

A Tale of Two Evaluations: TREC and RIA

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The Text REtrieval Conference (TREC) is now in its thirteenth year. For its November 2003 meeting, there were 8 different tracks or tasks, including tracks that have run for several years, such as the web track, the question answering track, and the novelty track. Additionally there were three new tracks, one working in the specific domain of genomics, one investigating a new approach to interactive retrieval (HARD), and one attempting to improve ad hoc retrieval by trying to improve performance on the more difficult topics (ROBUST). This talk will start with a short review of TREC 2003, followed by details of a new "evaluation" workshop called "Reliable Information Access" or RIA. This workshop was held in the summer of 2003 and brought together eight top information retrieval research groups to investigate how to better tailor retrieval methodologies to individual search requests. Details of the organization of this workshop, plus some preliminary results will be presented.