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## About Informer

Informer is the quarterly newsletter of the BCS Information Retrieval Specialist Group (IRSG). It is distributed free to all members. The IRSG is free to join via the BCS website (<http://irsg.bcs.org/>), which provides access to further IR articles, events and resources.

The British Computer Society (BCS) is the industry body for IT professionals. With members in over 100 countries around the world, the BCS is the leading professional and learned society in the field of computers and information systems.

Informer is best read in printed form. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter among your colleagues.



This edition of Informer is a little different to the usual. In what respect, you may ask? Well, rather than focussing as we would normally on developments in the search & retrieval community at large, we're focussing this time on ourselves. Yes, that's right – this issue is dominated by consideration of IRSG itself.

So - why the sudden introspection? Well, there are two reasons. First, as you may recall, we ran a survey in May this year to canvas your opinions on Informer. We'll be presenting the results of that survey in this issue (see p5). Second, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our new chair, Leif Azzopardi. Leif has written his own introduction, covering the events, activities and prospects for the IRSG. This is our feature article on page 3.

We're also featuring two book reviews this time – the first, "Web Communities: Analysis and Construction" is reviewed by Finbar Dineen on p6, and that's followed by "The Turn: Integration of Information Seeking and Retrieval in Context", reviewed by Marc Brette on p8.

Finally, one other difference in this issue is that instead of "just editing" articles, I've contributed a piece myself – the survey article on p5. As a consequence therefore, I'll be keeping this editorial somewhat shorter than usual (you can have too much of a good thing, you know...)

Enjoy the summer, and we'll see you again in Autumn.

Best regards,  
Tony Rose  
Informer Editor and Vice chair, IRSG  
Email: [irsg@bcs.org.uk](mailto:irsg@bcs.org.uk)

## Forthcoming Events

*Edited By Andy MacFarlane*

### **15th International Conference on Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management**

Podebrady (near Prague), Czech Republic, 2-6 October 2006. A semantic web conference with a theme on information retrieval.

<http://ekaw.vse.cz/>

### **IADIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WWW/INTERNET 2006**

Murcia, Spain, 5 to 8 October 2006. A web conference with a theme on searching and browsing for the web. <http://www.iadis.org/icwi2006/>

### **The 7th International Conference on Music Information Retrieval (ISMIR 2006)**

Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria, Canada, 8th to 12th October 2006. The leading conference dealing with the issue of music IR.

<http://ismir2006.ismir.net/>

### **ACM Symposium on Document Engineering 2006 (DocEng 2006)**

Amsterdam, Netherlands, 11-13 October 2006. A general document engineering conference of interest to IR researchers and practitioners.

<http://www.airesearch.de/tir-06/>

### **SPIRE 2006 - String Processing and Information Retrieval (SPIRE 2006)**

Glasgow, Scotland, 11-13 October 2006. An international conference dealing with shared issues in string processing and information retrieval.

<http://www.cis.strath.ac.uk/external/spire06/>

### **First Symposium on Information Interaction in Context (IiX 2006)**

Copenhagen, Denmark, 18-20 October 2006. The first in what will hopefully be a series on the issue of dealing with Context in IR.

<http://www.db.dk/IiX/index.htm>

### **Workshop on Multimedia Information Retrieval (MIR 2006). Capture, Archival and Retrieval of Personal Experiences (CARPE 2006)**

Santa Barbara, California, 22-28 October 2006. One day workshops in multimedia IR, in a very sunny location. <http://riemann.ist.psu.edu/mir2006/>

### **LA-WEB 2006 Fourth Latin American Web Congress**

Universidad de las Américas-Puebla Cholula, México 25th-27th October 2006. A web conference with various interests in web search and browsing.

<http://ict.udlap.mx/la-web2006/>

### **International Conference on Multidisciplinary Information Sciences and Technologies (InSciT2006)**

Mérida, SPAIN, 25th – 28th October 2006. A general conference on information science and technology with strands on information retrieval and digital libraries. <http://www.instac.es/inscit2006/>.

### **ACM Fifteenth Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM2006)**

Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA 22202, 6-11 November 2006. A major ACM conference addressing the issues of information retrieval and knowledge management.

<http://sa1.sice.umkc.edu/cikm2006/>

### **International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems (FOIS 2006)**

Baltimore, Maryland (USA), 9-11 November 2006. A conference detailing with the practical application of Ontologies with a theme on information retrieval.

