

Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

23 May 2018

College Building, City University London

Present

Stefan Ruger [SR] (Chair), John Tait [JT] (Minutes), Udo Kruschwitz [UK], Steven Zimmerman [SZ], Jochen Leidner [JL], Andrew MacFarlane [AM].

Via Google Hangouts Video Conference

Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Craig McDonald [CM], Dyaa Albakour [DA], Ayse Goker [AG], Haiming Liu [HL], Frank Hopfgartner [FH], Lorraine Goeuriot [LG].

1. Apologies

Phillip Mayr-Schlegel [PMS]; Michael Oakes [MO].

2. Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2018 were approved as a true record.

3. Matter arising (covered under appropriate agenda item where possible)

3.1 Actions for the previous meeting:

Action Number	Action	Action on
Feb 18.01	Advise RUSIR Organisers of Students Awards and necessary arrangements.	Done
Feb 18.02	Request further information about the financial position of the conference.	Done
Feb 18.03	Inform the ECIR 2019 Industry Day Chairs (Gabriella Kazai and Miguel Martinez) of the availability of this funding and agree a mechanism to disburse it.	Done
Feb 18.04	Ensure KSJ Award is signed by all parties	Done
Feb 18.05	Ask Tony Russell-Rose (Search Solutions Organiser) for results of feedback collected on the day.	Done
Feb 18.06	Invite Tony Russell-Rose to be an Organiser of Search Solutions 2018.	Done
Feb 18.07	Invite AM and HL to be Tutorial Organisers for Search Solutions 2018.	Done
Feb 18.08	Draft Call for proposals for a one day meeting in September/October 2018 to include AGM.	Done
Feb 18.09	Resolve issues raised by committee with IRJ Editors and Springer.	Done
Feb 18.10	Circulate current Call for proposal for ECIR to the committee	Done
Feb 18.11	Cast Group's vote in BCS Council Elections for Soheir Ghallab	Done
Feb 18.12	Convey committee views on scheduling to ECIR 2018 Chairs.	PMS???
Feb 18.13	Advise IF of unpaid expense claims.	Done
Feb 18.14	LG to keep and pass on a record of what worked well and what did not in organising ECIR 2018.	Done
Feb 18.15	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	Continues as May 18.01

4. Matters agreed by email

- a. An agreement had been reached with Springer and the editors for co-operation between the Information Retrieval Journal and ECIR which would form part of the future call for proposals for ECIR, and may be run on a transition basis in 2019.
- b. £2000 originally allocated to support ECIR 2018 Industry Day had been re-allocated to Student Support with the agreement of the ECIR Industry Day Chairs and the ECIR 2018 Organisers.
- c. A partnership agreement had been entered into between the IRSG and Taxonomy Bootcamp 2018.

After discussion it was agreed to ask Taxonomy Bootcamp 2018 Organisers whether they needed IRSG's help in getting more speakers.

Action May 18.02: Secretary

- d. No trace can be found of the partner agreements listed in the ECIR CfP, apart from SIGIR. They have therefore been removed.
- e. It had been agreed to include an edition of FDIA as a workshop in ICTIR 2018 following a request from the ICTIR 2018 organisers.

Volunteers were requested to act as PC Chairs for this edition of ICTIR 2018, and IF and HL agreed to undertake this task.

Action May 18.05: IF to inform ICTIR 2018 Organisers

4. Chair's Report

The chair noted that the KSJ Award programme had been extended for a further five years and the agreement had now been signed.

Action May 18.03: SR to forward agreement to IF, JT and UK for information and action on finance etc.

The chair had attended ECIR 2018 on the group's behalf, and had enjoyed the conference.

The chair thanked the ECIR 2018 organisers, especially LG, on behalf of the whole committee.

The role of the IRSG in acting as the steering committee for ECIR was questioned again, but no concrete plan was put forward for a successor steering committee.

