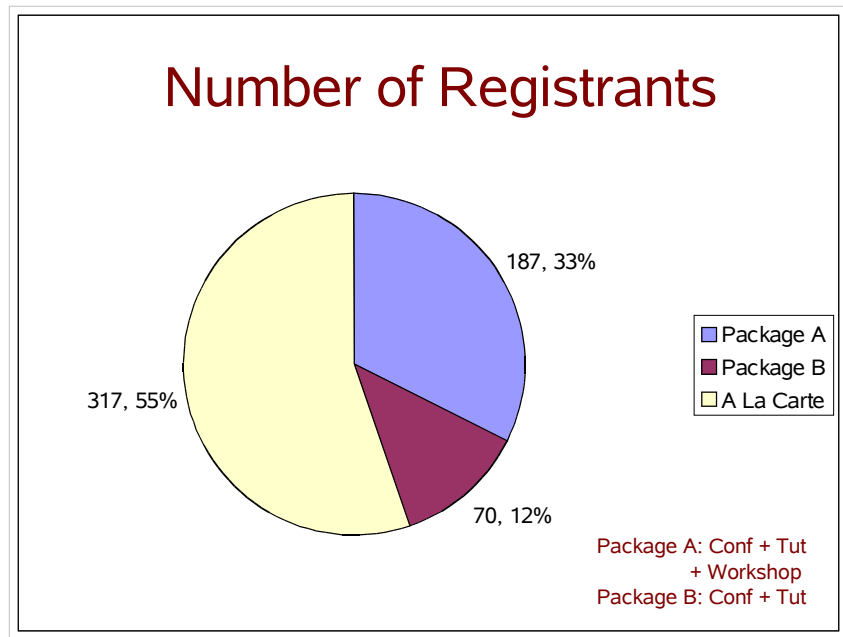
Vital Statistics

Registrants: 576

- Main Conference: 543
- Tutorial: 465
- Workshop: 289

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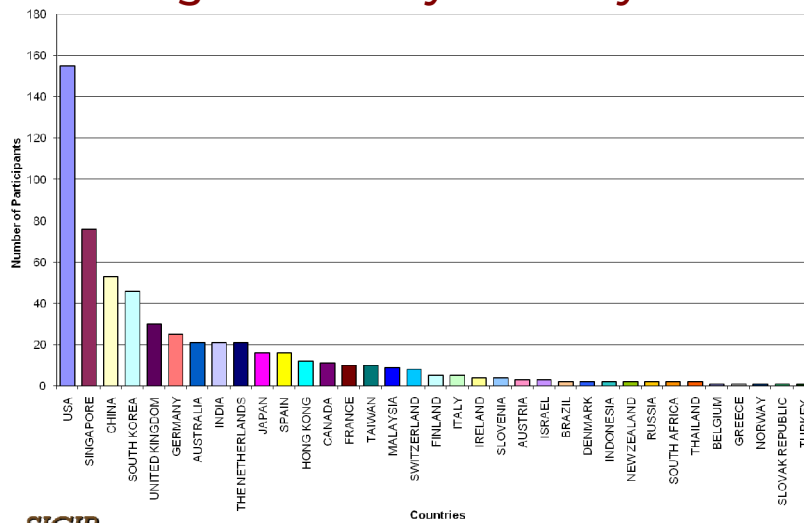
Registration Packages & Fees

