

Candidates for Election to the IRSG Committee 2017

(Four Candidates for Three Vacancies)

1. Jochen Leidner

Nominated: John Tait

Seconded: Udo Kruschwitz

Bio

Jochen L Leidner is a Director of Research at Thomson Reuters in London, where he heads the R&D team, which he also founded. He has been with Thomson Reuters for nearly ten years in scientific and later also managerial functions. He is also Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor of Data Analytics at the Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield. His background includes a Master's in computational linguistics, English and computer science (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg), a Master's in Computer Speech, Text and Internet Technology (University of Cambridge) and a PhD in Informatics (University of Edinburgh). His thesis research was awarded the first ACM SIGIR Doctoral Consortium award in 2003. His scientific contributions include leading the team that development of the QED and ALYSSA open-domain question answering Systems (TREC), proposing a new algorithm and comparing existing algorithms for spatial resolution of named entities, and information extraction of unusual entity/relation types (e.g. company risk mining). Prior to Thomson Reuters, He has worked for SAP and founded and co-founded a number of start-ups. He currently lives in London after working for several years in Germany, Scotland, the USA, and Switzerland. He also taught at several universities (Erlangen, Saarbrücken, Frankfurt, Zurich, Essex), and is a scientific expert for the European Commission (FP7, H2020). He is author of several dozen peer-reviewed publications (incl. one best paper award), has authored or co-edited two books and holds several patents in the areas of information retrieval, natural language processing, and mobile computing. He was winner of the Thomson Reuters inventor of the year award in two subsequent years.

Statement

If elected, I would like to make three things the focus of my contributions:

1. Improving and facilitating the collaboration between industry and academia. The two speak different language and have different goals but are so complementary that despite this cultural disparity it would be a waste not to try harder to get them together.
2. Promoting information retrieval as the underlying technology in search engines to younger audiences, who use Web search daily, yet may be blissfully unaware that mathematical knowledge was indeed required to build it.
3. The continuation of gatherings of practioners without the rigidity and formality of conferences (which are getting larger) to foster a sense of community, and offer meaningful exchange of ideas beyond asking two questions at the end of a talk.

2. Andy Macfarlane

Nominated: John Tait

Seconded: Udo Kruschwitz

Bio

Andy is a Reader in the Centre for HCI Design at City, University of London. He got his PhD in Information Science from City under the supervision of Prof Robertson and Prof. J.A. McCann (now at Imperial College London). His research and teaching interests currently focus on a number of areas including disabilities and Information Retrieval (dyslexia in particular), AI techniques for Information Retrieval and Filtering. He is a current member of the BCS Information Retrieval Specialist Group and is a long standing member of that SG as well as a past chair and secretary.

Statement

I have served on the committee for many years, and have been involved in many aspects of the groups work over a long period of time. Continuity is very important, and I am able to provide this. I am very involved in search solutions, in particular the organization of the tutorials and I would very much like to continue this work.

3. Yashar Moshfeghi

Nominated: Iadh Ounis

Seconded: Leif Azzopardi

Bio

I am currently a Chancellor's Fellow within the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK. During my academic career, I have built up a strong track record of producing high quality publications. My portfolio boasts over 40 publications; most of which appear at internationally recognised top tier conferences and journals (such as ACM-SIGIR, ACM-WWW, ACM-CIKM, ECIR, and ACM-TIST). I have also presented more than thirty publications in various top venues (nineteen of them I am the leading author). This includes several full papers of A* quality conferences and journal, three in ACM-SIGIR (2011, 2013, 2016), one in ACM-CIKM (2013), one in ACM-WWW (2013), and ACM-TIST (2016). I have obtained a best poster award at ECIR (2010) and two best paper awards at the ECIR (2013) and ACM-SIGIR (2016) conferences.

