

CALL FOR NTCIR-14 ADDITIONAL PILOT TASK PROPOSALS

(Task Proposals Due: May 20, 2018)

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-13 conference was held in December 2017.

Research teams from all over the world participate in NTCIR tasks to advance the state of the art and to learn from one another's experiences.

For NTCIR-14, six tasks have been already accepted and their activity started. The six tasks include five core tasks (Lifelog-3, OpenLiveQ-2, QALab-PoliInfo, STC-3, and WWW-2) and a pilot task (CENTRE). Since there are still many emerging problems in information access research, we now call for additional pilot tasks in NTCIR-14. The additional pilot task proposals will be reviewed by the NTCIR-14 program committee, following the schedule below:

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 20, 2018 Task Proposals due
June 30, 2018 Acceptance Notification

NTCIR-14 General Schedule:

Jun 2018 Dataset Release*
Jun-Jul 2018 Dry Run*
Aug-Oct 2018 Formal Run*
Feb 1, 2019 Evaluation Result Release
Feb 1, 2019 Task overview paper release (draft)
Mar 15, 2019 Submission due of participant papers
May 1, 2019 Camera-ready participant paper due
Jun 10-13, 2019 NTCIR-14 Conference & EVIA 2019 in NII, Tokyo

(Those with * can be changed by each task)

Although the task registration due in the official schedule is June 2018, task organizers can set their own due as long as evaluation results will be released by Feb 1, 2019.

Please note that financial support (i.e., seed funding) will not be provided to the accepted additional pilot task. Otherwise, the task will be treated in the same way as the other

pilot tasks in NTCIR-14, and in its proceedings. Please feel free to contact the program co-chairs for any details of the task organization at ntc14-pcc@nii.ac.jp .

Please submit your task proposal as a pdf file via EasyChair by May 20, 2018 (Anywhere on Earth).

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ntcir14taskproposal>

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT NTCIR-14 TASK PROPOSALS?

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.

We encourage applicants to emphasize real-world applications of the proposed task by using real-world data and addressing real-world tasks, and address a challenge in information access technology evaluation such as a large amount of assessments required for evaluation, privacy-preserving use of proprietary data, and live test with real users.

PUBLICATION

We introduce a peer-review process for participants' papers, and publish some of the participants' papers and overview papers from LNCS at this round. This trial aims at increasing the quality and visibility of NTCIR papers, and encouraging more participants to present their work at NTCIR. Task organizers are expected to review participants' paper and to make decisions on their acceptance at NTCIR-14.

TASK PROPOSAL FORMAT:

The proposal should not exceed five pages in A4 single-column format. The first four pages should contain the main part and appendix, and the last page should contain only description about the data used in the task. Please describe the data with as much detail as possible so that we can help your data release after the proposal is accepted. In the past NTCIR, it took much time to create memorandums for data release, which sometimes slowed down the task organization.

Main part

- Task name and short name
- Abstract
- Motivation
- Methodology
- Expected results

Appendix

- Names and contact information of the organizers
- Prospective participants
- Budget planning
- Schedule
- Other notes

*** Data (used in your task) ***

- Details

(Please describe the details of the data, which should include the source of the data, methods to collect the data, range of the data, etc.)

- License

(Please make sure that you have a license to distribute the data, and details of the license. If you have not had permission to release the data yet, please

describe your plan to get the permission.)

- Distribution

(Please describe how you will distribute the data to participants.

There are mainly three choices:

distributed by the data provider, distributed by organizers, and distributed by NII.)

- Legal / Ethical issues

(If the data can cause legal or ethical problems, please describe how you address them.

e.g. some medical data may need approval from an ethical committee.

e.g. some Web data may need filtering for excluding discriminative messages.)

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
- Detailed description about data to be used
- Language scope

NTCIR GENERAL CHAIRS:

Charles L. A. Clarke (University of Waterloo, Canada)

Noriko Kando (NII, Japan)

Best regards,

NTCIR-14 Program Committee Co-chairs,

Makoto P. Kato and Yiqun Liu