



Welcome!

# NTCIR-15 Conference

Charles L. A. Clarke  
University of Waterloo



Noriko Kando  
National Institute of Informatics



A series of evaluation designed to enhance research in information access technologies by providing an evaluation infrastructure: datasets, evaluation methodologies, and forum

## Project started in late 1997

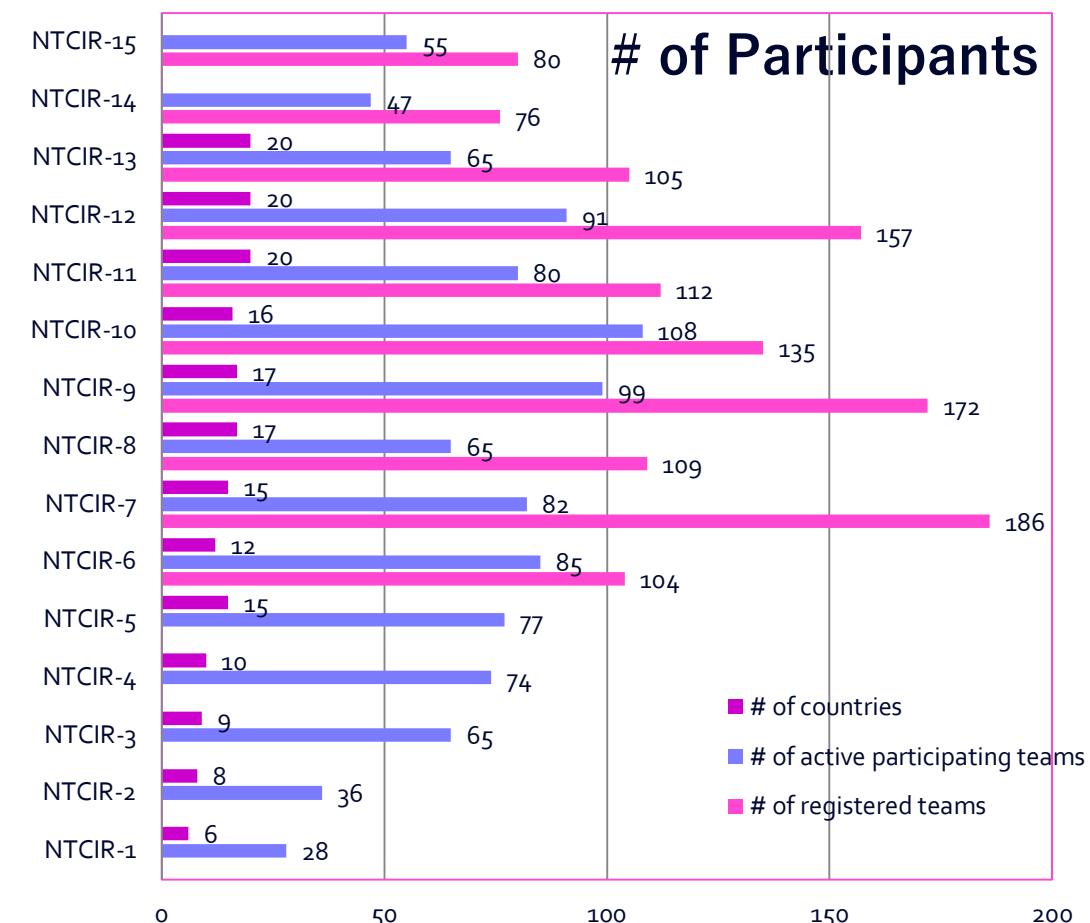
- 18 months cycle

## Test collections

- Scientific, news, patents, web, CQA, Wikipedia, exams, spoken, microblogs, lifelogs
- Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and English

