Preface from NTCIR-10 General Chairs

Welcome to the Tenth NTCIR Conference (NTCIR-10 Conference) and the 5th International Workshop on Evaluating Information Access (EVIA 2013).

The NTCIR is a series of evaluation workshops designed to enhance research on information access technologies, including information retrieval, cross-language information access, question-answering, information extraction, text mining, etc., with East Asian languages such as Chinese, Korean, and Japanese as well as English. Emphasis has been placed on East Asian languages, but it has attracted international participation outside. Each NTCIR is an ongoing process that takes place over the course of 18 months.

NTCIR-10 plays host to the tasks listed below. The activities of each task are coordinated by 55 volunteer task organizers combined with central coordination by the program co-chairs Hideo Joho and Tetsuya Sakai. A hundred and twenty-five research groups registered for one or more tasks and have conducted experiments using the common data sets and experimental designs set for each so that participants can compare the effectiveness of the results and learn from each other. One hundred and five research groups from 13 different countries/regions submitted the results for one or more tasks and have conducted experiments. This round we have one of the highest number of participating teams in the history of NTCIR.

[Core Tasks]

- CrossLink: Cross-Lingual Link Discovery
- INTENT: Mining and Satisfying Different User Intents for a Query,
- 1CLICK: Satisfying a User's Need by the First Output
- PatentMT: Translation of Patent Documents
- RITE: Recognizing Inference in Text
- SpokenDoc: Retrieval for Spoken Documents

[Pilot Tasks]

- Math: Retrieval of Mathematical Papers and Formulae
- MedNLP: Natural Language Processing on Medical Documents and De-identification

EVIA 2013, which was organized by two co-chairs, William Webber and Ruihua Song, is a refereed workshop that welcomes submissions from both NTCIR-10 task participants and individuals not involved in the tasks. This workshop enlarges the NTCIR community, and we expect it to provide a wider forum to discuss related topics and research leading to future NTCIR tasks as well as future information access technology research.

The Conference of the NTCIR-10 and EVIA 2012 are organized by the NTCIR-10 Organizing Committee and the National Institute of Informatics (NII). We are extremely grateful to the sponsors, which are listed in the conference program and Website. Their generous support has enabled us to help promising young researchers and students to travel to the Conference.

We also thank the following organizations for their understanding of the project and for providing substantial support in various forms: Charlie Clarke and Ellen Voorhees for providing the TREC 2012 web topics, Jaime Callan for providing the ClueWeb09-JA document collection, and Sogou.com for providing SogouT, SogouQ and other related resources for INTENT; the Leibniz association under grant SAW-2012-FIZ KA-2, and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Grantin-Aid for Scientific Research for Math; Japan Science and Technology Agency (ST) Precursory Research for Embryonic Science and Technology Program (PRESTO) and the physicians for preparing documents used in MedNLP, Fuji Xerox, Co., and Elsevier Japan for converting top ranked systems in MedNLP to the UIMA worksflow; Lyn Zhu, Zeyong Xu, Yue Dai and Sudong Chung for providing Microsoft's mobile query log for 1CLICK; The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED), Japan Patent Office, National Institute of Information and Communication Technology (NICT) and Zhuhai Chilinstar for PatentMT; Mainichi Newspaper and UDN.COM for RITE; JC Educational Institute, Inc. and National Center for University Admissions, Tokyo Shoseki Co. Ltd. for providing the examination data and the textbook corpus for Exam Subtask of RITE; Special interest group of spoken language processing (SIG-SLP), the Information Processing Society of Japan, and National Institute of Language and Linguistics for the Corpus of Spontenous Japanese (CSJ) for SpokenDoc; and NII's Joint Research Grant for several tasks. We are grateful for the Program Committees of NTCIR-10 and EVIA 2013, and for the task organizers of the NTCIR-10 and their organizations for the understanding that has enabled them to act as task organizers. In addition, several of the NTCIR-10 task organizers served as the editors of this volume and provided feedback on the papers submitted by the participants. Many of the task participants volunteered to help with the dataset creation, and we appreciate their great contribution to this community-based activity. Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank the many people who worked behind the scenes—especially Mariko Okada, Kazuko Matsuo, Noriko Kubo, Miho Sugimoto and Fumiko Koiwahara —for their support throughout the process of the NTCIR-10.

NTCIR-10 continues the structure introduced in NTCIR-9 with multiple general co-chairs and program co-chairs, and with tasks coordinated by task organizers with only seed funding from the central coordination. We are proud to see that such organizational change turned out to be very successful in having such a wide variety of active tasks with the highest number of active participating groups.

We sincerely hope that each of the participants will enjoy presenting their research results and engaging in discussion with each other at the Meeting, and that such an occasion will lead to fruitful collaboration and the enhancement of research.

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