

Report on the 4th ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval CHIIR 2019

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Abstract

This is a report on the fourth edition of the ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR 2019), held 10th-14th March 2019, in Glasgow, Scotland. CHIIR was a five day event featuring keynotes by Ranjitha Kumar and Daniela Petrelli, 21 full papers presentations, 23 poster presentation and 6 demonstrations, along with 3 practitioner talks, 2 workshops and a tutorial. This year, CHIIR had 165 attendees, making it the largest CHIIR to date. The conference received a total of 56 full paper and 7 perspective paper submissions, of which 21 were accepted, resulting in an acceptance rate of 33.3%. A total of 47 Short paper submissions and 8 Demo submissions was received, out of which 23 (48.9%) Short Papers and 6 Demos were accepted. This shows that CHIIR community is going from strength to strength, as well as providing a friendly and welcoming atmosphere in which academics, students and practitioners can share and disseminate the latest research in information seeking, retrieval and interaction.

1 Introduction

Starting in 2016 the ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR), pronounced "cheer", provided a forum for the dissemination and discussion of research on the user-centered aspects of information interaction and information retrieval. The conference is a merger of two previous successful events: the Information Interaction in Context conference (IiX) and the Human Computer Information Retrieval symposium (HCIR), which ran from 2006 and 2007 respectively up to 2016. CHIIR encourages submissions on a range of topics related to the study information interaction and retrieval, including interactive information systems, human-human information interaction, novel interaction paradigms, new evaluation methods, and research that draws upon related work in a range of communities such as sociology, ethnography, psychology, and human-computer interaction.

The 4th CHIIR conference took place at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland from the 10th of March until the 14th of March 2019. The venue for the conference was the Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC), University of Strathclyde. Founded in 1796 as the Andersonian Institute, Strathclyde is Glasgow's second-oldest university, with the university receiving its royal charter in 1964 as the UK's first technological university. Glasgow has a long and illustrious history of research in human computer interaction (HCI) and information retrieval (IR) making it an ideal location for CHIIR with many notable figures in both the IR and HCI have either graduated from or associated with the city's universities. The 2019 edition of the CHIIR attracted 165 registered attendees from over 20 different countries. Many of these were first time attendees (just over 55%), and just under half the participants were students. This made CHIIR 2019 the largest edition to date. Below we provide an overview of the technical and social program which participants thoroughly enjoyed.

2 SICSA Contribution

SICSA provided funding of £3500 to support 10 student places. We had an open application process for these places. As we had a large number of applications we decided to allocate the funds to 14 students, these students were:

- Azwa Bin Abdul Aziz, University of Aberdeen
- Danai Korre, University of Edinburgh
- Arlene Casey, University of Edinburgh
- Xi Wang, University of Glasgow
- Graham McDonald, University of Glasgow
- Ting Su, University of Glasgow
- David Maxwell, University of Glasgow
- Pranay Nangia, University of Strathclyde
- Sylvain Daronnat, University of Strathclyde
- Mohamed Amine Belabbes, University of Strathclyde
- Linda Lapp, University of Strathclyde
- Zuzana Pinkosova, University of Strathclyde
- Olivia Foulds, University of Strathclyde
- Mateusz Dubiel, University of Strathclyde

3 Technical Programme

This year the technical program included a number of different tracks to allow our research community to experience both the breath and the depth of Human Information Interaction and Retrieval [1]. A total of 56 full paper and 7 perspective paper submissions were received, of which 21 were accepted for publication in the proceedings, resulting in an acceptance rate of 33.3%. The full papers spanned a whole host of topics from conversational search, information seeking in the library and search as learning to special information needs and interests, searching in context, health and archives. The perspective papers allowed researchers to table and discuss fundamental concepts and methodologies and motivated a number of new and interesting directions and challenges: For example, in [10], Smith and Rieh argued that search systems have “great potential for facilitating human learning, critical thinking, and creativity by expanding searchers’ information-literate actions such as comparing, evaluating, and differentiating between information sources”, while in [9], Ruthven present the idea of “meaning-making as a vital human reaction to significant life changes” and that people gather information as a way to make meaning within their lives. In [2], Berget and MacFarlane discussed the tension between rigour and ethics in experimental methods used in interactive information retrieval. In addition to the long papers, a total of 47 short paper submissions and 8 demo submissions was received, out of which 23 (48.9%) Short Papers and 6 Demos were accepted. Full papers were allocated a 30-minute presentation slot in the program, while short papers and demos were presented in a dedicated poster presentation session, accompanied by cake.