Action May 18.04: Secretary to convey thanks.

Finally the chair noted that it had been planned to run the committee meeting in conjunction with a one day conference in Glasgow. However it had proved impossible to organise the conference for a variety of reasons including difficulties in getting confirmation from speakers.

The committee meeting had therefore been moved to London and City University at short notice, and AM was thanked for making the necessary arrangements.

It was hoped to arrange a meeting in Glasgow in future.

5. Search Solutions 2018

Tony Russell-Rose had been added to the list of organisers.

The call for tutorial proposals has been published.

Dates had been confirmed as 26 November 2018 for the tutorial, and 27 November 2018 for the main event.

Invitations to speakers have started to go out and this action will proceed over the coming weeks.

Action May 18.06: UK to distribute the new invitations management spreadsheet.

The Search Industry Awards had now been blessed as an official BCS award.

There was a short discussion of the need to maintain control by the group over the award and the jury.

It was **agreed** the award should continue to be part of Search Solutions.

It was **agreed** that JL, DA and Tony Russell-Rose would set up the jury and publicise the award as widely as possible.

Action May 18.07: UK

CM and JL asked whether it was possible to collocate a workshop with Search Solutions. The committee noted there was a precedent for doing this, and also noted the workshop should be organised the day after Search Solutions (i.e. this year 28 November 2018) to avoid competition with the tutorials or the main event. If they wished to go ahead the potential organisers were asked to check room availability at the BCS London Office, and put forward a formal proposal to the committee. A decision on this would be taken by email in view of timescales.

6. September One Day Meeting

One proposal, from Paul Clough of the University of Sheffield, on "Ethics, Privacy, Transparency and Bias in Information Retrieval" had been received by the deadline.

It was **agreed** to accept the proposal in principle, subject to a number of essential issues not covered by the proposal being resolved satisfactorily. These include:

- a. total budget and IRSG contribution;
- b. outline schedule;
- c. ability to host the IRSG AGM;
- d. Also whether the university could make available a suitable room for a committee meeting.

It was **agreed** that the secretary should approach Prof. Clough to resolve these and come back to the committee by email for a final decision.

Action May 18.08: Secretary to approach Prof. Clough for clarification on the proposal.

7. Making ECIR a Stronger Conference

The CORE rating is the primary current mechanism through which we are promoting ECIR as a top conference. In order to retain and increase our CORE ranking we need to impress on proposers the need to put forward PC and General Chairs with high H-Index ratings in their proposals.

Action May 18.09: secretary to make sure this was clear in the ECIR CfP.

JL volunteers to undertake a survey of the members (including associate members) to determine their H-Index. This should be done via the jiscmail list.

Action May 18.10: CM to email link relevant to CORE requirements to JL.

8. KSJ Award

UK has changed the call to try to attract more nominations from the Natural Language Processing (NLP) Community, and has arranged for the call to be distributed to LREC, and NAACL to that end, as well as ECIR.

There was a brief discussion of how to encourage nominations from the NLP community.

Action May 18.11: UK agreed to approach Marti Hearst (current ACL President) to formally link the Association for Computational Linguistics to the award to for example nominate members for the award.

9. ECIR 2018

[See also 4. Chair's report]

LG reported the final financial outturn is not yet in, but the conference didn't lose money.

There were 248 registered participants, of which 59 were students and 125 full normal registrations. 173 long papers were submitted of which 39 were accepted (23%), and 106 short papers, of which 36 were accepted (34%).

There were 60 registrations from France.

Two authors had visa problems, so could not attend. They sent videos, which had a mixed reception from the audience. There was a brief discussion of this, and it was concluded videos were probably better than the alternatives in this situation: a blank presentation session or a substitute presenting.

Acceptable Letters of Invitation for various countries had been prepared, which LG and her colleagues would be prepared to pass on to future organisers.

Social events went well.

Using parallel session worked fine on the whole, although the Industry Session was very well attended necessitating a room switch.

