

NTCIR in the World: Two Decades of Impact

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Abstract

In the last part of the twentieth century, the idea of shared task evaluation emerged as a significant force shaping information retrieval research. In this talk, I will start by tracing the evolution of that idea as it moved around the world from its inception at Cambridge through its incubation at the Text Retrieval Conference, to its present incarnation at NTCIR. I'll then look back over the history of NTCIR to highlight some of the impactful and innovative evaluation tasks that have been invented there, exploring the impact of each from national, regional, or global perspectives. I'll wrap up with a few remarks on how the role of shared task evaluation in information retrieval research is evolving today, and what that might suggest for the future impact of NTCIR.

Biography

Douglas Oard is a Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park (USA), with joint appointments there in the College of Information Studies (Maryland's iSchool) and the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS). He is also a visiting professor at the National Institute of Informatics (Japan) and a former general chair of NTCIR. Dr. Oard's research interests center around the use of emerging technologies to support information seeking by end users. Additional information is available at <http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~oard/>.