<http://www.formalontology.org/>

### **The 9th International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries (ICADL 2006)**

Kyoto, Japan, 27th-30th November 2006. A conference on Digital Libraries with a theme on search. <http://www.icadl2006.org/>

### **The Eight International Conference on Information Integration and Web Based Applications & Services (iiWAS2006)**

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 4-6 December 2006. A general web based conference with a theme on IR.

<http://www.iibas.org/conferences/iibas2006/show.php?name=Startpage>

### **International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2006)**

India Habitat Center, New Delhi, India, 5-8 December 2006. A digital library conference.

<http://www.linux.teriin.org/events/icdl/>

### **1st international conference on Semantics And digital Media Technology (SAMT)**

Athens, Greece, 6th-8th December 2006. A digital media conference focusing on the semantic gap between low level content and user needs. This issue is critical in Multimedia IR.

<http://samt2006.org/index.html>

### **1st International Conference on Digital Information Management (ICDIM 2006)**

Bangalore, India, 6th-8th December 2006. A digital information science conference with a theme on search. <http://www.icdim.org/>

## International Workshop On Research Issues in Digital Libraries (IWRIDL 2006)

Kolkata, India, 12th –15th December 2006. A workshop on Digital Library issues.  
<http://www.isical.ac.in/~iwridl/>

## The 2006 IEEE / WIC /ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence

Hong Kong, 18-22 December 2006. A general web conference which should be of interest to members whose interests include web search.  
<http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/iwi06/wi/>

## First International Workshop on Teaching and Learning of Information Retrieval (TLIR'07)

Covent Garden, London, 10th January 2007. The first IRSG workshop on the issue of teaching and learning the subject of information retrieval and search. <http://tlir07.soi.city.ac.uk/>

## New Search Technology Awarded British Computer Society Medal for Innovation

The British Computer Society (BCS) has awarded new search technology, [Trexy.com](http://Trexy.com), a technical innovation medal in the IT Professional Awards 2006.

Trexy.com is the first search engine to interoperate with thousands of other search engines to remember and share individual search discoveries - trails. Trexy's CEO and Inventor, Nigel Hamilton said: "Being recognised for technical innovation by the leading IT body in the UK is a great endorsement of our technology. We are very excited about receiving a medal from the BCS."

Over 200 companies entered the BCS IT Professional Awards 2006 across four categories: Business Achievement; Technology; Professional Development; and President's Award. London based Trexy Limited was awarded a medal in the 'Services' category of the Technology Award. The announcement was made at the BCS Summer Party held on July 25 in London.

## View from the Chair

*By Leif Azzopardi*



Greetings: A warm welcome to all our members. With our recent activity during April, membership has increased by 25% and it is a sign that our group is continuing to grow and prosper. With the success of the Industry Day and the

European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR) our finances for this year are very healthy and put us in a good position to run and sponsor more events in the future.

This year, ECIR 2006 was the most successful yet, attracting more participants and submissions than ever before. On behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank the organizers and programme committee for doing a great job in handling the high numbers of submissions and catering for the large number of participants.

**"Our finances for this year are very healthy and put us in a good position to run and sponsor more events in the future"**

At the end of the conference, the Annual General Meeting of the BCS-IRSG was held. During the meeting the attending members ratified a constitution for our specialist group. This was required by the BCS, and means that there will be some small changes to our administration. Most notably, is that the AGM will now be held within the UK. Previously, we have collocated the AGM with ECIR, and so every second year the AGM was held in Europe.

However, next year's AGM will be held in London at the BCS Headquarters in April or May, 2007, instead of at ECIR 2007 in Rome. We plan to hold an evening event, with some IR related talks to supplement the AGM. For more details about the BCS-IRSG constitution a copy is available on-line. The AGM was

chaired by Margaret Graham (our past Chair) who has now stepped down. We would like to thank her for efforts during the past year as Chair and the many years she has dedicated to the IRSG as Treasurer before that. There have been a few other changes within the committee and the [full list of committee members is online](#).

Other news: Since ECIR has become so successful we felt it was time to re-assess the organization and structure of the conference. With the high number of submissions it is difficult to ensure that the process maintains the high quality expected of such large-scale events and also ensures the student ethos, which is at the heart of the conference. Consequently, in June, we ran a workshop on the future of ECIR to discuss various matters such as how the programme committee should be organized, deadlines, guidelines for authors and reviewers and other matters. A full report of the workshop will be made available in the coming months for comments and feedback.

