# ACM SIGIR Annual Business Meeting 2015: Secretary's Notes

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## 1 Opening Matters

The 2015 ACM SIG-IR Annual Business Meeting took place on Thursday August 12, 2015, at the SIGIR'15 Conference in Santiago, Chili.[1] The meeting proper started at 12:50 and was led by SIG-IR chair Charlie Clarke.

The ACM SIG-IR executive committee was introduced, consisting of Charles L.A. (Charlie) Clarke (chair), Yoelle Maarek (vice chair, unable to attend), Jaap Kamps (secretary), Diane Kelly (treasurer, arriving with delay due to a late session end), and James Allan (past chair). Charlie explained the role of the SIG-IR executive committee. First, to ensures continued high quality and reputation of SIGIR and its sponsored conferences (with new sponsored conferences announced later in the meeting). Second, to meets the needs of SIGIR's members, by staying tuned to changing needs and preferences of members, both new and experienced. Third, to ensure financial stability of SIG-IR and high-visibility presence within the ACM. On the latter point, Charlie is part of the SIG Governing Board and represents our views on important issues, such as the future of the ACM DL.

Charlie thanked the many volunteers, including the 1,000s of volunteers running SIG-IR sponsored and co-sponsored conferences in various roles. The SIG-level volunteers were thanked: Krisztian Balog (information director), Guido Zuccon (social media director), Jaime Arguello (student travel awards chair), Craig Macdonald, Ben Carterette (June and December issue SIGIR Forum editors), Claudia Hauff (SIG-IRList editor) , Fernando Diaz (awards chair), Jimmy Lin (CIKM liaison), Ricardo Baeza-Yates (WSDM liaison), and Edie Rasmussen (JCDL liaison).

The SIG-IR website, at `http://sigir.org/`, is the main source of information about SIG-IR with content being updated and expanded in the coming year. There are many member services and benefits, including: SIGIR Forum, reduced conference fees for sponsored and "in cooperation" conferences, access to the ACM digital library, the SIG-IRList newsletter, and special events and students support. Non-members who attend the SIGIR conference receive a one-year membership with their conference registration, with the hope that they continue their membership in SIG-IR

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[1]The business meeting of the ACM Special Interest Group on IR, here written as SIG-IR to distinguish the ACM SIG from its annual SIGIR conference.

in the next year. *Editor's note: Signing up as member, or continuing your membership, costs only $15 per year for students and $30 per year for seniors, see the details at* `http://sigir.org/general-information/membership/`.

Charlie stressed the importance of student travel support with the introduction of the SIG-IR student travel grant program discussed below. There is additional support at the SIGIR conference from the Donald B. Crouch Travel Grants and Google Travel Grants. In addition, there is the "friends" program that supports events related to SIG-IR's mission, see `http://sigir.org/general-information/funding-for-sigir-related-events/` for details. The budget for 2015 was over $35,000, and current friends include: ADCS, ESSIR, FIRE, NACLO, MediaEval, and DIR.

Last, but not least, SIG-IR organizes special events, again this year the business meeting lunch, and the second ACM SIGIR Student Luncheon, and the first ACM SIGIR Student Get Together (aka student party). The luncheon is a student-only event that is open to all student attendees. There were flash talks by Nick Belkin, Emine Yilmaz, and Jaime Teevan on doing research and career trajectories, and leading members of SIGIR acted as "table captains." By request of the students, this year saw in addition the ACM SIGIR Student Get Together organized by Laura Dietz, where students meet and can talk informally to seniors—with the seniors paying for the consumptions of the students. The student party was a "secret" social event, but was very well attended also by seniors, as nothing stays a secret for long in the age of social media.

# 2 Treasurer's Report

SIG-IR treasurer Diane Kelly took over and reported that the SIG's finances are very healthy, with SIG reserves of about $1.5 million, well above the ACM requirement to have enough reserves to cover a SIGIR conference.

As for the SIG expenses, the ACM overhead is no longer largest expense ($119,000 in 2014), given the increase in student travel grants to SIGIR ($125,000 in 2015, plus $10,000 Donald Crouch grants, bringing 56 students from 19 countries to SIGIR). Although an expense, the SIG is very happy about the increasing number of grants, which will grow further in the new ACM SIGIR Student Travel Grant Program starting in September 2015. This new program funds student presenters traveling to all ACM SIG-IR sponsored and co-sponsored conferences. The budget of $250,000 is allocated as a function of past attendance and sponsorship level, in the following way: CIKM ($71,000, 90 students funded); ICTIR ($20,000, 15 students funded); WSDM ($13,000); CHIIR ($20,000); JCDL ($17,000); and SIGIR ($92,000). Program is administered by SIG-IR, see `http://sigir.org/general-information/travel-grants/` for details. The application windows opens for about 2 weeks after notifications, with information included in the notification messages, and our policy is to fund every eligible student who applies. Jaime Arguello administers the programs as student travel award chair.

In addition SIG-IR sponsors related events with a small amounts of funding (max. $5,000) through the "friends" program ($31,000 in 2014, $28,000 in 2015). This allows SIG-IR to fund in-cooperation and other related conferences. We take applications on a quarterly basis.