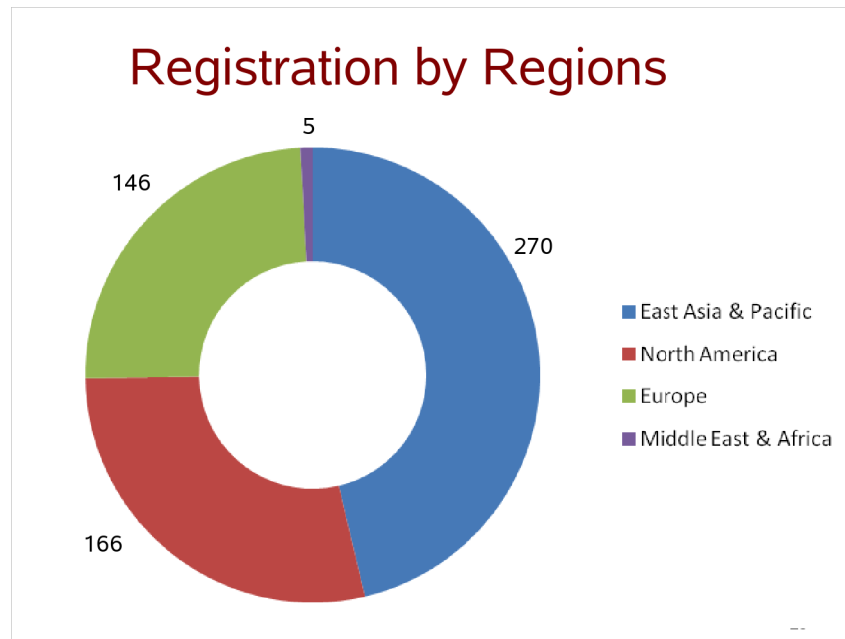
- Cost per registrants: approx: SIN\$600
 - Cost of student registration: (S\$300/375/450)
 - Keep up with tradition of SIGIR to subsidize and encourage student participation

- Package registration
 - Help to ensure healthy participation in tutorials and workshops



Registration by Country





**SIGIR
2009
Boston**

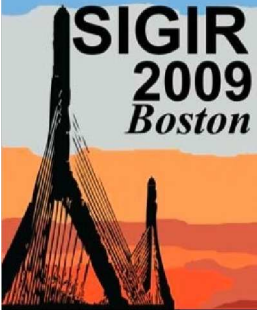
July 19 – 23, 2009
(Sun – Thu)

sigir2009.org

Boston, Massachusetts

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**SIGIR
2009
Boston**

July 19 – 23, 2009
(Sun – Thu)

sigir2009.org

General
Chairs

James Allan

Jay Aslam

PC Chairs

Mark Sanderson

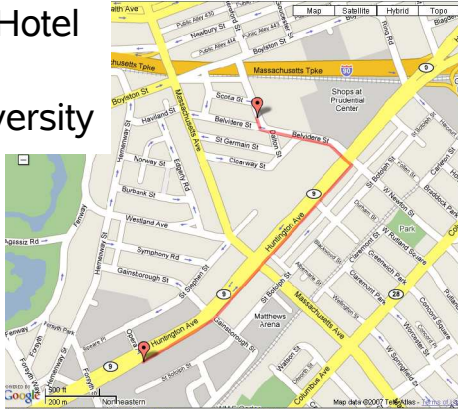
ChengXiang Zhai

Justin Zobel

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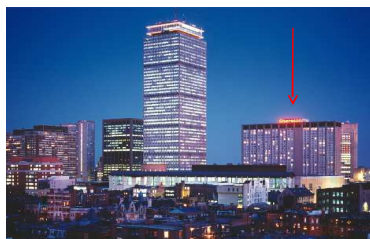
SIGIR 2009: Two Locations

- Sheraton Boston Hotel
 - Main conference
- Northeastern University
 - Tutorials
 - Workshops
- Nearby
 - 0.7 miles (1.1km)
 - Walk, train