10. ECIR 2019

Things are progressing well and according to plan.

The Call for Papers should be out shortly.

The chair requested the IRSG committee be given the chance to comment on the CfP.

Action May 18.18: PMS to convey this request to the PC Chairs.

11. ECIR 2020

A draft Call for Proposal had been submitted to the committee for comment.

The secretary thanked everyone who had commented, but especially CM for his contribution to updating and incorporating new material relevant to the CORE ranking.

Action May 18.12 the chair promised to provide his marked up urgently by email.

There was a brief discussion of potential proposers who had been in touch and might come forward.

It was noted proposers often ask for an example of previously successful proposals. Dublin had been used but was now rather out of date (submitted 2009), and more recently Padua (submitted 2014).

It was **agreed** to continue to use Padua, although health warnings were needed since it was now out of date in some regards.

It was **agreed** we needed to try to shorten the CfP. For example there is no need nowadays to specifically say a web site is needed.

More was needed on the selection process: specifically the primary selection criteria needed to be highlighted.

Action Secretary to collate comments, update the ECIR 2020 Call for Proposals and issue it by latest Close of Business 8 June 2018.

12. ICTIR report

CM reported that:

1. PC Chairs and other chairs agreed for ICTIR 2019;
2. ICTIR 2020 bids were being evaluated and results were expected by the end of May.

[HL and LG left the video conference at this point]

13. Finance

The treasurer reported the budget for 2018/2019 had been submitted to the BCS centrally.

Action Treasurer to supply a copy of the submitted budget to the secretary for the group archives.

14. Informer

The Winter issue had eventually come out in early February.

As ever there was an appeal for contributions from members.

Action The secretary was asked to move the Informer item up the agenda and to include consideration of rejuvenation and a new editor.

15. Any Other Business

AM was congratulated by the committee on his recognition as Fellow of the BCS.

Action AM was asked to recirculate the date of the Strix Award Lecture.

Action AM was asked to check and confirm by email when the call is expected to be released.

16. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in September. It is expected to take place in Sheffield. The precise date and time will be advised by email in due course.

17. Actions Arising From Meeting

Action Number	Action	Action on
May 18.01	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	Everyone
May 18.02	Ask Taxonomy Bootcamp 2018 Organisers whether they needed IRSG's help in getting more speakers.	JT

May 18.03	Forward agreement to IF, JT and UK for information and action on finance etc.	SR
May 18.04	Convey Group's thanks to ECIR 2018 organisers.	JT
May 18.05	Inform ICTIR 2018 Organisers of agreement re running FDIA and appointment of IF and HL as PC Chairs.	IF
May 18.06	Distribute the new SS 2018 invitations management spreadsheet.	UK
May 18.07	Arrange publicity for Search Industry Awards.	UK
May 18.08	Secretary to approach Prof. Clough for clarification on the proposal.	JT
May 18.09	To make sure the need to put forward PC and General Chairs with high H-Index ratings was clear in the ECIR CfP.	JT
May 18.10	Email link relevant to CORE requirements to JL.	CM
May 18.11	Approach Marti Hearst (current ACL President) to formally link the Association for Computational Linguistics to the award to, for example, nominate ACL members for the award.	UK
May 18.12	Pass marked up copy of ECIR 2020 Call for Proposals to the secretary.	SR
May 18.13	Collate comments, update the ECIR 2020 Call for Proposals and issue it by latest Close of Business 8 June 2018.	JT
May 18.14	Pass copy of the 2018/19 submitted budget to secretary.	IF
May 18.15	Move Informer Item up the agenda for the next time and consider rejuvenation and a new editor.	JT
May 18.16	Recirculate the date of the Strix Award Lecture.	AM
May 18.17	Check and confirm by email when the call is expected to be released.	AM
May 18.18	Circulate draft CfP to IRSG Committee for comment.	PMS