

First International Workshop on Professional Search

Preface

Suzan Verberne
Leiden University
s.verberne@liacs.leidenuniv.nl

Jiyin He
Signal Media
jiyinhe@acm.org

Udo Kruschwitz
University of Essex
udo@essex.ac.uk

Birger Larsen
Aalborg University
birger@hum.aau.dk

Tony Russell-Rose
2dSearch, Guildford
tgr@uxlabs.co.uk

Arjen P. de Vries
Radboud University
arjen@acm.org

Introduction

Professional search is a problem area in which many facets of information retrieval are addressed, both system-related (e.g. distributed search) and user-related (e.g. complex information needs), and the interface between user and system (e.g. supporting exploratory search tasks). Professional search tasks have specific requirements, different from the requirements of generic web search.

Program

The workshop addresses these requirements from multiple angles; covering many different facets of professional search. The workshop is a mix of keynotes, short oral presentations, and a break-out session in which there is time to focus the discussion on specific topics. As keynote speakers, we have Paul Bennett (Microsoft Research), on “Search and Recommendation in the Enterprise”, and David D. Lewis (Brainspace) on “Research Challenges in IR for Legal Discovery and Investigations”. We accepted six papers for short oral presentations.

We actively involved the target group of our research in the preparation of the workshop by distributing a survey in the months before the workshop. We defined the target group as “everyone who regularly performs complex search tasks at work in environments other than general web search”. This includes information specialists in various domains, but also librarians, scientists, lawyers, and other knowledge worker professions. The aim of the survey to gather the experiences of these professional searchers: which systems do they use, what do they like about them, what functionalities do they miss, and what aspects/challenges do they think should be on the research roadmap for professional search. The survey had 113 responses. The workshop starts with a presentation of the results from the survey (prepared by the organizers), and the collected requirements are further addressed in the breakout session.

Intended outcome

Intended outcome of the workshop is a research roadmap and workshop report for SIGIR Forum in which the outcome of the survey, the presentations and discussions in this workshop are summarized. This way, we will draw the research community’s attention to the importance of professional search as research domain.

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Organization

Program committee

Allan Hanbury, Charlie Hull, David Elsweiler, Diane Kelly, Elaine Toms, Farhad Shokraneh, Jaap Kamps, Julie Glanville, Krisztian Balog, Laura Dietz, Martin White, Michail Salampassis, Mihai Lupu, Norbert Fuhr, Peter Cotroneo, Ray Daley, Rene Spijker.

Organisers

- Jiyin He, Signal Media, UK
- Udo Kruschwitz, University of Essex, UK
- Birger Larsen, Aalborg University, Denmark
- Tony Russell-Rose, 2dSearch, Guildford, UK
- Suzan Verberne, Leiden University, the Netherlands
- Arjen P. de Vries, Radboud University, the Netherlands