

Three decades of web search, how goes the retrieval revolution?

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ABSTRACT

This year marks the 30th anniversary of web search engines and the 25th anniversary of Google being launched as a company. I will use this moment to both reflect on aspects of the information retrieval landscape and also look forward at ideas that I think our community has not examined in sufficient detail. Looking back, while it's clear that Web search has precipitated a revolution in information access, it is worth asking, what did web search revolt against? I will reflect on the way the information access was facilitated in the past. Next, I will examine what I think are some of the issues in information seeking going forward with a particular focus on the gaps in understanding. Here I will talk about some of the new research that we've been conducting at our RMIT university with a particular focus on the importance of conversational search and query variability.

BIOGRAPHY

Mark Sanderson is a Professor of Information Retrieval at RMIT University (RMIT), Dean of Research and Innovation in RMIT's STEM College and head of the RMIT Information Retrieval (IR) group. Prof Mark Sanderson is also a Chief Investigator at the RMIT University node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society (ADM+S). He has raised over \$50 million dollars in grant income, published over 250 papers, and over 13,000 citations to his work. His research is in the areas of search engines, recommender systems, user, data, and text analytics.