## Tasks (Research areas)

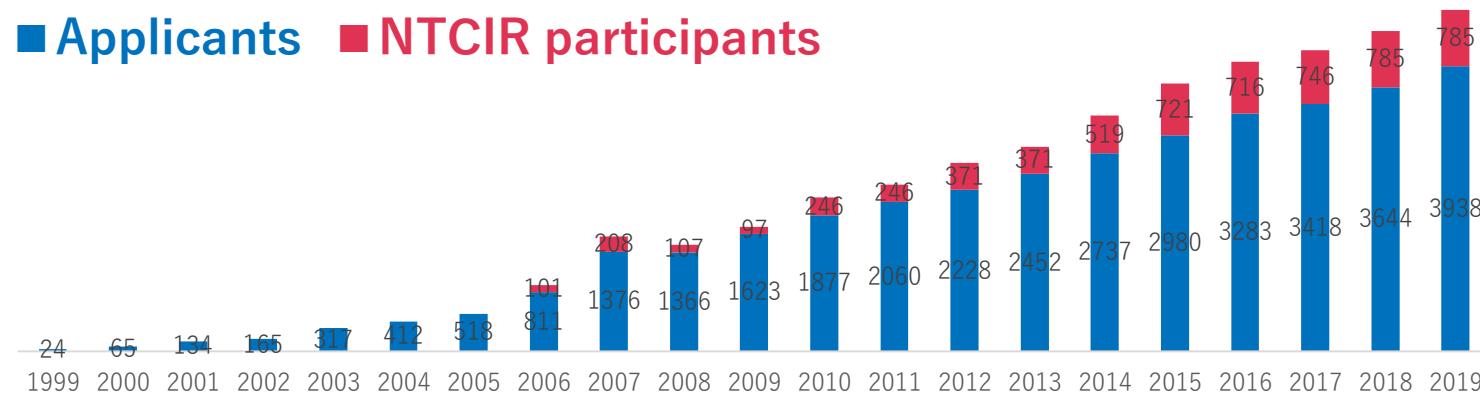
- IR: cross-lingual, patents, web, geo, time, math, Spoken, recipe, microblogs, lifelogs, open data
- QA: monolingual, cross-lingual, interactive, IR for QA, complex, exams
- Summarization, trend info., patent maps, inference, 2-layer summarization for mobile, dialogue generation and evaluation
- Opinion analysis, text mining, intent mining, link discovery, information extraction, action detection



# Statistics of NTCIR Test Collections

## # of NTCIR test collection users

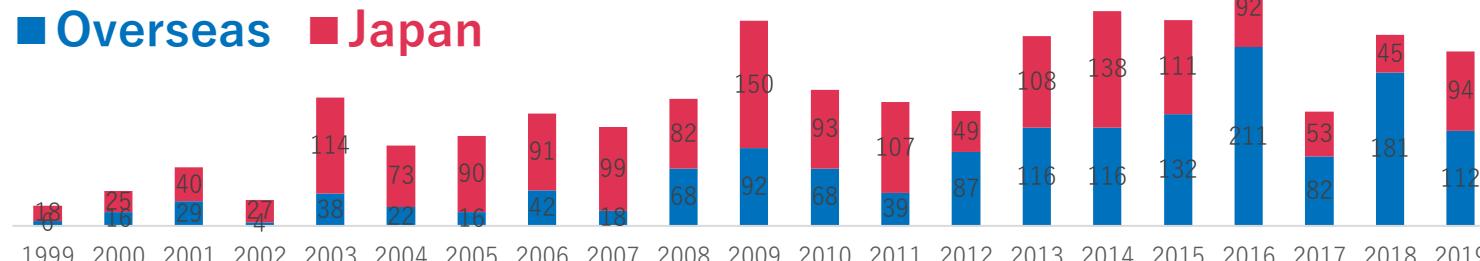
(= # of NTCIR participants + # of applicants for using the collections)



