

CALL FOR NTCIR-12 TASK PROPOSALS

(DEADLINE: **November 21, 2014**)

NTCIR (NII Testbeds and Community for Information access Research) is a sesquiannual series of evaluation conferences that mainly focuses on Asian language information access. The first NTCIR conference (NTCIR-1) took place in August/September 1999, and the latest NTCIR-11 conference will take place in December 2014. Research teams from all over the world participate in one or more of the NTCIR tasks to advance the state of the art and to learn from one another's experiences.

<http://research.nii.ac.jp/ntcir/ntcir-11/index.html>

As the tasks being run at NTCIR-11 are reaching the final stages, it is time to call for tasks for the next NTCIR (NTCIR-12) which will start in January 2015 and conclude in June 2016. Task proposals will be reviewed by the NTCIR Programme Committee, following the schedule below:

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 21, 2014 Deadline for task proposals (new and existing tasks)

December 9-12, 2014 Task planning session at NTCIR-11 Conference (optional) *

*If you wish to have the session, please send an e-mail to ntc11-pcc@nii.ac.jp ASAP.

December 9-12, 2014 Proposal presentation at NTCIR-11 Conference (optional)

December 16, 2014 Notification of accepted tasks

Organizers of existing NTCIR-11 tasks (iMine, Math-2, MedNLP-2, MobileClick, RITE-VAL, SpokenQuery&Doc, QALab, Temporalia, and RecipeSearch) are required to submit a new proposal if they wish to continue them for NTCIR-12. New task proposals are also very welcome. To organize an evaluation task is to identify important research problems, tackle them strategically by collaborating with other researchers (participants), build the necessary evaluation framework to advance the state of the art, and make an impact to the research community and to the future.

If you plan to use a new data set and wish to distribute via NTCIR, please contact NTCIR office as soon as possible.

We will accept two types of tasks:

- Core challenge task: this is for fostering research on a particular information access problem by providing researchers with a common ground for evaluation. New test collections and evaluation methods may be developed through the collaboration between task organizers (proposers) and the task participants. At NTCIR-11, the core challenge tasks were: iMine, Math-2, MedNLP-2, MobileClick, RITE-VAL, and SpokenQuery&Doc.

- Pilot task: this is recommended if the information access problem to be tackled is new and there are uncertainties as to how to evaluate it. It may focus on a sub-problem of an information access problem. It may attract a smaller group of participating teams than core challenge task, but may grow into a core challenge task in the next round of NTCIR. At NTCIR-11, the pilot tasks were: QALab, Temporalia, and RecipeSearch

NTCIR will provide a "seed funding" to each accepted task, which can be used for some limited purposes such as hiring relevance assessors. However, organizers of each task are expected to make the task as self-sustaining as possible. The amount allocated to each task will vary depending on requirements and the total number of accepted tasks, but typical cases would be: around 1M JPY/year for a core challenge task and around 0.5M JPY/year for a pilot task (note that the amount may be changed in NTCIR-12).

Please submit your task proposal as a pdf to the following EasyChair site by November 21, 2014 (Hawaii Time GMT-10).

<https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ntcir12tp>

TASK PROPOSAL FORMAT:

Main part (a single A4 page)

- Task name and short name
- Task type (core challenge or pilot)
- Abstract
- Motivation
- Methodology
- Expected results

Appendix

- Names and contact information of the organizers
- Prospective participants
- Data to be used and/or constructed
- Budget planning

- Schedule
- Other notes

REVIEW CRITERIA:

- Importance of the task to the information access community and to the society
- Timeliness of the task
- Organizers' commitment in ensuring a successful task
- Financial sustainability (self-sustainable tasks are encouraged)
- Soundness of the evaluation methodology
- Language scope

NTCIR-12 PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

*The following list is tentative. The members may be changed.

Hsin-Hsi Chen (National Taiwan University, Taiwan)

Charles Clarke (University of Waterloo, Canada)

Nicola Ferro (University of Padua, Italy)

Kalervo Jarvelin (University of Tampere, Finland)

Gareth Jones (Dublin City University, Ireland)

Gary Geunbae Lee (POSTECH, South Korea)

Mandar Mitra (Indian Statistical Institute, India)

Maarten de Rijke (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Ian Soboroff (NIST, US)

Kazuaki Kishida (Co-chair, Keio University, Japan)

NTCIR GENERAL CHAIRS:

Noriko Kando (NII, Japan)

Tsuneaki Kato (The University of Tokyo, Japan)

Douglas W. Oard (University of Maryland, USA)

Tetsuya Sakai (Waseda University, Japan)

Mark Sanderson (RMIT, Australia)