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**"ECIR 2006 was the most successful yet, attracting more participants and submissions than ever before"**

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Other ECIR news: The next ECIR will be held in Rome during April 2007 ([ECIR 2007](#)). Just a reminder, the deadline for submissions is the 30th of October 2006. Also, we are currently soliciting bids for ECIR 2008, since it is an even year the conference will be held in the UK. If your organization is interested in hosting the conference within the UK, then [the bid document is available online](#). Expressions of interest should be sent to our secretary Andy MacFarlane by the 31st of August.

Coming Events: In August there will be the Annual Conference on Research and Development of Information Retrieval (SIGIR) in Seattle running from the 6th until the 11th. This is the premier international conference in Information Retrieval, established many years ago by the BCS-IRSG and ACM-SIGIR. This year's conference is run by the University of Washington and in the heartland of Microsoft.

So who knows, maybe, Bill Gates will be one of the keynotes. Nevertheless, we are all looking forward to seeing the latest developments in the field, and also finding out who the next winner of the Salton award will be. (My guess is that it will be a BCS-IRSGer, who started SIGIR and ECIR way back in the 1980s!).

In October 2006, the Symposium on String Processing and Information Retrieval ([SPIRE2006](#)) is to be held in Glasgow by the University of Strathclyde. This year's programme looks particularly interesting and includes Professor Jamie Callan and Professor Martin Farach-Colton as keynote speakers.

A bit further in the future, the BCS-IRSG is running the first international workshop on Teaching and Learning Information Retrieval ([TLIR2007](#)) in January 2007. TLIR aims to create a common space for IR lecturers and researchers so that they can share their experiences and opinions in the field of IR teaching at any educational level.

We are also keen to run IR events, so if you are interested in running an IR event then get in touch with our events coordinator, Micheal Oakes, to find out about how the IRSG can help. And, if you'd like to make a contribution to Informer then please email our Editor and Vice-Chair, Tony Rose, who is always happy to receive submissions; including advertisements, book reviews, product reviews, commentaries, opinions and so forth.

Finally, on behalf of the IRSG committee, we would like to express our deepest sympathies to the friends and family of [Henrik Nottelmann](#) for their loss. Henrik was a very active, up and coming talent in Information Retrieval, who regularly attended and presented papers at ECIR and was winner of the Best Student paper at ECIR 2003. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

*[Leif Azzopardi](#) is a Research Fellow at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK. His research interests include: formal models for information retrieval, distributed information retrieval and evaluation of information access systems. He can be contacted by email via: [leif.azzopardi@cjs.strath.ac.uk](mailto:leif.azzopardi@cjs.strath.ac.uk).*

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## Informer: your thoughts on our newsletter

By Tony Rose



No matter what business you are in, there is no substitute for knowing your customers. And we in the IRSG are no different. We may be a volunteer-led organisation, with a charitable foundation, but if we fail to

adequately serve the interests of our members, then they will simply go elsewhere.

As you probably know, the IRSG has enjoyed a period of significant expansion over the past year or so – with membership numbers now more than four times higher than the January 2005 baseline. But where are all these new members coming from? What are their main interests? What kind of group do they want the IRSG to be? These are all important questions, worthy of considerable attention in their own right. But for now, we'll just be focussing on one particular issue – your views on Informer.

But first, a warning: if you don't like graphs, you may not get the best out of this article. We have demoted them to the very back of this issue, but in order to really get the full picture you'll probably need to refer to them at some point. (For what it's worth, we did try various versions in which we presented little or none of the raw data, but somehow they just seemed to miss the point.) Still, if you have any involvement at all with the group or any interest in its published output, then you should find something of value in here.

### The Survey

We ran an online survey (using [SurveyMonkey](#)) in May 2006, and collected 68 responses to 10 questions. The results from the main questions are summarised below, with the graphs on pages 10-12. (Note that the lengths of the bars in the graphs are purely indicative due to a lossy transformation from HTML to Word.)

### The Results

First, most people seem to think that the current length of Informer is about right, so that's a good start. Ironically, this particular issue is somewhat shorter than usual, but some degree of seasonal fluctuation is inevitable. And as you probably know, most of our content is written by our own members, so we wouldn't be here if people didn't volunteer their own time and effort to put articles together. So once again, many thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue and others.

Similarly, the length of articles is seen as being about right. What may surprise some is that the style is (still?) perhaps seen as being "a bit on the academic side". But I would say that, wouldn't I – as I mentioned in my first editorial, the last thing Informer should attempt to do is pretend to be an academic journal. Instead, I think there is a far greater opportunity in covering the spaces left by the traditional journals, by providing more informal, topical coverage of current developments in search and retrieval, and doing so in a style that encourages newcomers to get involved. And, of course, to ensure that the balance of our content adequately reflects the growing practitioner element in our community.