Over the past few years, I have increased my standing within the Information Retrieval community. I am an active member of ACM and the Information Retrieval Specialist Group at BCS. In particular, every year, I am part of program committee of several top Information Retrieval and Big Data conferences such as ACM-SIGIR, ACM-CIKM, ACM-SIGKDD, ACM-Multimedia, ACM-WWW, Middleware, EDBT and review for several top journals including JASIST, Journal of IR, ACM-TIST, IPM, ACM-TOIT, ACM-TKDD, UMUI, etc. I have also served as general chair of Lucene4IREvaluation Workshop on Developing IR Evaluation Resources using Lucene (Lucene4IR 2017), leading organizer of ACM-CIKM Workshop on Understanding the City with Urban Informatics (ACM CIKM UCUI 2015), co-organiser of ACM-SIGIR Workshop on Lucene for Information Access and Retrieval Research (ACM-SIGIR LIARR 2017), co-organiser of the first panel on "Applications of neuroimaging in information science: Challenges and opportunities" in ASIST 2013, and local Organizer member of ECDL

conference 2010. I have, as an early career researcher, been actively seeking to obtain research funding and have co-authored several UK and European grant proposals over the last six years.

Thus, I believe that I would be able to actively contribute and boost the development of information retrieval activities within the BCS IRSG. I believe I am uniquely qualified for the post, since in addition to excellent credentials and academic records, my research focuses on information retrieval. These qualities would significantly add value to the BCS IRSG. In addition, this opportunity would be beneficial to me at this stage of my career, as it would allow me to collaborate and build my network locally and globally, and also allow me to fully engage in research topics for which I am intellectually enthused. Furthermore, I would hope to bring fresh ideas, eagerness, and a collegial work ethic to the School. I am a self-motivated individual who works effectively in an independent research context as well as in collaboration with others (especially when this involves interdisciplinary work); I strive to be an asset in any work environment.

Statement

I would like to stand for the position of committee member of the British Computer Society Information Retrieval Specialist Group (BCS IRSG). I believe that I would be an excellent fit within the group, where I could contribute in or lead the varieties of responsibilities and tasks undertaken by the group including overseeing the work of the officers of the group and taking decisions on a number of important matters including the location of ECIR, allocating funds for student travel support, organising other meetings and conferences including Search Solutions, running the Karen Sparck Jones award and a number of other activities

4. Frank Hopfgartner

Nominated: Ingo Frommholz

Seconded: Udo Kruschwitz

Bio

Frank Hopfgartner is currently working as Lecturer at University of Glasgow and will soon join the Information Retrieval Group at University of Sheffield. His main research interest is in the intersection of interactive information retrieval, recommender systems, and lifelogging. He (co-)authored over 100 publications (H-Index: 19) in above mentioned research fields, including a book on smart information systems, various book chapters and papers in peer-reviewed journals, conferences and workshops.

Frank is involved in the organisation of evaluation tasks at two major international evaluation campaigns, focusing on the evaluation on news recommendations in real-time (CLEF NewsREEL) and on retrieval and access of lifelogging data (NTCIR Lifelog). To date, over 200 research teams have registered for these campaigns. Moreover, he held various roles in the organisation of leading research conferences (e.g., ACM ICMR, MMM) and was co-organiser of 30+ academic workshops and tutorials (e.g., at SIGIR, RecSys, MM, ECIR, CHIIR, UMAP, Ubicomp).

Statement

In the past few years, we could observe a significant balance shift between academic and industrial research presented at leading information retrieval conferences. While on one side we can all benefit from the insights shared by industry, it also puts significant pressure

on university-based researchers who often do not have the resources available to keep up with increasing expectations, e.g., w.r.t. scalability of their approaches or the need for large-scale user evaluations. So far, I addressed this growing gap by organising workshops and tutorials with industry partners, and by initiating evaluation campaigns such as NewsREEL which allows researchers to gain access to the user base and infrastructure of a company to benchmark recommender algorithms. Being a committee member of the BCS IRSG, would allow me to explore further opportunities for collaboration between academia and industry, e.g., in the context of the annual Search Solutions forum.