**SICSA Conference Sponsorship for ECIR 2017**

**Report on conference**

The 39th European Conference on Information Retrieval ([ECIR 2017](http://ecir2017.org/)) was held from 9th-13th April 2017 at Robert Gordon and Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC) in Aberdeen, Scotland.

ECIR is the premier European research conference for the presentation of new results in the field of information retrieval (IR). ECIR 2017 aimed to be inclusive of researchers stretching from the northwest of Europe such as Scotland and Scandinavia, to the southeast on Eurasian boundary with Turkey. The programme included a new Doctoral Consortium, enabling wider student participation. Workshops, tutorial and Doctoral Consortium were held on Sunday 9th April in Robert Gordon University, the main conference was held from 10th-12th April in the AECC, and an Industry Day was held on 13th April, again in the AECC.

There was a total of 162 registrations for the conference, of which 61 were students. The delegates came from a variety of locations: 53% from Europe, 33% from Asia, 11% from North and South America, 1% from Australia and 1% from Africa. We were able to provide 11 free student registrations due to the SICSA sponsorship (£,2,770 in total):

* Anjie Fang (Glasgow University) - £240
* Graham Mcdonald (Glasgow University) - £240
* Jarana Manotumruksa Glasgow University)- £240
* Jorge Gonzalez Paule (Glasgow University) - £270
* Andrew James Mcminn (Glasgow University) - £270
* Saliha Minhas – (Stirling University) £250
* Jeremie Clos (Robert Gordon University) £240
* Blessing Mbipom (Robert Gordon University) - £270
* Colin Wilkie (Glasgow University) - £250
* Elaine Chen (Robert Gordon University) - £250
* Ikechukwu Nkisi-Orji (Robert Gordon University) - £250

A further 8 student travel grants of £500 each were also awarded with sponsorship from BCS IRSG (£2,500) and ACM SIGIR (£1,500).

There were approximately 70 attendees at the workshops and tutorial on Sunday 9th April. The day went smoothly with required facilities provided. The following workshops and tutorials were held:

* 5th International Workshop on Bibliometric-enhanced Information Retrieval (BIR 2017) (Philipp Mayr, Ingo Frommholz, Guillaume Cabanac). Papers for this workshop can be seen at <http://dblp.uni-trier.de/db/conf/ecir/bir2017.html>.
* 2nd International Workshop on Online Safety, Trust and Fraud prevention (OnST'17) (Marco Fischella, Nattiya Kanhabua, Sven Kurras)
* Workshop: Exploitation of Social Media for Emergency Relief and Preparedness (SMERP) (Saptarshi Ghosh, Marie-Francine Moens, Gareth Jones, Debasis Ganguly, Tanmoy Chakraborty, Kripabandhu Ghosh)
* Workshop: Social Media for Personalization and Search (SoMePeAS) (Ludovico Boratto, Andreas Kaltenbrunner, Giovanni Stilo)
* Tutorial: Efficient Query Processing Infrastructure (Nicola Tonellotto and Craig Macdonald)

Keynotes for the main conference were given by:

[Laura Dietz](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.ecir2017.org_programme_keynote-2Ddetails_&d=DQMFAg&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=rVr7FShIDRwOf0KsQcom-HnQcbQ-WY1lljeEBFP0vJU&m=a6Tu4k9sJfwn3b_kho-rPSNk_c67oyxekPTDBfqXxQc&s=oBVHbinu2w5InfZwzYKHjehuRBQgzUanfPT6Zo9mbDQ&e=) (University of New Hampshire) - *Retrieving knowledge from the Web*

[Jaime Teevan](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.ecir2017.org_programme_keynote-2Ddetails_&d=DQMFAg&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=rVr7FShIDRwOf0KsQcom-HnQcbQ-WY1lljeEBFP0vJU&m=a6Tu4k9sJfwn3b_kho-rPSNk_c67oyxekPTDBfqXxQc&s=oBVHbinu2w5InfZwzYKHjehuRBQgzUanfPT6Zo9mbDQ&e=) (Microsoft Research), Karen Spärck Jones Award Winner, - *Search, Re-Search*

[Alexander Hauptmann](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.ecir2017.org_programme_keynote-2Ddetails_&d=DQMFAg&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=rVr7FShIDRwOf0KsQcom-HnQcbQ-WY1lljeEBFP0vJU&m=a6Tu4k9sJfwn3b_kho-rPSNk_c67oyxekPTDBfqXxQc&s=oBVHbinu2w5InfZwzYKHjehuRBQgzUanfPT6Zo9mbDQ&e=) (Carnegie Mellon University) - *Efficient query results on the content of millions of videos*.

There were 135 full papers submitted, of which 36 were accepted (27% acceptance ratio), and 101 short papers submitted, of which 35 were accepted (35% acceptance ratio). There were also 12 demonstrations submitted, of which 7 were accepted (58% acceptance ratio) and 72 posters were presented during the conference. The full set of papers can be seen at <http://dblp.uni-trier.de/db/conf/ecir/ecir2017.html>, and the proceedings are published by Springer:

# Advances in Information Retrieval, *39th European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2017, Aberdeen, UK, April 8-13, 2017, Proceedings,* Eds. Joemon M Jose, Claudia Hauff, Ismail Sengor Altıngovde, Dawei Song, Dyaa Albakour, Stuart Watt, John Tait, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-56608-5, Part of the [Lecture Notes in Computer Science](https://link.springer.com/bookseries/558) book series (LNCS, volume 10193).

The Industry Day on 13th April was attended by about 65 delegates and featured talks from:

* Peter Mika (Senior Director of Engineering, Schibsted)
* Edgar Meij (Senior Scientist Bloomberg)
* James McMinn (Founder & Social News Analyst, Scoop Analytics)
* Michaela Regneri (Product Manager BI Analytics, OTTO)
* Ross McLean (Business Intelligence Analyst, Independent Data Services)
* Richard Boulton (Head of Software Engineering, Government Digital Service)
* Ehud Reiter (Chief Scientist, Arria NLG)
* Elizabeth Daly (Research Scientist, IBM Research)
* Will Moy (Director, Full Fact)
* Charlie Hull (Owner & CEO, Flax)

(Virginia Dawod, RGU, May 2017)