4,723

## # of applicants for using the collection

from Japanese and oversea institutes



206

# History of NTCIR

Year	1999	2001	2002	2004	2005	2007	2008	2010	2011	2013	2014	2016	2017	2019
Task/NTCIR round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Automatic Term Recognition and Role Analysis (TMREC) (1)	9													
Ad hoc/Crosslingual IR (1) -> Chinese/English/Japanese IR (2) -> CLIR (3-6)	28	30	20	26	25	22								
Text Summarization Challenge (TSC) (2-4)		9	8	9										
Web Retrieval (WEB) (3-5)				7	11	7								
Question Answering Challenge (QAC) (3-6)				16	18	7	8							
Patent Retrieval [and Classification] (PATENT) (3-6)				10	10	13	12							
Multimodal Summarization for Trend Information (MUST) (5-7)					13	15	13							
Crosslingual Question Answering (CLQA) (5, 6) ->					14	12	19	14						
Advanced Crosslingual Information Access (ACLIA) (7, 8)														
Opinion (6) -> Multilingual Opinion Analysis (MOAT) (7, 8)						12	21	16						
Patent Mining (PAT-MN) (7, 8)							12	11						
Community Question Answering (CQA) (8)								4						
Geotemporal IR (GeoTime) (8, 9)								13	12					
Interactive Visual Exploration (Vis-Ex) (9)								4						
Patent Translation (PAT-MT) (7, 8) ->							15	8	21	21				
Patent Machine Translation (PatentMT) (9, 10)														
Crosslingual Link Discovery (Crosslink) (9, 10)									11	10				
INTENT(9, 10) -> Search Intent and Task Mining (IMine) (11, 12)									16	11	12	9		
One Click Access (1CLICK) (9, 10) -> Mobile Information Access (MobileClick) (11, 12)									4	8	4	11		
Recognizing Inference in Text (RITE) (9, 10)									24	28	23			
-> Recognizing Inference in Text and Validation (RITE-VAL) (11)														
IR for Spoken Documents (SpokenDoc) (9, 10)									10	12	11	7		
-> Spoken Query and Spoken Document Retrieval (SpokenQuery&Doc) (11, 12)														
Mathematical Information Access (Math) (10, 11) -> MathIR (12)										6	8	6		
Medical Natural Language Processing (MedNLP) (10, 11) -> MedNLPDoc (12)										12	12	8		
-> MedWeb (13)												9		
QA Lab for Entrance Exam (QALab) (11, 12, 13)											11	12	11	13
-> QA Lab for Political Information (QALab-PolInfo) (14)														
Temporal Information Access (Temporalia) (11, 12)											8	14		
Cooking Recipe Search (RecipeSearch) (11)											4			
Personal Lifelog Organisation & Retrieval (Lifelog) (12, 13, 14)												8	4	6
Short Text Conversation (STC) (12, 13, 14)												22	27	13
Open Live Test for Question Retrieval (OpenLiveQ) (13, 14)												7		4
Actionable Knowledge Graph (AKG) (13)												3		
Emotion Cause Analysis (ECA) (13)												3		
Neurally Augmented Image Labelling Strategies (NAILS) (13)												2		
We Want Web (WWW) (13, 14)												5	4	
Fine-Grained Numeral Understanding in Financial Tweet (FinNum) (14)												6		
CLEF/NTCIR/TREC REproducibility (CENTRE) (14)												1		