This year CHIIR had two amazing keynote speakers. **Prof. Ranjitha Kumar**, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, kicked off the official programme with her highly engaging and stimulating keynote entitled “Data-Driven Design” [6]. Ranjitha discussed that while A/B testing has become the de facto standard for optimizing design, there was also a need to help designers craft more effective user experiences by leveraging data. And that other powerful data-driven methods — complementary to A/B testing — that can tie design choices to desired outcomes. Then on start the second day of the conference, **Prof. Daniella Petrelli**, from Sheffield Hallam University, delivered the second keynote entitled, “From Delivering Facts to Generating Emotions: The Complex Relationship between Museums and Information” [8]. Daniella discussed how information technology has been increasing used within the cultural heritage setting and museums have experimented with multimedia PCs, PDAs and phones, table-tops, Google Glass and now VR. She described how the challenge was to embedded such technology within the experience to truly engage visitors with the content, rather than having it as an add-on or a mechanism to show more.

Spread throughout the technical programme, this year’s CHIIR featured a number of invited practitioner talks to provide a number of perspectives of information seeking and interaction in practice. **Dr John Scally** from the National Library of Scotland delivered a lively presentation on “Getting From Page

to Screen in Time for Your Birthday”. **Kirsten Urquhart** from YoungScot, which is a national youth information charity which provides a mixture of information, ideas and incentives to help young people become confident inform and active citizens, presented an illuminating talk on on “National survey of young people’s information needs” **Lynne Dent** and **Mo McRoberts** from Design+Engineering at the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) and responsible for their digital archives provides insights into the challenges in curating, organising and surfacing content to their end-users with their talk on: “Peaking behind the curtain; exploring the discovery challenges of a 100 year old broadcaster”.

This year there were many great papers presented at CHIIR with several being nominated for awards by the programme committee [7, 3, 9, 4, 5, 10]. The best paper committee consisting of Irene Lopatovska (Pratt Institute, USA, Chair), Nim Dvir (University of Albany, Canada), Ying-Hsang Liu (Charles Sturt University, Australia), and Dan Russell (Google, USA), awarded the best paper award to: Abhinav Mehrotra, Robert Hendley and Mirco Musolesi for “NotifyMeHere: Intelligent Notification Delivery in Multi-Device Environments” [7] and the best student paper to: Manali Gaikwad and Orland Hoeber for “An Interactive Image Retrieval Approach to Searching for Images on Social Media” [4]. In addition to the best paper awards, the programme chairs awarded the best short paper to: Fanghui Xiao, Daqing He, Yu Chi, Wei Jeng and Christinger Tomer for “Challenges and Supports for Accessing Open Government Datasets” [11].

3.1 DC, tutorials and Workshops

The CHIIR doctoral consortium and 1 tutorial took place on Sunday March 10. 13 students and 13 mentors took part in the doctoral consortium, covering a range of topics from collaborative information seeking in tourism to conversational search to health information needs. The doctoral consortium consisted of a range of presentations from students and some time to have discussions with mentors, the event was finished with a dinner for all attendees at the City Merchant Restaurant, Merchant City, Glasgow.

The tutorial “Qualitative Data: You Asked Them, Now What to Do With What They Said” was delivered by Dr Rebekah Willson, University of Strathclyde. This half-day tutorial was intended for researchers who are relatively new to qualitative research; it included discussion and provided hands-on experience of analysing qualitative data. This tutorial proved extremely popular and was delivered twice, 46 participants signed up to attend.

2 workshops took place on Thursday March 14. In total 72 participants signed up to attend both workshops, with attendees roughly split between both events. The workshop on Barriers to Interactive IR Resources Re-use (BI-IRRR) had the goal of bring together researchers who want to participate in a community-driven effort to design and implement a platform for the collection, organisation, maintenance, and sharing of resources for interactive information retrieval (IIR) experimentation. For example, documenting and sharing search

tasks, experimental protocols, questionnaire designs, reporting standards, evaluation procedures, data collections, and as well as the search interaction data produced in such experiments.

The Workshop on the Evaluation of Personalisation in Information Retrieval (WEPIR) had run previously at CHIIR 2018. The workshop aimed to bring together researchers from different backgrounds, interested in advancing the evaluation of personalisation in information retrieval. In 2019 the workshop focused on the development of a common understanding of the challenges, requirements and practical limitations of meaningful evaluation of personalisation in information retrieval.