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Sheraton Boston Hotel



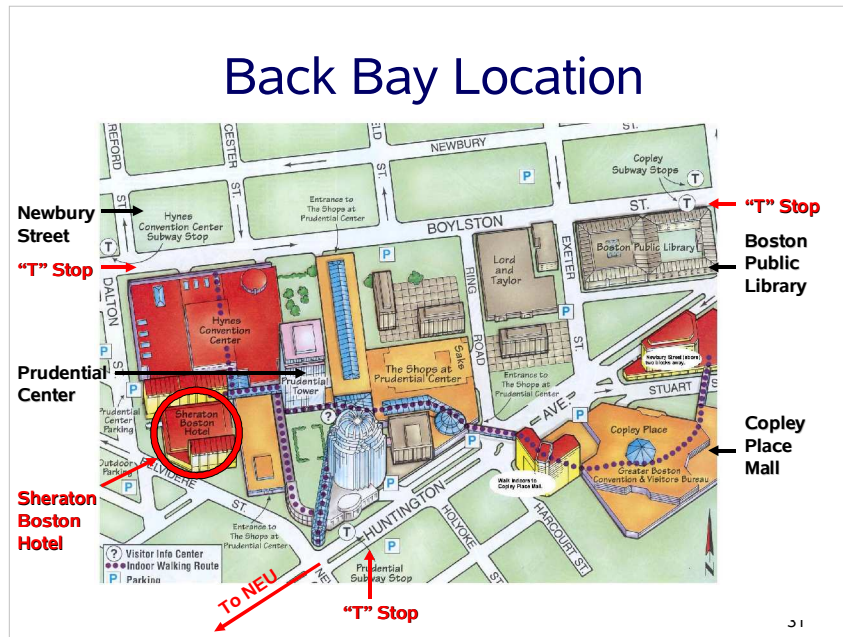
About Sheraton Boston

- New England's largest hotel
- 1,216 guestrooms on 29 floors
- 10 min from Logan Int'l Airport
- 5 min walk from commuter rail
- 5 min walk to 3 different "T" stops (Boston's subway system)
- In the heart of Boston's shopping and arts centers



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Northeastern University

- Tutorials and workshops
- Student dorms and apartments (\$60 pp)
- 0.7 miles (1.1 km) from Sheraton Boston
 - 15 minute walk
 - Bus, train, ...



JFK Library and Museum

- Conference banquet site



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About Metro Boston

- Population: 4.5 million
- July weather
 - High: 83/28° F/C
 - Low: 66/19° F/C
- 100+ universities & colleges
- 250,000 students in Boston & Cambridge alone...



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See you in Boston at SIGIR 2009



SIGIR 2010

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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ORGANISERS

UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Stephane Marchand-Maillet

UNIVERSITY OF LUGANO

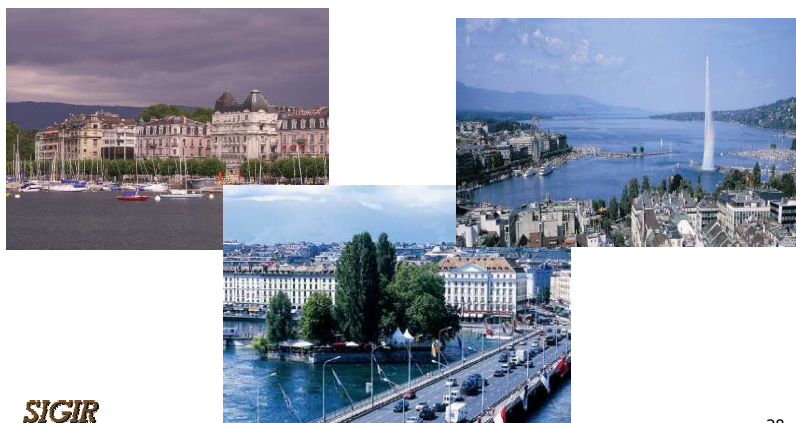
Fabio Crestani

Program Committee Chairs and other
chairs have not been appointed yet

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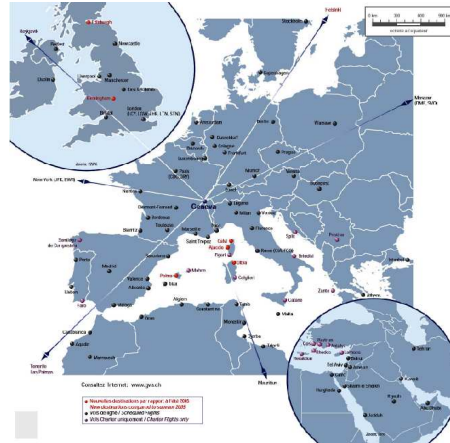
LOCATION



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GETTING THERE



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IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS TIME

- GENEVA, 18-23 July 2010



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SIGIR '11

- Two high-quality bids
 - Haifa, Israel
 - Beijing, China

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SIGIR '11

- Two high-quality bids
 - Haifa, Israel
 - Beijing, China
- Decision made for Beijing, China

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- **General Co-chairs:**
 - Jian-Yun Nie (Univ. of Montreal)
 - Wei-Ying Ma (Microsoft Research Asia)
- **Local org. chair:** Xiaoming Li, Pekin Univ.
- **Publicity chair:** Kam-Fai Wong (Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong)
- **Treasurer:** Ling Huang
- **Organizations:**
 - Chinese Computing Federation
 - Association of Chinese information procesing
- **Other people:**
 - Ming Zhou, Hiang Li (MSRA)
 - Shoaping Ma (Tsinghua Univ.)
- **And many others...**

