

## Call for NTCIR-10 Task Proposals

NTCIR is a series of evaluation workshops designed to enhance research in Information Access (IA) technologies such as Information Retrieval, Question Answering, Text Summarisation, Opinion Analysis, etc. NTCIR-9, the ninth cycle of the workshops, saw several changes, including community-led task coordination and a new workshop management structure where Task Organisers, Program Chairs and General Chairs share different responsibilities.

We were excited to see six brand new tasks that were accepted as NTCIR-9 tasks and run successfully. Their outcomes will be presented at the NTCIR-9 Workshop Meeting to be held in December 6-9, 2011 at NII (Tokyo).

It is time to call for NTCIR-10 task proposals. We are looking for proposals of evaluation tasks that can help advance our understanding of Information Access processes, technologies, and systems. In NTCIR-10, we are looking for two types of evaluation tasks: Core challenge tasks and Pilot tasks.

- **Core Challenge Task:** this is for benchmarking and assessment of solutions to a particular Information Access problem within one or two NTCIR cycles. It also aims to establish the best practices to address each of the problems. NTCIR-9 had four core tasks including INTENT (Diversity search), RITE (Text Entailment for QA), GeoTime (Spatial/Temporal IR), and SpokenDoc (IR for spoken documents).
- **Pilot Task:** this type is suitable for the first cycle of a new task where evaluation methodology needs to be developed. Or, a task can only look at a component (i.e., MT) and apply it to an IA application in the next cycle (i.e., MT for IR). NTCIR-9 had three pilot tasks such as VisEx (Visualisation for Explorative Search), CrossLink (Cross-lingual Link Discovery), and PatentMT (Machine translation for patent documents).

NTCIR-10 Program Committee will carefully assess the proposals based on selection criteria given below. Please make sure to include sufficient information for the

Committee to assess the proposals using the criteria. A seed funding will be available for the accepted evaluation tasks to cover some of the expenses (data collection purchase, relevance assessments, etc.). However, task organizers are encouraged to apply for external funding whenever appropriate, to make the resultant data publicly available, and to involve the participants or community in the data creation process.

Coordinating an evaluation task is a great way to create a new research area and establish an international community. We are looking for innovative and exciting ideas for the evaluation tasks in Information Access! Please send your proposal in PDF format to ntc-admin @nii.ac.jp by Midnight of 25 November 2011 (JST) with the subject: NTCIR-10 Task Proposal.

Best regards,

Tetsuya Sakai and Hideo Joho  
NTCIR Program Chairs

Noriko Kando, Tsuneaki Kato, and Eiichiro Sumita  
NTCIR General Chairs

NTCIR-10 Programme Committee (Confirmed as of Oct 17, 2011)

Charles Clarke (University of Waterloo, Canada)

Kalervo Jarvelin (University of Tampere, Finland)

Hideo Joho (*Co-chair*, University of Tsukuba, Japan)

Gareth Jones (Dublin City University, Ireland)

Noriko Kando (NII, Japan)

Tsuneaki Kato (The University of Tokyo, Japan)

Tetsuya Sakai (*Co-chair*, Microsoft Research Asia, PRC)

Mark Sanderson (RMIT, Austraria)

Ian Soboroff (NIST, US)

- Important Dates
  - 25 November 2011: Deadline for proposal
  - 16 December 2011: Notification of the results
  - January 2012: Kick-off Event (Call for task participation)
  
- Proposal Format
  - Main Part (A single A4 page)
    - ✧ Task Name
    - ✧ Task Type (Core or Pilot)
    - ✧ Outline
    - ✧ Purpose
    - ✧ Methodology
    - ✧ Expected results
  - Appendix (Free format)
    - ✧ Name and contact information of the organizer(s)
    - ✧ Expected participants
    - ✧ Resources (document sets and others) to be used or constructed
    - ✧ Budget planning
    - ✧ Schedule
    - ✧ Other notes
  
- Selection Criteria
  - Essential
    - ✧ Responsibility: how do the organizers plan to advocate the significance of the proposed task and commit to it?
    - ✧ Sustainability: how do the organizers plan to sustain the task activity financially after the seed funding runs out?
    - ✧ Repeatability: Will the participants' work be reproducible? Scientific merits: what is the significance of potential research being conducted in the task? What are the potential benefits to other work and related technologies?

➤ Desirable

- ✧ Social impact: what social problems/issues can the expected results of the task address?
- ✧ Synergy: How will the task fit in with other prospective tasks? Can the grand challenge task leverage core challenge tasks, or can the core challenge task contribute to a grand challenge task?
- ✧ Generalisability: how would the results of the task generalize to other situations and data?
- ✧ Accountability: how does the task plan to ensure that participants perform and report a component-level evaluation as well as end-to-end evaluation? Are there any potential components?

Last update: 2011.10.17