

# TREC in 2020

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## ABSTRACT

To state the obvious, 2020 was an unusual year. The pandemic that caused so many changes large and small impacted the Text REtrieval Conference (TREC), too: TREC implemented its first extra-curricular track (TREC-COVID); both relevance assessing and the conference itself were required to be remote; and many existing TREC tracks either pivoted to be completely focused on COVID-19 or included some topics regarding it. This talk will describe implementing TREC in 2020 and highlight the outcomes of its eight tracks.

## BIOGRAPHY

Ellen Voorhees is a Senior Research Scientist at the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Her primary responsibility at NIST is to manage the Text REtrieval Conference (TREC)

project, a project that develops the infrastructure required for large-scale evaluation of search engines and other information access technology. Voorhees' research focuses on developing and validating appropriate evaluation schemes to measure system effectiveness for diverse user tasks.

Voorhees received a B.Sc. in computer science from the Pennsylvania State University, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from Cornell University. Prior to joining NIST she was a Senior Member of Technical Staff at Siemens Corporate Research in Princeton, NJ where her work on intelligent agents applied to information access resulted in three patents. She is a fellow of the ACM, a member of AAAI, and has been elected as a fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences. She has published numerous articles on information retrieval techniques and evaluation methodologies and serves on the review boards of several journals and conferences.