



Research Networking Programmes

ELIAS: Evaluating Information Access Systems
Science Meeting - Scientific Report

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Summary

Two Elias-funded meetings were held during ECIR 2016 in Vienna, one for the CLEF Lab organizers to discuss their activities and one for the Social Book Search Lab to sync the activities of its two tracks and discuss connections with other, related evaluation campaigns. This report summarizes the goals and results of these meetings.

The CLEF Initiative¹ is the European forum for multilingual and multi-modal information access evaluation, comprising about 200 research groups. CLEF 2015² organizes 8 evaluation labs which range from text to images passing through semi-structured data and covers different tasks such as question answering, reputation management, plagiarism detection, recommendation, eHealth, and more.

The goal of the CLEF Lab organizers meeting was to coordinate activities among CLEF 2014 labs and to co-locate it with ECIR 2014, the European Conference on Information Retrieval. The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at the Electrotechnical Building of the Vienna University of Technology.

The SBS Lab³ expert meeting had two main goals. The first was to coordinate activities across the two tracks, e.g. the system-centered Suggestion Track and the user-centered Interactive Track so that the mid-term results of the tracks could mutually inform each other and discussions could be synchronized.

The second main goal was to bring in leading researchers in Interactive IR from the ECIR 2015 workshop Supporting Complex Search Tasks (SCST),⁴ which was held prior to the meeting. The direct link between the ECIR 2015 SCST workshop and the SBS Lab made this a unique opportunity to join forces and push discussions and ideas on complex search tasks to a new frontier.

The SBS Lab expert meeting was held on Sunday, March 29, 2015 at the ECIR 2015 Workshop venue, at the Vienna University of Technology.

¹Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum, see: <http://www.clef-initiative.eu/>

²See: <http://clef2015.clef-initiative.eu/>

³See: <http://social-book-search.humanities.uva.nl/>

⁴See: <http://humanities.uva.nl/~mkoolen1/SCST15/>

CLEF Organizers Meeting

Scientific content of the meeting

The goal of the CLEF 2015 Lab Organizers Meeting was multiple:

- to favour the overall coordination and cross-fertilization of the CLEF 2015 Labs while the 2015 edition of CLEF is still running;
- to foster cooperation and synergies among the different labs in order to strengthen the CLEF multidisciplinary research community;
- to trigger the planning for labs proposals and activities to be carried out in CLEF 2016;
- to discuss open issues and strategic directions for CLEF in the coming years.

The following CLEF Lab organisers presented an overview of their labs:

- Krisztian Balog, University of Stavanger, Sweden presented the ongoing activities of the LL4IR lab (<http://living-labs.net/clef-lab/>).
- Mauricio Villegas, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain presented the ongoing activities of the ImageCLEF lab (<http://www.imageclef.org/2015>).
- George Balikas, Pierre and Marie Curie University, France presented the ongoing activities of the CLEF-QA lab (<http://nlp.uned.es/clef-qa/>).
- Frank Hopfgartner, University of Glasgow, UK illustrated the ongoing activities of the Newsreel Lab (<http://www.clef-newsreel.org/>).
- Henning Müller, HES-SO, Switzerland presented the ongoing activities of the LifeCLEF lab (<http://www.imageclef.org/lifeclef/2015>).
- Lorraine Goeriot, Université Joseph Fourier, France presented the ongoing activities of the CLEF eHealth Lab (<https://sites.google.com/site/clefehealth2015/>).
- Marijn Koolen, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands presented the ongoing activities of the Social Book Search lab (<http://social-book-search.humanities.uva.nl/>).
- Martin Potthast, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany presented the ongoing activities of the PAN Lab (<http://pan.webis.de/>).
- Jorge Carrillo de Albornoz, UNED, Madrid, Spain illustrated the ongoing activities of the RepLab Lab (<http://nlp.uned.es/replab2014/>).

In addition, Gareth Jones, Dublin City University, Ireland presented the ongoing activities of the MediaEval Initiative (<http://www.multimediaeval.org/>).

Assessment and impact

The afternoon discussion allowed the participants to highlight and plan for synergies among the different labs.

There has been a deep discussion on how to improve the presentation of the Lab results at CLEF in order to make the overview talks both informative and effective. It has been agreed to propose a common format for the overviews and a presentation template.

The balance between the conference and labs part at CLEF has been discussed as well as the role of posters presentations.