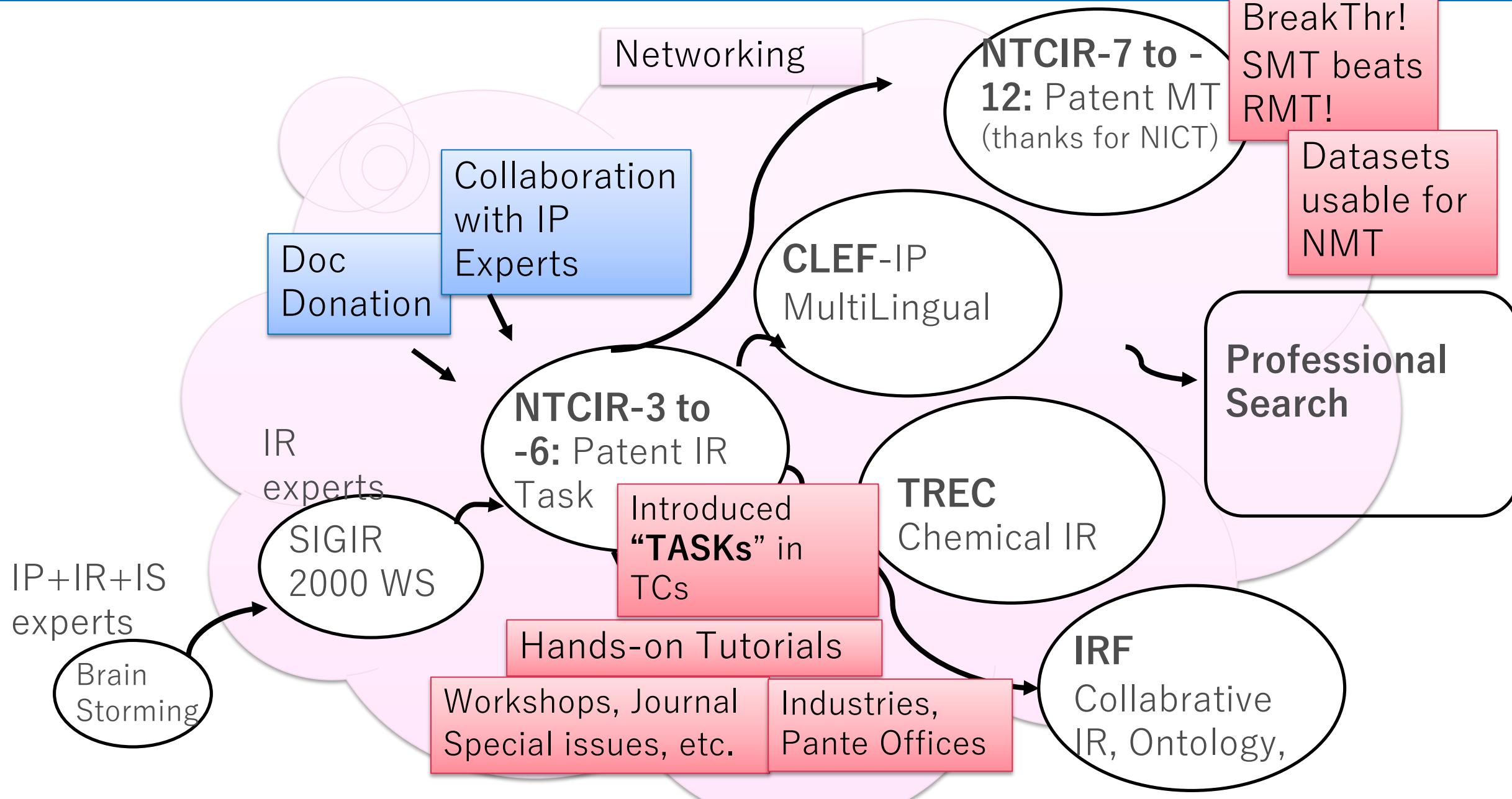
Year	1999	2001	2002	2004	2005	2007	2008
Task/NTCIR round	1					6	7
<b>Automatic Term Recognition and Role Analysis</b> (TMREC) (1)	9						
<b>Ad hoc/Crosslingual IR (1)</b> -> Chinese/English/Japanese IR (2) -> CLIR (3-6)	28					22	
<b>Text Summarization Challenge</b> (TSC) (2-4)							
<b>Web Retrieval</b> (WEB) (3-5)							
<b>Question Answering Challenge</b> (QAC) (3-6)						8	
<b>Patent Retrieval</b> [and Classification] (PATENT) (3-6)						12	
<b>Multimodal Summarization</b> for Trend Information (MUST) (5-7)						15	13
<b>Crosslingual Question Answering</b> (CLQA) (5, 6) -> Advanced Crosslingual Information Access (ACLIA) (7, 8)						12	19
<b>Opinion</b> (6) -> Multilingual Opinion Analysis (MOAT) (7, 8)						12	21
<b>Patent Mining</b> (PAT-MN) (7, 8)							12

- Cross lingual IR
- Text summarization
- Patent retrieval/mining
- QA
- Web search
- Opinion mining