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**"In order to grow Informer it is inevitable that at some point we should explore more commercial forms of support"**

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One other finding that surprised some (well, me) was the way people consume Informer – I had assumed up to now that everyone did as I did, i.e. printed it out to read at some suitable point (e.g. over coffee, or on the bus/train home, etc.). Not so – two thirds of you read Informer online, and presumably don't print it out at all. So, just as well our style guide encourages authors to "write for the web" (i.e. by placing hyperlinks in their articles rather than using academic style citations, etc.) – that way we can optimise the online reading experience.

Another opportunity for us going forward is to investigate the role of advertising – the majority of you are either in favour or neutral, with only two objections on principle. In order to grow Informer it is inevitable that at some point we should explore more commercial forms of support, and in this respect we could probably learn a lot from our colleagues in the wider information profession and the publications they work with (e.g. [FreePint](#)). I'd be interested in hearing your ideas about this – please forward any suggestions to the address below.

**“The fastest growing sector of our membership is among practitioners”**

Lastly, some findings about the members themselves. Evidently, the IRSG counts many academics and students among its members, and this is reflected in the response to Question 8. However, we should note that by far the fastest growing sector of our membership is among practitioners, and an analysis of the members who described themselves as “other” showed that in fact most of those were practitioners of some sort (by our definition).

And finally, we note that many people have joined the IRSG relatively recently, i.e. in the last year or so. If that includes you, then welcome on board. There are always opportunities to get involved – ranging from attending events to writing articles. If you'd like to know more, just get in touch at the address below, or visit the IRSG website.

*Tony Rose is a consultant specialising in usability, information architecture and search. He has led R&D and product development groups at companies such as Canon and Reuters and holds three patents in the area of search user interface design. He is currently consulting for System Concepts Ltd. and in his spare time is vice-chair of the IRSG and Editor of its newsletter, Informer. He can be contacted via [irsg@bcs.org.uk](mailto:irsg@bcs.org.uk).*

**Book Review:  
Web Communities: Analysis and Construction, by Zhang et al**

*Reviewed by Finbar Dineen*



What do Social Networking (LinkedIn, OpenBC, Ecademy...), the dynamics of Web 2.0 technologies, modern Chinese business (Guanxi) and Open Source development have in common? A fundamental interest in and reliance on

establishing, enabling and developing Web Communities.

So with the interest in Web Communities and their dynamics currently in danger of being overhyped, it's welcome to receive an analytical book that outlines many tools, techniques and ideas to help you separate the wheat from the chaff. Make no mistake, though, this book is a no-nonsense account of its field. To fully appreciate the models it outlines you should feel comfortable with matrix mathematics and graph theory.

**“There is an awful lot to be gained from this book, but it isn't easy going”**

However, much could be understood without this knowledge. I say could, because I very much doubt that people lacking these skills will wade through the text and tolerate stumbling over the sometimes dense mathematical topography of the ubiquitous equations and theorems.

The book is envisaged to be the first of two. This first book deals with how to analyse Web Communities based on information available through the Web, such as webpages, hyperlinks, documents, and user access logs. The second volume is planned to deal with aspects of the user community and design

recommendations based on the knowledge gleaned through the modeling established in this first book.

'Web Communities' looks at both the PageRank and Hyperlinked Induced Topic Search (HITS) search algorithms, but overall the HITS is the one explored in most detail in subsequent chapters. Other topics covered include web page similarity, citation analysis (particularly in academic spheres), clustering, community building (with the emphasis on HITS) and modeling web communities using graphs.

HITS differs in three important ways from other page ranking algorithms in that it is executed at query time (not at indexing time), only processes a small subset of 'relevant' documents and it computes two measures for each document, namely their 'hub' and their 'authority' value. The essential difference in these two factors is in measuring the value of 'aggregators' and those of 'domain experts' (hub and authority, respectively). The central premise of 'Web Communities' explicitly defines a community as mutually dependent on the composition, structure and interaction of these two.

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**"It also confirms the lay person's observation of the apparent blinkered nature of much of academic research work"**

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The fact that the HITS algorithm is executed at query time probably accounts for the fact that it is as yet underutilised, however 'Web Communities' points to many fields and applications where its use would be particularly useful. These being ones in which you can target a fairly definite set of webpages and community members. Examples that spring to mind are intranets, Social Networking applications (with defined memberships), wiki contributors, Friend-of-a-Friend (FOAF) networks... I can also see these techniques being integrated and exploited by Knowledge Management companies.