Programme of the meeting

11.00 : Opening

11.05-12.15 : Quick lab overview

12.15-13.45 : Lunch

13.45-15.00 : Sharing resources, expertise, lessons

15.00-15.30 : Coffee Break

15.30-16.30 : Sha(r—p)ing the future of IA evaluation

16.30-17:00 : Wrap-up

Participants

- George Balikas, Pierre and Marie Curie University, France
- Krisztian Balog, University of Stavanger, Sweden
- Toine Bogers, Aalborg University Copenhagen, Denmark
- Nicola Ferro, University of Padua, Italy
- Lorraine Goeuriot, Université Joseph Fourier, France
- Frank Hopfgartner, University of Glasgow, UK
- Gareth Jones, Dublin City University, Ireland
- Jaap Kamps, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Marijn Koolen, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Henning Müller, HES-SO, Switzerland
- Martin Potthast, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany
- Anne Schuth, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Mauricio Villegas, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain
- David Walsh, Edge Hill University, UK

SBS Lab Expert Meeting

Scientific content of the meeting

Marijn Koolen (University of Amsterdam) introduced the Social Book Search (SBS) Lab at CLEF 2015 and its history as a track at INEX since 2007. The SBS Lab focusses on the complexity of search tasks in collections of both professional metadata and social media content. At the time of the meeting, 35 research teams had registered for the Track, with 26 registering for the Interactive Track and 25 for the Suggestion Track.

Mark Hall (Edge Hill University) presented the current situation of the SBS Interactive Track. The redesign of the user interfaces was discussed. This year there was a single experiment establishing three main goals: 1) investigating the use of multistage interfaces that support the different stages of the search process, 2) the way users interact with professional metadata versus with social media content, and 3) the difference in user behaviour and interactions between complex, goal-oriented search tasks and non-goal tasks.

Marijn Koolen presented the aims and current status of the SBS Suggestion Track. The goal of the track is to research and develop retrieval systems that can deal with complex search requests, where the user's information needs and wants are represented by both natural descriptions as well as example items of interest. The development of the test collection for 2015 was discussed, including the topic set with user profiles that participants could exploit.

Adriel Dean Hall (University of Waterloo) presented the TREC Contextual Suggestion Track, its aims and gave a demonstration of the platform that they developed to allow researchers to upload their experiments and get user interactions. This platform could be used to connect the two SBS Tracks, by having system builders of the Suggestion Track hooking up their systems to the platform, delivering search results for the Interactive Track.

Assessment and impact

The SBS Expert meeting directly followed the ECIR 2015 workshop on Supporting Complex Search Tasks (SCST). The connection between that workshop and the SBS Expert meeting was discussed, and in particular the lessons from the workshop on taking into account task difficulty and on UI/UX going beyond a simple search box or having different interfaces for simple and complex tasks. Examples of search requests on the LibraryThing discussion forums shows there is a need or desire from users to have interfaces that allow them to better express their complex, detailed information needs.

The number of current users recruited (192) led to a lengthy discussion on whether the high number of recruited users is better spent over multiple experiments, more closely linked to the activities and participating systems of the SBS Suggestion Track. The reason to have a single experiment is that all teams have comparable results, but the challenge is to setup the experiment so that all teams can investigate their own research questions. This aspect of the Interactive Track will feature strongly on the agenda of the SBS Lab workshop during CLEF 2015.

Discussions on the overlap between the two SBS Tracks and the TREC Contextual Suggestion Track and the CLEF LL4IR Track lead to suggestions

for integrating search results from participating systems of the SBS Suggestion Track in the SBS Interactive Track.

Programme of the meeting

13:30-13:35 Opening, purpose of the meeting,

13:35-13:45 SBS Lab, connection to the ECIR 2015 SCST workshop

13:45-14:45 SBS Interactive Track

14:45-15:15 break

15:15-16:00 TREC Contextual Suggestion Track

16:00-16:30 SBS Suggestion Track

16:30-17:00 Discussion on synergy between SBS Tracks, collaboration with other campaigns.

Participants

Invited experts:

- Mark Hall (Edge Hill University),
- Marti Hearst (UC Berkeley),
- Diane Kelly (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- Elaine Toms (University of Sheffield),

Other people present:

- Toine Bogers (Aalborg University of Copenhagen),
- Adriel Dean Hall (University of Waterloo),
- Shiri Dori-Hacohen (University of Massachusetts, Amherst),
- Hugo Huurdeman (University of Amsterdam),
- Jaap Kamps (University of Amsterdam),
- Marijn Koolen (University of Amsterdam),
- Sanna Kumpulainen (University of Tampere),
- Mette Skov (Aalborg University),
- Ali H. Vahid (DCU)
- David Walsh (Edge Hill University),

Photos

Photos of the CLEF Lab organizers meeting:



Photos of the SBS Lab expert meeting:

