

But where do we go from here?

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ABSTRACT

Contextual information retrieval has promised much and has produced interesting ideas and new systems developments. Although there has been much discussion on the evaluation of context-free information retrieval systems, there has been far less discussion on the challenges of evaluating contextual systems.

In this presentation I will step back from the debates about specific methodologies to argue for approaches that acknowledge the context of use of IR systems and the context of information itself. I shall pose some challenges for contextual IR evaluation based on the context in which our systems are deployed in real-life situations and give a personal view on some useful evaluation directions.

Appears in the Proceedings of The 2nd International Workshop on Contextual Information Access, Seeking and Retrieval Evaluation (CIRSE 2010), March 28, 2010, Milton Keynes, UK.
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