Celebrating 20 Years of NTCIR: The Book

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Festschrift

In academia, a **Festschrift** (German pronunciation: [ˈfɛstʃrɪft]; plural, *Festschriften* [ˈfɛstʃrɪftən]) is a book honoring a respected person, especially an academic, and presented during their lifetime. It generally takes the form of an edited volume, containing contributions from the honoree's colleagues, former pupils, and friends.

The term, borrowed from German, and literally meaning "celebration writing" (cognate with "feast-script"), might be translated as "celebration publication" or "celebratory (piece of) writing". An alternative Latin term is *liber amicorum* (literally: "book of friends"). A comparable book presented posthumously is sometimes called a **Gedenkschrift** ("memorial publication"), but this term is much rarer in English.
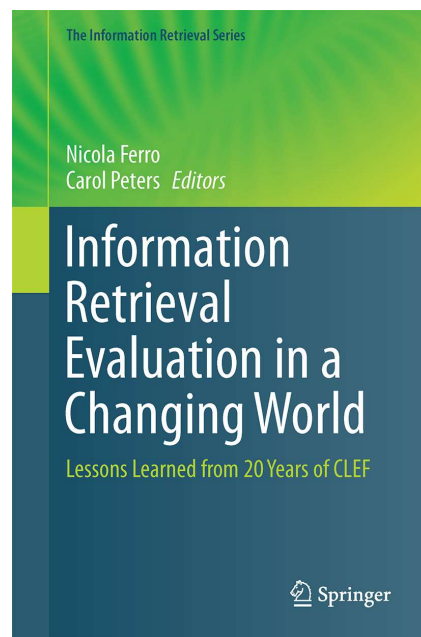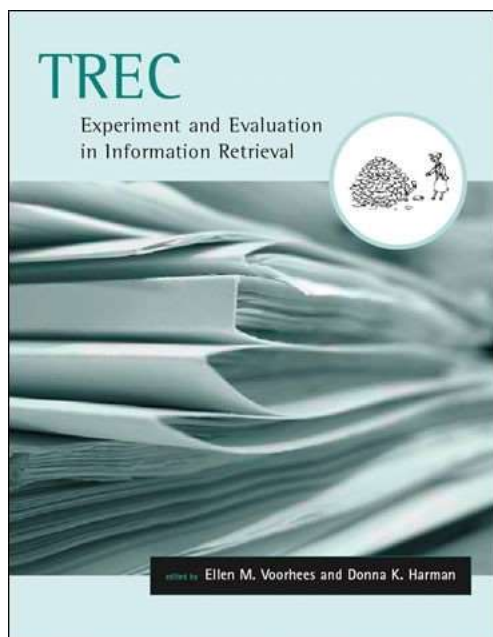
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Originating in Germany before World War I, this European tradition of honoring special achievements in science and culture was carried to the United States by scientists who escaped the Nazis.[1][2] In the second half of the 20th century, the practice became used internationally. Since no English term for such a book to mark a special occasion had been in use, the German word *Festschrift* has been incorporated into the English language and is frequently used without the italics that designate a foreign term, although the capitalization of the first letter is usually retained from German. Its plural may be either the original *Festschriften* or anglicized as *Festschrifts*.[3] Festschriften are often titled something like *Essays in Honour of...* or *Essays Presented to...* .

A *Festschrift* compiled and published by electronic means on the internet is called a **Webfestschrift** (pronounced either [vɛp-] or [wɛb-]), a term coined by the editors of the late Boris Marshak's Webfestschrift, *Eran ud Aneran*,[4] published online in October 2003. The corresponding *Webgedenkschrift* does not appear to be in frequent use as of July 2015.[5]

A *Festschrift* contains original contributions by the honored academic's close colleagues, often including their former doctoral students. It is typically published on the occasion of the honoree's retirement, significant birthday, or other notable career anniversary. A *Festschrift* can be anything from a slim volume to a work in several volumes. *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt*, for example, began in 1972 as a *Festschrift* to commemorate the 75th birthday of Joseph Vogt, a German classical historian. Four volumes were planned, but it has since reached 89 volumes (including several which were planned for the next years, but put on hold in 1998). The essays usually relate in some way to, or reflect upon, the honoree's contributions to their scholarly field, but can include important original research by the authors. Many *Festschriften* also feature a *tabula gratulatoria*, an extended list of academic colleagues and friends who send their best wishes to the honoree.

Three Retrospectives for the Three "Originals"

Chapter Theme: Impact Through Innovation

- Focus: Something NTCIR did that was novel at the time
  - Each chapter is about <u>one innovation</u>, not (just) about an NTCIR task

- Innovation: How NTCIR first did it
  - This is where readers can learn about the task where it was introduced

- Impact: What happened after that
  - At <u>and</u> beyond NTCIR
  - Not necessarily <u>because of</u> NTCIR

Thirteen Innovations

1. Graded relevance
2. Document-linked comparable corpora for CLIR
3. Evaluation of text summarization
4. Patent retrieval
5. Multi-modal summarization
6. Multilingual opinion analysis
7. Patent translation

8. Component evaluation for QA
9. Temporal information access
10. SogouQ: The first large-scale test collection with click streams used in a shared-task evaluation
11. Efficient information access with smartphones
12. Mathematical IR
13. Lifelog organization and retrieval

The Rest of the Story

- Foreward by Mark Sanderson

- The pre-history and history of NTCIR
    - Three progenitors, three institutions, three names, three marriages, …

- (Then the 13 innovation chapters)

- Whither information retrieval evaluation?

- Online appendix: Reflections from the NTCIR-14 Participants

Collective Creation

- Read a chapter at http://sakailab.com/ntcirbookdraft/
  - Then send your constructive comments to ntcirbookfeedback@list.waseda.jp

- Tweet your thoughts about NTCIR with #ntcirbook
  - We'll collect these for the online appendix