

Celebrating 20 Years of NTCIR: The Book

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1 THE BOOK

Both TREC [2] and CLEF [1] already have retrospective volumes, and the third volume in the trilogy will be on NTCIR. Unlike the first two, which sought to broadly reflect what was done at TREC and CLEF, our focus in this volume is on a baker's dozen research directions that NTCIR pioneered over its first twenty years. Each of those chapters in the story of NTCIR seeks to focus on a single research innovation, introduce the topic as it is thought of today, characterizing the importance of the topic for specific search tasks, explaining what it was that NTCIR did to advance research on that topic, and sketching out the subsequent development of research on that topic.

To help the reader see both the forest and the trees with some degree of clarity, we wrap these thirteen topic-focused chapters with three additional contributions that set the context and look to the future. We begin with a foreword to set the context, and we follow that with a narrative prehistory and history of NTCIR that explains how it came to be and, in broad strokes, how it has evolved over time. We then conclude with a broader look at how things are evolving in the world of information retrieval evaluation, including innovations such as crowdsourcing and online A-B testing that have for the most part risen alongside, rather than inside, shared task evaluation venues such as NTCIR. This, in turn, provides scope for a little prognostication about what the future may hold.

2 THE CHAPTERS

The book is a story in sixteen parts:

- Foreword (Mark Sanderson)
- Evolution of Information Access Evaluation and NTCIR (Noriko Kando)
- Graded Relevance (Tetsuya Sakai)
- Document-Linked Comparable Corpora for Researches of Cross-Lingual Information Retrieval Focusing on CJK Languages (Kazuaki Kishida and Kuang-Hua Chen)
- Text Summarization Challenge (TSC): Yet Another Evaluation Program for Text Summarization (Manabu Okumura, Hidetsugu Nanba, Tsutomu Hirao and Takahiro Fukushima)
- Challenges in Patent Retrieval (Makoto Iwayama, Atsushi Fujii and Hidetsugu Nanba)
- Multi-Modal Summarization (Tsuneaki Kato)
- Opinion Analysis Corpora Across Languages (Yohei Seki)

- Patent Translation (Isao Goto)
- Component Evaluation for Question Answering (Teruko Mitamura and Eric Nyberg)
- Temporal Information Access (Masaharu Yoshioka and Hideo Joho)
- SogouQ: the first large-scale test collection with click streams used in a shared-task evaluation (Ruihua Song, Min Zhang, Cheng Luo, Tetsuya Sakai, Yiqun Liu and Zhicheng Dou)
- Efficient Information Access with Smartphones (Makoto P. Kato)
- Mathematical Information Retrieval (Akiko Aizawa and Michael Kohlhase)
- Early Progress in Lifelog Organisation and Retrieval at NTCIR (Cathal Gurrin, Hideo Joho, Frank Hopfgartner, Liting Zhou, Rami Albatal and Duc-Tien Dang-Nguyen)
- The Future of Information Retrieval Evaluation (Douglas Oard)

With two exceptions, drafts of each chapter are now available at <http://sakailab.com/ntcirbookdraft/>.

3 INVITING YOUR CONTRIBUTION

NTCIR is a community effort, and we are inviting everyone's contributions. There are two ways in which you can contribute:

- (1) Tweet your recollections of NTCIR with hashtag #ntcirbook. We'll collect those tweets and publish them on a Web companion to the book when it is issued.
- (2) Choose a chapter to read, and then send your constructive comments on how that chapter might be further improved to ntcirbookfeedback@list.waseda.jp.

And you can also help us celebrate by attending NTCIR-15 in December 2020, where every attendee will receive a printed copy of the book!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCES

- [1] Nicola Ferro and Carol Peters (Eds.). 2019. *Information Retrieval Evaluation in a Changing World – Lessons Learned from 20 Years of CLEF*.
- [2] Ellen M. Voorhees and Donna K. Harman. 2005. *TREC: Experiment and Evaluation in Information Retrieval*. MIT Press.