# Tasks in NTCIR (2010 ~ 2019)

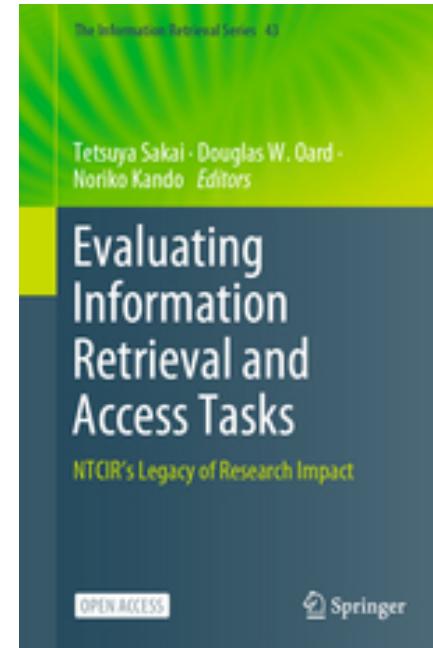
Year	Task/NTCIR round	2010	2011	2013	2014	2016	2017	2019
	<b>Crosslingual Link Discovery</b> (Crosslink) (9, 10)						13	14
	INTENT(9, 10) -> <b>Search Intent and Task Mining</b> (IMine) (11, 12)							
	One Click Access (1CLICK)(9, 10) -> <b>Mobile Information Access</b> (MobileClick) (11, 12)							
	<b>Recognizing Inference in Text</b> (RITE)(9,10)							
	-> Recognizing Inference in Text and Validation (RITE-VAL)(11)							
	<b>IR for Spoken Documents</b> (SpokenDoc) (9, 10)							
	-> Spoken Query and Spoken Document Retrieval (SpokenQuery&Doc) (11, 12)							
	<b>Mathematical Information Access</b> (Math) (10, 11) -> MathIR (12)							
	<b>Medical Natural Language Processing</b> (MedNLP) (10, 11) -> MedNLDoc (12)							
	-> MedWeb (13)						9	
	<b>QA Lab for Entrance Exam</b> (QALab) (11, 12, 13)						11	13
	-> QA Lab for Political Information (QALab-PoliInfo) (14)							
	<b>Temporal Information Access</b> (Temporalia) (11, 12)							
	<b>Cooking Recipe Search</b> (RecipeSearch) (11)							
	<b>Personal Lifelog Organisation &amp; Retrieval</b> (Lifelog) (12, 13, 14)						4	6
	<b>Short Text Conversation</b> (STC) (12, 13, 14)						27	13
	<b>Open Live Test for Question Retrieval</b> (OpenLiveQ) (13, 14)						7	4
	<b>Actionable Knowledge Graph</b> (AKG) (13)						3	
	<b>Emotion Cause Analysis</b> (ECA) (13)						3	
	<b>Neurally Augmented Image Labelling Strategies</b> (NAILS) (13)						2	
	<b>We Want Web</b> (WWW) (13, 14)						5	4
	<b>Fine-Grained Numeral Understanding in Financial Tweet</b> (FinNum) (14)						6	
	<b>CLEF/NTCIR/TREC REproducibility</b> (CENTRE) (14)						1	

# How a Task has been evolved – an example of Patent Retrieval



- Sakai, T., Oard, D., and Kando, N. (eds.): Evaluating Information Retrieval and Access Tasks: NTCIR's Legacy of Research Impact, Springer, 2020.
  - <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811555534>

OPEN ACCESS



## Book Review;

<https://irsg.bcs.org/informer/2020/10/book-review-evaluating-information-retrieval-and-access-tasks-ntcirs-legacy-of-research-impact/>