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Beijing

July-August: 32°C/90°F, but less humid

- There is air conditioning!
- Experience Chinese Culture
- Beijing, a city with 3000 years of history
- Food
- Bars
- Travel: ~9h from Europe or ~13h LA
- Hotels at all price ranges
- English: many young people speak English
- Venue: trying to select a downtown venue



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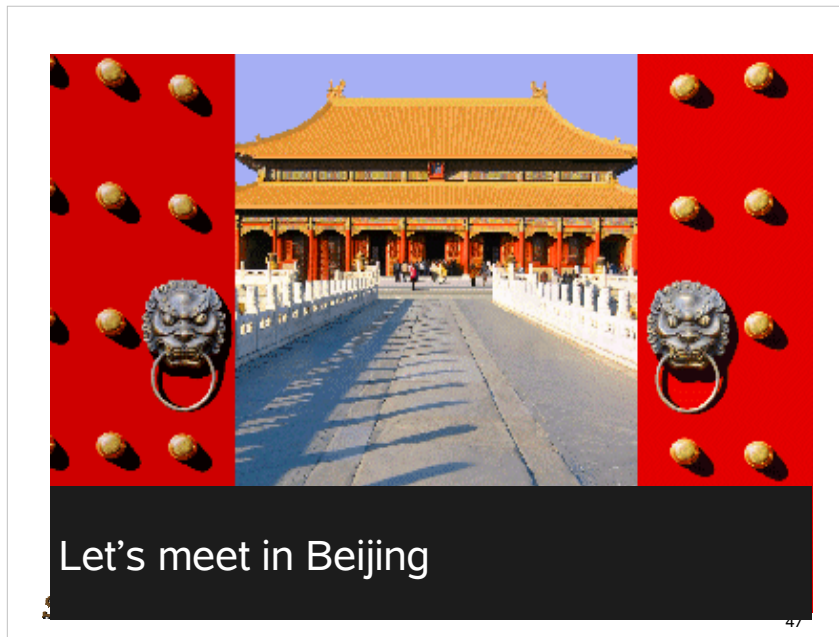
BEIJING

Attractions

Forbidden city

Summer Palace

Great wall



SIGIR '12

- Year for the Americas
 - No bids yet !!!
- Consider whether you & your colleagues are interested in hosting
 - Admittedly a lot of work
 - But also very satisfying and an opportunity to bring positive focus to your home institution, your city, state & country.
- The ACM organization & the Executive Committee provide excellent support and experience, as do the leadership teams of former years