4 Social Program

To complement the technical programme, CHIIR 2019 offered a series of social events to welcome participants as well as to show them some of the sights in the city.

Student Game’s Night: The social programme kicked off on the evening of Sunday March 10, with a student games night at The DogHouse in Merchant City. During the night students (and other conference delegates) forged new friendships over various board games and card games during the night - while experiencing and enjoying craft beers, artisan soft drinks, coffees and a lot of barbecued and fried foods. The evening gave students a chance to play a variety of different games, while also learning more about each other, in a friendly atmosphere – until, of course, Cards against Humanity came out, but luckily the DogHouse had to close before anyone got hurt. The night was co-sponsored by the ACM SIGIR students and co-organized by Johannes Trippas and Souvich Ghosh.

Newcomers Lunch: On Monday March 11 a newcomers lunch, sponsored by Kira Systems, took place. As the majority of attendees at CHIIR 2019 were newcomers a range of ice breaker activities took place. A number of senior community members lead the discussion among attendees at tables over lunch. A people bingo ice breaker also encouraged attendees to ask each other questions and also find out more about Scottish culture. Returning completed bingo cards made attendees eligible for a prize draw at the conference dinner.

Welcome Reception in City Hall: On the evening of Monday March 11, participants were invited to the Glasgow City Chambers in George Square to a welcome reception by the cities Lord Provost (equivalent of mayor). The building is the headquarters of Glasgow City Council and is also a very fine example of Victorian architecture which showcased the wealth of the city. Glasgow City Council provided the reception as well as an exuberant welcome from Bailie Norman MacLeod on behalf of the Lord Provost. The welcome speech by Bailie MacLeod entertained as much as informed the participants about the differences between Glasgow and Edinburgh culture, the friendliness of people of Glasgow, and beautiful buildings and architecture within in the city (and beyond).

Dinner at the Science Centre: The conference dinner took place on the evening of Tuesday March 12th at Glasgow Science Centre, located beside the River Clyde. The attendees were greeted by a Scottish piper before a drinks reception amongst the interactive museum exhibits. Attendees were then piped to a dinner which highlighted some of the best Scottish produce, including salmon, scotch beef and of course whisky. During the conference dinner a number of awards were presented including best paper, best student paper, honourable mentions and prizes from the newcomers bingo event. Photographs from the conference and social events are available online - .

4.1 Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the ACM and SIGIR for sponsoring CHIIR, and in addition for their very generous student travel grant program and for sponsoring of the best (student) paper award—thank you SIGIR!

We would like to thank our generous sponsors who support the event, Kira Systems, the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA), Microsoft, Google and Amazon.

We thank the CHIIR steering committee, and the current chair, Rob Capra in particular, for their guidance and great support in organising and growing the CHIIR conference.

We would like to thank the people and institutions who have contributed to making CHIIR'19 a success. We first thank the authors for providing the content of the conference program. The three Program chairs, Hideo Joho, Vanessa Murdock and Pernilla Qvarfordt invested a huge amount of time and effort in organizing the paper reviewing and selection process for the full and short papers, and in putting together a very interesting program, with the help of the Senior Program Committee and the Program Committee. We are grateful for the efforts of the Tutorial Chair, Catherine L. Smith, the Workshops Chairs, Stephann Makri and Suzan Verberne, the organizers of the Doctoral Consortium, Yashar Moshfeghi and Heather O'Brien, the Demos and Resources Chairs, Jiyin He and Frank Hopfgartner, the Publicity Chair, Diane Pennington, and the Publications Chair, Craig Macdonald. We also very grateful to Mateusz Dubiel and Sylvain Daronnat, for leading the student volunteers and for all their support with our webpages.

Finally, we thank the hosting organisation, the University of Strathclyde, for their practical support we could wish for, our colleagues at the Technology and Innovation Centre for help with all the logistics of the conference, and the City of Glasgow for inviting us into the City Chambers for the welcome reception. We hope that you will find the program interesting and thought-provoking and the interaction with old and new friends and colleagues engaging and stimulating, - and that you will enjoy the city of Glasgow!

Lisa Tolles from Sheridan for handling the proceedings.

Details about the conference are online at <http://sigir.org/chir2019/>. The proceedings are available online at <https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3295750>.

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