'Web Communities' brings together a great deal of research literature and example applications in an overall coherent account of

their underlying mathematical properties. You can gain many insights from the research areas it addresses. For example, competition amongst domain experts ('authority' measures in the HITS algorithm) is such that the number of hyperlinks directly between their work (web pages, citations...) is extremely low or zero. It is this property that allows interesting modeling and generalizations to be made about the flow and structure of knowledge networks. It also confirms the lay person's observation of the apparent blinkered nature of much of academic research work relative to similar research and knowledge communities. Overall, there is an awful lot to be gained from this book, but it isn't easy going. If you have never thought of a Web Community as a ".complete directed bipartite graph...", then this is the book to give you that perspective. It is one of those no-nonsense, compact (196 pages), mathematics led application cookbooks.

*Finbar Dineen is a specialist in management, design and information transfer in International contexts. He helps individuals and organisations make best use of ICT in complex and heterogeneous business environments. Current work interests include: Vicarious Learning, Enterprise Architectures, Knowledge Management, Taxonomies, Transnational Communication, Translation, SEO, Web 2.0 and Accessibility. You can keep track of him at [limlom.com](http://limlom.com) or contact [research@limlom.com](mailto:research@limlom.com).*

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## Congratulations!

Congratulations go to Bob Bater of InfoPlex Associates Ltd, whose name was drawn at random from the first 50 responses received in our Informer Survey. First prize was a complimentary copy of "Information Retrieval", by Grossman & Frieder. Happy reading, Bob!

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**Book Review:****The Turn: Integration of Information Seeking and Retrieval In Context**, by Peter Ingwersen & Kalervo Järvelin

*Reviewed by Marc Brette*

What is Information Seeking and Retrieval (IS&R)? If you are like me, you are mostly familiar with Information Retrieval.

Information Retrieval is the system-oriented part: the software, the algorithms, the data structures. Think indexing, clustering, NLP, the various flavour of relevance ranking, query reformulation...

On the other side you have Information Seeking. Information Seeking is the human part: how people behave and feel when they try to search for information. How they proceed when they need to find information, how experienced searchers proceed compared to novices. This part is more related to social science than computing. The ambition of the authors of this academic book is to integrate more tightly these two areas, the system part and the human part (The Turn!).

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**"It took me half of the book to understand this sentence"**

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The book begins with a criticism of the Laboratory Model. The Laboratory Model is embodied by evaluation frameworks like TREC's which have mostly a system focus. According to the authors, it has several unrealistic assumptions such as: it doesn't take into account the context of the task (where search is only a part of the global task), there is no ill-defined task (test queries are quite precise and focused on a particular topic), there is no variability in user population (novice, expert, different domains), the type of documents is not varied (mainly news). There are some outdated criticisms there. For example, TREC tracks have different type of data, like email, law document, genomics document. However it seems true that such evaluation frameworks don't take into account

the user differences and the user context, in particular the work task as a whole.

The first half of the book describes the development of Information Seeking and Information Retrieval. Although it is a little superficial and lacks examples, it gives a good overview of the different aspect of IS&R. Knowing little about it, I was very interested by the Information Seeking part (chapter 3) and User Oriented Information Retrieval part (chapter 5).

In the second half of the book, the authors present their model and how to use it. The model they propose is cognitivist and holistic. I will try to explain these terms because it took me half of the book to understand this sentence.

The model: basically it means they have a diagram that represents the major components involved in IS&R: the actors (the end-user but also the people who design search engines), the actors context (colleagues, organisation, the global task where 'searching' is only a small part...), the interface (the system graphical interface for example), the information objects (the documents), the IT (indexer, taxonomies, natural language algorithm...) and the relation between all these components. Right, I am over-simplifying a lot here, but you get the picture.

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**"This is not reading for the faint of heart and clearly oriented to researchers"**

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Their model is cognitivist because it assumes that the user mind and behaviour can be described in terms of processing. And their model is holistic because it is not focused on describing a particular search task. It models the complete work task (the context). Imagine you have to do a market analysis. It doesn't resolve to submitting a few keywords to Google and sending the results to you customer. You may have to do several search tasks, possibly each task will be a succession of reformulation of your query and interaction with the system. You may also have to discuss with experts. You would also



have to perform non search tasks like analysing or writing a report. However this context may be important to improve search activities.