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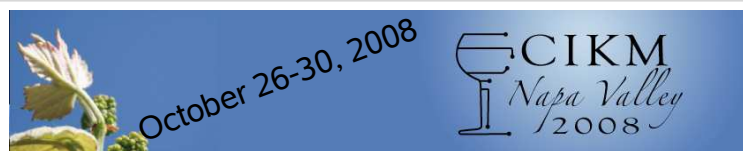
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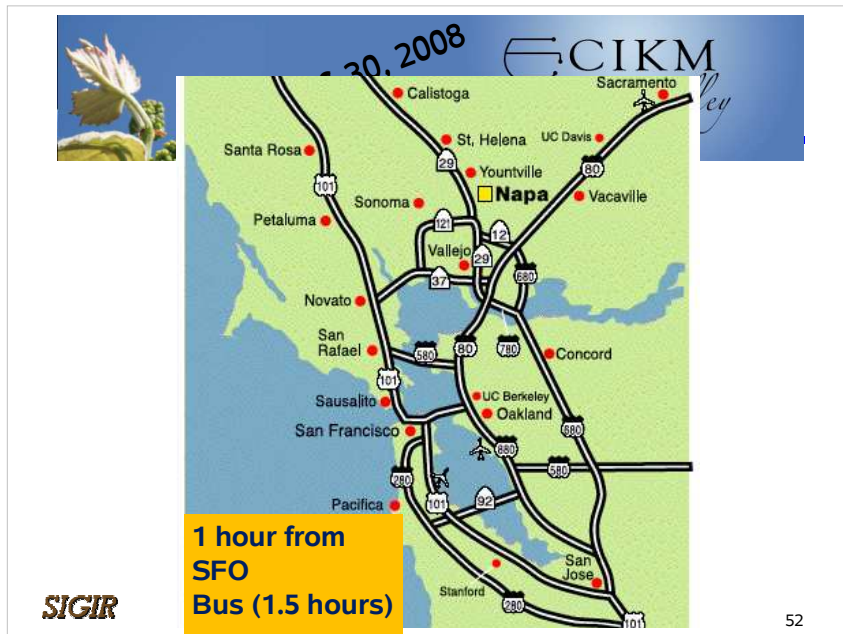
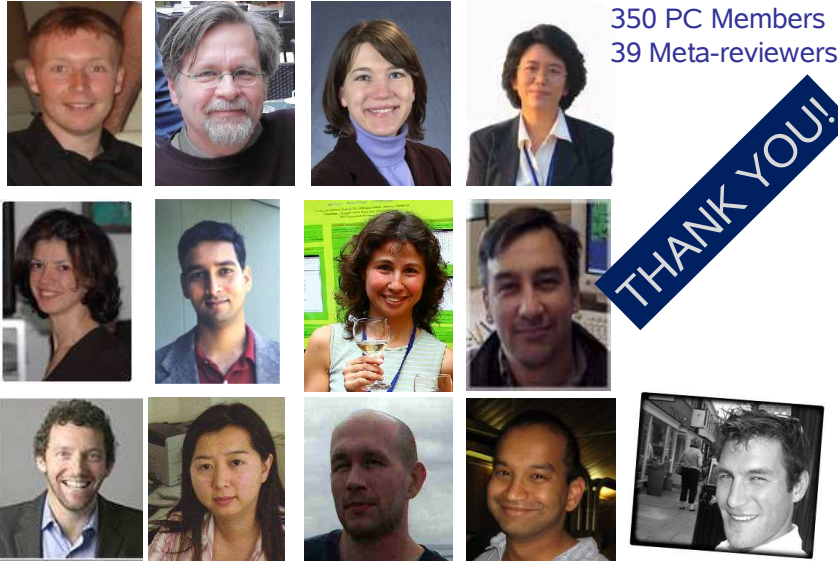
Area	#Submissions	%Submissions	#Papers	#Posters
IR	338	44	58	54
KM	258	33	45	41
DB	147	19	24	24
Industry	29	4	5	3
Total	772	100	132	122
Acceptance			17%	16%

- 12 Workshops (out of 15); Paper submission Deadline is July 27
 - ~12 Tutorials ; Industry Day; Panel Discussions; Live music!!
 - Thanks to our sponsors and supporters! But need more!
- Gold:** Information Retrieval Facility, Microsoft, SearchMe.com
Silver: Advertising, Ask, eBay Research Labs, Yahoo! Research
Bronze: a9, Justsystems Evans Research, University of Maryland (BC),



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CIKM 2008 Organizing Committee



October 26-30, 2008

CIKM Napa Valley 2008

TWO Michelin STARS
The Meadowood Restaurant,
St. Helena Napa Valley

THREE Michelin STARS
The French Laundry, Yountville
Napa Valley

Culinary School
Wine tasting, Dining
Hot springs, Spas
Outlet malls
Hiking, Biking, Golf, Tennis
Hot air Ballooning
Water sports (sailing, wake-boarding)

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October 26-30, 2008

CIKM Napa Valley 2008

- Registration opens July 29, 2008; Peak season so reserve hotel early!
- Looking for...

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NAACL-HLT
2009
boulder, colorado

University of Colorado at Boulder


May 31 - June 5

Human Language Technologies (HLT) Conference

- Focus: IR / NLP / Speech intersections
 - Joint with North American ACL conference
- May 31-June 5, 2009: Boulder, Colorado
 - Full paper deadline before SIGIR's
 - Short paper deadline after SIGIR's
 - Tutorials
 - Workshops

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jcdl 2009
designing tomorrow,
preserving the past—today.


