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Evaluation of Multilingual and Multi-modal Information Retrieval

7th Workshop of the Cross-Language Evaluation Forum, CLEF 2006
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Revised Selected Papers

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Preface

The seventh campaign of the Cross Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF) for European languages was held from January to September 2006. There were eight evaluation tracks in CLEF 2006, designed to test the performance of a wide range of multilingual information access systems or system components. A total of 90 groups from all over the world submitted results for one or more of the evaluation tracks. Full details regarding the track design, the evaluation methodologies, and the results obtained by the participants can be found in the different sections of these proceedings. The results of the campaign were reported and discussed at the annual workshop, held in Alicante, Spain, 20-22 September, immediately following the 10th European Conference on Digital Libraries. The workshop was attended by approximately 130 researchers and system developers. In addition to presentations in plenary and parallel sessions, the poster session and breakout meetings gave participants a chance to discuss ideas and results in detail. An invited talk was given by Noriko Kando from the National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo on the NTCIR evaluation initiative for Asian languages. The final session focussed on technical transfer issues. Martin Braschler, from the University of Applied Sciences Winterthur, Switzerland, gave a talk on “What MLIA Applications Can Learn from Evaluation Campaigns” while Fredric Gey from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, summarised some of the main conclusions of the MLIA workshop at SIGIR 2006, where much of the discussion was concentrated on problems involved in building and marketing commercial MLIA systems. The workshop was preceded by two related events. On 19 September, the ImageCLEF group, together with the MUSCLE Network of Excellence, held a joint meeting on “Usage-Oriented Multimedia Information Retrieval Evaluation”. On the morning of 20 September, before the official beginning of the workshop, members of the question answering group, coordinated by Fernando Llopis, University of Alicante, organised an exercise designed to test the ability of question answering systems to respond within a time constraint. This was the first time that an activity of this type had been held at CLEF; it was a great success and aroused much interest. It is our intention to repeat this experience at CLEF 2007. The presentations given at the workshop can be found on the CLEF website at: www.clef-campaign.org. These post-campaign proceedings represent extended and revised versions of the initial working notes distributed at the workshop. All papers have been subjected to a reviewing procedure. The volume has been prepared with the assistance of the Center for the Evaluation of Language and Communication Technologies (CELCT), Trento, Italy, under the coordination of Danilo Giampiccolo. The support of CELCT is gratefully acknowledged. We should also like to thank all our reviewers for their careful refereeing. CLEF 2006 was an activity of the DELOS Network of Excellence for

Digital Libraries, within the framework of the Information Society Technologies programme of the European Commission.

July 2007

Carol Peters
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