This second part is more for researchers. Using this model, they analyse gaps in research and end up with a large list of potential research subjects. In the last chapter, they propose strategies to focus on specific gaps that seem promising. One example: to study search in the medical domain, one may try to introduce variability in term of user (experienced doctor vs. 1<sup>st</sup> year students), document types and matching algorithm.

I won't lie to you, this is not reading for the faint of heart and clearly oriented to researchers. The writing is sometimes complex and philosophical (this is the first time I heard about socio-hermeneutic).

If you are an academic in this field, I can't tell you if it's up to its ambitious title. If you are new to the field, it's a hard reading but it gives a larger view on information retrieval than just the algorithmic view. As for me, it gave me perspective and was thought provoking, which is worth the read.

## Get Involved!

Informer welcomes contributions on any aspect of information retrieval. We are particularly interested in feature articles and opinion pieces, but are also pleased to receive news articles, book reviews, jobs ads, etc.

Right now we are running a series of Product Reviews, so if you are interested in reviewing any of the following:

- [Copernic](#)
- [Ask Jeeves Desktop Search](#)
- [Blinkx](#)
- [MSN Search Toolbar](#)

Then please get in touch with us via [irsg@bcs.org.uk](mailto:irsg@bcs.org.uk). All of the above are freely available as software downloads.

## Contacts

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The IRSG is a specialist group of the [British Computer Society](#).  
To automatically receive your own copy of Informer, simply join the IRSG via the [IRSG website](#).

## 1. What do you think of the length of Informer overall?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Too short	<input type="checkbox"/>	11.8%	8
<b>About right</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>59</b>
Too long	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.5%	1
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	0%	0

## 2. What do you think of the length of Informer articles?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Too long	<input type="checkbox"/>	5.9%	4
<b>About right</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>57</b>
Too short	<input type="checkbox"/>	8.8%	6
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.5%	1

## 3. What do you think of the style of Informer?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Far too high-brow	<input type="checkbox"/>	3%	2
A bit on the academic side	<input type="checkbox"/>	19.4%	13
<b>About right</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>65.7%</b>	<b>44</b>
A little too informal	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.4%	7
Far too plebby	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.5%	1
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	0%	0

4. Which articles/features do you most often read?						
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Response Total
Editorial	<b>46%</b> (28)	31% (19)	16% (10)	7% (4)	0% (0)	<b>61</b>
Feature Articles	43% (27)	<b>44%</b> (28)	10% (6)	3% (2)	0% (0)	<b>63</b>
Events Diary	<b>37%</b> (22)	23% (14)	23% (14)	15% (9)	2% (1)	<b>60</b>
Conference Reviews	30% (18)	<b>40%</b> (24)	22% (13)	8% (5)	0% (0)	<b>60</b>
Book Reviews	20% (12)	<b>41%</b> (25)	30% (18)	7% (4)	3% (2)	<b>61</b>
Research Updates	34% (21)	<b>47%</b> (29)	16% (10)	3% (2)	0% (0)	<b>62</b>
Product/Industry Updates	15% (9)	<b>45%</b> (27)	28% (17)	8% (5)	3% (2)	<b>60</b>

6. How do you normally read Informer?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Online	<input type="text"/>	<b>67.7%</b>	<b>42</b>
Printed out for myself	<input type="text"/>	29%	18
Printed out and shared amongst colleagues	<input type="text"/>	3.2%	2
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>	0%	0

7. What is your attitude to advertisements in Informer?			
		Response Percent	Response Total
Good idea - especially if it helps raise money for events etc.	<input type="text"/>	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>23</b>
Don't mind either way	<input type="text"/>	35.5%	22
Not ideal, but tolerable	<input type="text"/>	24.2%	15
I object on principle	<input type="text"/>	3.2%	2
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>	0%	0

8. I am a ...			
		Response Percent	Response Total
<b>Academic/student</b>	<input type="text"/>	59.7%	37
Researcher in industry	<input type="text"/>	9.7%	6
Practitioner	<input type="text"/>	19.4%	12
<input type="text"/> Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>	11.3%	7

9. I joined the IRSG ...			
		Response Percent	Response Total
In the last few weeks	<input type="text"/>	9.7%	6
Some time this year	<input type="text"/>	14.5%	9
<b>Some time last year</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>43.5%</b>	<b>27</b>
A couple of years ago	<input type="text"/>	21%	13
So long ago I can't remember	<input type="text"/>	11.3%	7
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>	0%	0