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# Advances in Information Retrieval

30th European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2008  
Glasgow, UK, March 30-April 3, 2008  
Proceedings

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# Preface

These proceedings contain the refereed technical papers and posters presented at the 30th Annual European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2008). ECIR is the annual conference of the British Computer Society's specialist group in Information Retrieval (BCS-IRSG). This year the conference was organised by the Department of Computing Science, University of Glasgow.

ECIR 2008 received 139 full paper submissions. Many of these submissions came from outside Europe, and 25 countries are represented in the final ECIR 2008 programme, reflecting the international popularity and reputation of the conference series. All submitted papers were reviewed by at least three members of the international programme committee. Thirty-three papers were selected as full research papers and a further 19 were accepted as short research papers. Of these 52 selected papers, 26 have a student as the primary author indicating that the traditional student focus of the conference is still relevant today. The accepted papers themselves come from a mixture of universities, research institutes, and commercial organisations.

The collection of papers presented in these proceedings demonstrates the commitment of Information Retrieval to sound theoretical research allied with strong empirical evaluation. The topics cover core IR problems, such as evaluation and retrieval, and emerging topics such as social media and expert search. We owe a great vote of thanks to our various committees – programme and poster committees, tutorial and workshop committee and award committees – for their hard work in ensuring the quality of the ECIR 2008 programme. We really appreciate the support, expertise and effort given so freely.

ECIR 2008 marked the 30th anniversary of the conference. The programme of the conference and its venue reflected the celebratory nature of ECIR 2008, with exceptionally rich and varied scientific and social events. The conference took place in the University of Glasgow's historic and most famous venue, the Bute Hall. For the first time in ECIR's history, we organised a programme of tutorials and workshops. We are very grateful to the workshop organisers and tutorial presenters for their contributions. Following the success of previous BCS-IRSG Industry Days, we organised an Industry Day as an intrinsic part of the ECIR 2008 programme, held in the same venue as the main conference.

We are grateful to our keynote speakers, Nicholas J. Belkin, Amit Singhal, and Bettina Berendt, for their stimulating contributions to the conference.

We are also grateful to our sponsoring institutions, Google, Matrixware Information Services, Microsoft Research, and Yahoo! Research, for their support of ECIR 2008.

Our final thanks go to Peter Dickman and Jon Ritchie, for dealing with all local arrangements, Claire Harper at the University of Glasgow's Conference & Visitor Services, who sorted out the registration process and the preparation of

the conference venues with efficiency and tact, and the many local volunteers, for their huge contribution to the smooth running of ECIR 2008.

March 2008

Craig Macdonald  
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Vassilis Plachouras  
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