June 15-19, 2009

School of Information
The University of Texas at Austin

Center for the Study of Digital Libraries
Texas A&M University



Association for
Computing Machinery
Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

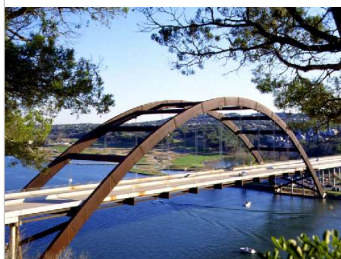


Conference Committee

Conference Co-Chairs

Mary Lynn Rice-Lively
School of Information
The University of Texas

Fred Heath
Vice Provost and Director of
University of Texas Libraries
The University of Texas



Program Co-Chairs

Richard Furuta
Department of Computer Science
Texas A&M University

Gary Geisler
School of Information
The University of Texas

Luis Francisco-Revilla
School of Information
The University of Texas

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Discussion Items

- Topics / ideas that members suggested to the DISCUSS listserv for consideration by members
- Ideas that may further advance SIGIR as the premier organization of our field, and improve on support of our members
- Outcomes of discussions will serve as recommendations to the Executive Committee
 - May be brought back to the Business Meeting next year for further consideration

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1. Academic & Enterprise Collaboration

- Explore new ways of building on strengths of company research & academic research
 - More resources from industry to research & more solutions from research employable in industry
 - Could be common task / data / forum
- One option is Industry Day
 - As held at SIGIR '07 in Amsterdam

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2. Changing SIGIR Reviewing Process

2009 PC Chairs:

Mark Sanderson, ChengXiang Zhai, Justin Zobel

Developed in discussion with James Allan and Javed Aslam (2009 general chairs), and based on feedback and comments from current and past chairs and senior PC members.

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Current Process

- Submitted paper
 - Reviewed by 3 first tier reviewers
 - SPC member
 - Moderates reviews
 - Writes consolidating review
- The SPC members meet for 1.5 days
 - Decide on all papers
 - Approve: workshops, tutorials, posters, demos

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If it ain't broke?

■ SIGIR	2006	'07	'08	'09
■ Papers	391	491	496	500-620?

- As a result
 - Hundreds of 1st tier reviewers
 - Challenging for PC chairs to know all reviewers
 - Impact on quality?
 - 1.5 day meeting is not enough time

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Proposed Process

- Devolve responsibility to SPC members
 - Make them area chairs (work with PC chairs)
 - Help in selecting & assigning reviewers
 - Decision on papers
 - Don't write meta-review
 - Work with other area chairs or PC chairs to come to decision
 - Seek additional reviews to resolve disputed papers
- Have online PC meeting

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Why an Online PC Meeting?

- More time for better decisions
- Period of time
- Additionally
 - Many potential SPCs decline
 - They can't travel
 - 2008 PC meeting >\$70K, 2009?
 - Airfares are rising

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The Technology Works

- Many conferences have online PC meetings
 - CIKM 2008;
 - VLDB 2007, 2008;
 - SIGMOD 2007, 2008;
 - SPIRE 2006; 2007; 2008
 - ...

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Conclusions

- Current process is straining to cope with numbers
- Proposed process will cope better
- It will
 - Exploit a wider range of our community
 - Cost less
 - Be a bit greener

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Questions/Comments?

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3. *Inclusivity of Opportunity*

- Calls to improve participation of:
 - Members who can't / don't attend conference when not in their part of the world
 - International areas where we have few members attending conference
 - Africa, Russia, South America
 - Student members earlier in their careers
- Some suggested methods:
 - Online professional community
 - Put papers online prior to conference to improve understanding by new attendees
 - Videos of conference presentations
 - Or.....

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4. *How to Include Innovative Work?*

- Risky research that may not fit current paper mode
 - Potential for new lines of inquiry
 - Where no standard evaluation collection available
- Paradigm shifts may not be recognizable using established evaluation methods
 - Need ensure both high quality AND open-mindedness
- Posters used to enable this / now more paper-like
 - Are workshops accomplishing this? Blue-sky enough?
 - Short papers?
 - Minute madness?
 - Or.....

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5. Reviewing Process

- Is it possible to make submission deadline later & shorten the reviewing cycle so that we have 'fresher papers' at conference
 - Currently, full cycle is 6 months long
 - Producing only electronic proceedings would shorten it
 - Reduce time allotted reviewers
- Allow rebuttal by author?
- Training of reviewers?
- Seek out intellectually diverse reviewers?
- What about reviewing the reviewers?

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6. Expansion of Topics in SIGIR CFP

- Suggestions:
 - Semantic web
 - Semantic search
 - Public policy issues
- Topics are reviewed annually by Conference & Program Chairs
 - Submit your suggestions to them

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Finale!

More topics / comments / questions?

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