# Past NTCIR Conferences



# Past NTCIR Conferences

10



# Past NTCIR Conferences

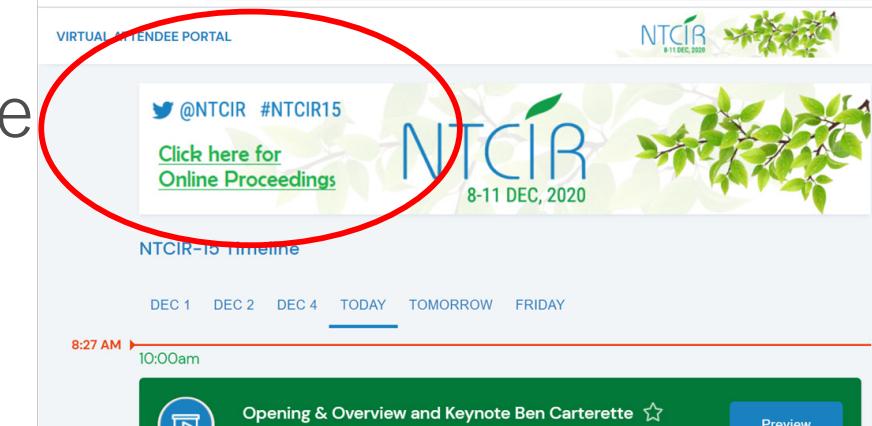
11



# Past NTCIR Conferences



- Participants: 242 (as of Dec. 7)
- Online Proceedings
  - <http://research.nii.ac.jp/ntcir/workshop/OnlineProceedings15/index.html>, or
  - Rolling Banner on the Platform Timeline
- Keynote (Dec 9 and 10)
- Task Overviews (Dec 9)
- Invited Talks (Dec 11)
- Task Sessions (Dec 10 and 11)
- Poster Sessions (Dec 10 and 11)



- Question via “Live Q&A”
  - Help the session chairs by inputting many Qs during the presentations. Don’t wait the talk ends.
- “Discussion Forum”
  - Comments/Questions through out the conference dates.
- Live Poll
- Posters - Poster Gallery beforehand, and Enjoy the live Poster Sessions
- During Social Break
  - Stretch your body!
  - Poster Gallary
  - MeetingHub
  - Networking Function (join after Keynote 1, today)
  - Gather.town
  - Video on Japan/Tokyo

Consult the  
Guide from  
Abbey

**Challenge:**  
Enjoy the  
Interaction!

# Live Q&A, Discussion Forum, LivePoll during the session

[BACK TO TIMELINE](#)

NTCIR 8-11 DEC, 2020

NTCIR-15 Keynote/Invited Speaker Briefing ★  
9:30pm - 10:00pm

This session has finished

Next session  
2h 53m

Session Recording

Session Information

Poll

Live Q&A

Discussion Forum

My Session Notes

abbey™ conference & events

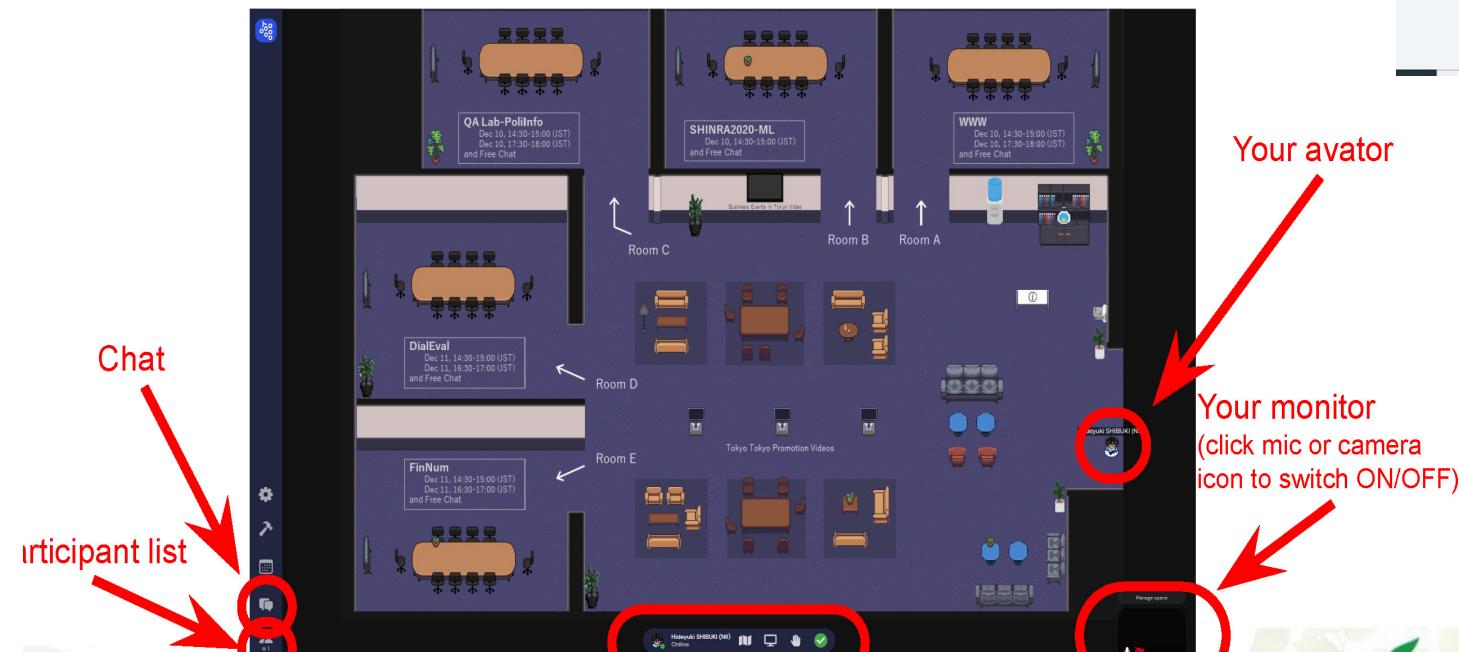
# Live Q&A, Discussion Forum, LivePoll during the session 2

