

The 1st SICSA Scottish Information Retrieval (IR) Workshop took place on May 31st in Glasgow Caledonian University. The event was co-organised by the University of Glasgow Caledonian and the University of Glasgow. The focus and aim of this workshop was to bring together IR researchers from the various Scottish universities in order to facilitate more awareness and increased interaction. The workshop had a total of 41 SICSA attendees, comprised of 30 registered attendees and 11 SICSA speakers from 8 different SICSA institutions (Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Glasgow, Strathclyde University, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, Heriot Watt University, University of Edinburgh, and University of Dundee Abertay).

The scientific program included a keynote talk, a minute madness session, research talks, demos and posters. The madness session allowed all attendees to outline their research interests and interest in IR, the wide range of interests/research included personal music retrieval, social media filtering for emergency management, retrieval of cultural and heritage objects, ranking for aggregated search, developing models of findability etc. The keynote was provided by Prof. Arjen de Vries (CWI, Amsterdam) who is a world leading IR researcher; he provided an overview of the problems and challenges of finding strategic information within the enterprise. The SICSA speakers then covered a wide range of topics. Jesus Rodriguez Perez, (University of Glasgow) talked about using inter-document relations in microblog retrieval. Prof Miles Osborne (University of Edinburgh) discussed efficient cross stream event detection social media, in particular for event detection in twitter. Dr Tiphaine Dalmas, (University of Edinburgh) described question answering with Spacebook, which is a speech-driven, hands-free, eyes-free mobile application for pedestrian navigation and exploration in urban environments. Dr Matt-Mouley Bouamrane (University of Glasgow) discussed information management in the patient surgical pathway in NHS Scotland. Dr Nava Tintarev (University of Aberdeen) presented work from SaSSY which examines explanations in scrutible autonomous systems (agents, planning and argumentation dialog). Prof Ayse Goker (Robert Gordon University) discussed the benefits of adopting a user centred approach to designing multimedia IR systems. Dr Craig MacDonald (University of Glasgow Sensor) talked about sensor and social search within smart cities. Following on from this Dr M-Dyaa Albakour (University of Glasgow) described his approach to local event retrieval with social sensors. Dr Martin Halvey (Glasgow Caledonian University) outlined an examination the effort involved in making relevance assessments as part of the information retrieval process. Dr Dmitri Roussinov (University of Strathclyde) outlined the use of web n-grams to automatically recognize important aspects of products in opinions when shopping. Dr Leif Azzopardi (University of Glasgow) outlined how economics can be used to model the interaction between a user and system in the context of search. The event concluded with a discussion session which centred on future SICSA IR events and collaboration amongst the community.