The screenshot shows a conference interface with the following elements:

- Top Bar:** A green header bar with a white border contains the text "BACK TO TIMELINE" with a left arrow icon.
- Session Details:** The title "NTCIR-15 Keynote/Invited Sp... (9:30pm - 10:00pm) ☆" is displayed next to a star icon.
- Interaction Tools:** A red rectangular box highlights a row of icons: "Info" (info icon), "Forum" (chat icon), "Notes" (document icon), "Poll" (poll icon), "Live Q&A" (microphone icon), and a timer indicating "Session ends in 0s".
- Background:** The background features a large green graphic at the bottom with the text "NTCIR-15 CONFERENCE" in white, and a white area with green leaf branches above it.

# Gather.Town

- **Manual** was sent with Log-in Information
- **Available through out the Conference.** Click the rolling banner on Timline



The next session starts in 1h 47m

Filter Advanced

Meeting Hub View

JAPAN Enjoy Resource Gallery POSTER GALLERY

abbey conference & events

- Your **Avatar** walking around to meet other participants, video chat, enjoy a meeting/discussion!
- Use **Arrow Keys** to walk.
- Press “**g**” to go through crowds
- **Tokyo Video** – press “**x**”

- Conference
  - Inoue Foundation for Science
  - Tateisi Science and Technology Foundation
- Tasks
  - MOST Joint Research Center for AI Technology and All Vista Healthcare (FinNum).
  - JSPS Kakenhi 20H00617 (SHINRA2020-ML) was supported by. WWW EUHorizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 893667 (WWW)
  - Dublin City University's Research Committee and the Insight Centre for Data Analytics (which is supported by Science Foundation Ireland under Grant Number SFI/12/RC/2289\_2) (MART)
- Videos: JNTO and TCVB

- NTCIR-15 Organizing Committee
  - Makoto P. Kato University of Tsukuba, Co-chair
  - Hiroaki Ohshima University of Hyogo, Co-chair
  - Madoka Ishioroshi, NII, Local Arrangement Chair
  - Emi Ishita Kyushu University
  - Yoshiyuki Shoji Aoyama Gakuin University
  - Masao Takaku University of Tsukuba
  - Takehiro Yamamoto University of Hyogo
  - Masaharu Yoshioka Hokkaido University
  - Tomoko Ohsuga NII, Social Platform
  - Hideyuki Shibuki NII, Social Platform
  - Makoto P. Kato University of Tsukuba, Publication Chair
  - Yiqun Liu Tsinghua University, China, Publication Chair
- Abbey Conference & Events



**NTCIR-15  
CONFERENCE**



@NTCIR #NTCIR15

Enjoy the conference!

**NTCIR-15 Conference:**

<http://research.nii.ac.jp/ntcir/ntcir-15/conference.html>

**Conference Host:** NTCIR@abbey.ie

**Project:** <http://research.nii.ac.jp/ntcir/>

**Inquiry for NTCIR:** ntc-secretariat@nii.ac.jp

**Data:**

<http://research.nii.ac.jp/ntcir/data/data-en.html>