SIG-IR underwrites as a (co)sponsor five conferences in 2015: SIGIR (100%), ICTIR (100%, inaugural conference in 2015), CHIIR (100%, inaugural conference in 2016), CIKM (50%), JCDL (33%) and WSDM (25%) and shares in their profits or losses. ACM requires conferences to budget

conservatively with the goal to break even—but in practice almost all conferences make a profit. There is also income from other sources: most notable is the digital library (almost $130,000 in 2014), and smaller amounts from dues, interest, and subscriptions. Overall, non-conference income continues to rise. Income from dues is low (about $7,000) with a stable membership of around 800, but this is no issue financially given the high digital library and conference income.

# 3  Awards

Charlie introduces the "Test of Time" award, and explains the procedure: For the 2015 ACM SIG-IR Test of Time award, papers from 2003–2005 qualified and a committee consisting of PC Chair from SIGIRs 2008, 2012, and 2014 (with Fernando Diaz as non-voting chair) selected the paper that had the most impact. In addition to the certificate, the winning paper is republished in SIGIR Forum. Additional honorable mentions can be selected from the year falling off, i.e. 2003.

*Editor's note: This year the Test of Time Award went to Susan Dumais, Edward Cutrell, J. J. Cadiz, Gavin Jancke, Raman Sarin, and Daniel C. Robbins for their paper* Stuff I've seen: a system for personal information retrieval and re-use *from SIGIR 2003. Three further papers from SIGIR 2003 received received a honorable mention:* Document clustering based on non-negative matrix factorization *by Wei Xu, Xin Liu, and Yihong Gong;* Automatic image annotation and retrieval using cross-media relevance models *by J. Jeon, V. Lavrenko, and R. Manmatha;* Modeling annotated data *by David M. Blei and Michael I. Jordan.*

We are open to nominations of papers from SIGIR 2004–2006 which eligible for the Test of Time award in 2016. Top 5 in citations are auto-nominated, but any member can nominate further papers to be considered, see the details at `http://sigir.org/awards/test-of-time-awards/`, or contact the Awards Chair Fernando Diaz.

Charlie Clarke added that there is a separate project for the years up to 2002. In addition to the Test of Time award, we work on recognizing papers before the first Test of Time Award window, i.e. SIGIR 2002. Keith van Rijsbergen is leading this effort, and we will report in detail on this at SIGIR 2016.

# 4  SIGIR Elections 2016–2019

The three year term of the current executive committee is ending at June 30, 2016, and new officers will start on July 1, 2016. Please vote and consider running for one of the positions in the executive committee for this or future terms. The new executive committee will take over just before SIGIR 2016, and be in charge of the next business meeting. So it is like a car blasting down the road at full speed, and the turns are coming up, and someone hands you the steering wheel and tells you to take over... All these roles are immensely interesting, and this group moved by consensus, which involved lots of email and also lots of interesting discussion. So please consider to run for one of the roles and talk to Jamie Callan who is chairing the nomination committee for the 2016–2019 executive committee.

# 5 Conferences

This part of the business meeting had a stream of presentations of conferences that are sponsored or organized in cooperation with SIG-IR.

## 5.1 SIGIR Co-Sponsored Conferences

Charlie presented co-sponsored (JCDL, CIKM, WSDM) and in-cooperation conferences.

**Joint Conference on Digital Libraries**  JCDL'14 was a joint TPDL/JCDL conference held from September 9–12, 2014 in London, UK. There were in total 313 attendees, and the conference returned a profit. JCDL'15 was held from June 23–27, 2015 in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. There were a total of 132 attendees, and a modest profit is predicted. JCDL'16 will be held from June 19–23, 2016 at Rutgers in Newark, New Jersey, USA. JCDL is soliciting bids for JCDL'17 and beyond, please contact Michael Nelson (JCDL SC chair) if you are interested. Further information about JCDL is at `http://jcdl.org/` or contact JCDL liaison Edie Rasmussen.

**Conference on Information and Knowledge Management**  CIKM'14 was held from November 3–7 in Shanghai, China. The organization committee includes Jianzhong Li and X. Sean Wang as general chairs, and Ian Soboroff and Torsten Suel as IR track chairs. CIKM'15 will be held from October 19–23, 2015 in Melbourne, Australia. The organization committee includes James Bailey and Alistair Moffat as general chairs, and Vanessa Murdock and Maarten de Rijke as IR track chair. CIKM'16 will be held from October 24–28, 2016 in Indianapolis, USA. The organization committee includes Snehasis Mukhopadhyay and ChengXiang Zhai as general chairs, and Fabio Crestani and Luo Si as IR track chair. CIKM'17 will be held in Singapore. The organization includes Ee-Peng Lim and Marianne Winslet as general chairs. The CIKM steering committee is soliciting bids to organize CIKM'18 and beyond, contact Jimi Shanahan (CIKM SC chair) if you are interested. Further information about CIKM is at `http://www.cikmconference.org/` or contact CIKM liaison Jimmy Lin.

**Web Search and Data Mining**  WSDM'14 was held from February 24–28, 2014 in New York City, New York, USA. WSDM'15 was held in from February 2–6, 2015 in Shanghai, China. WSDM'16 will be held from February 22–25, 2016 in San Francisco, California, USA. WSDM'18 will be in North America. The WSDM steering committee is soliciting bids to organize WSDM'18 and beyond, see `http://www.wsdm-conference.org/` and contact Ricardo Baeza-Yates (WSDM SC chair).

**In Cooperation Conferences**  In 2015, the "in cooperation" conferences were: ADCS, AIRS, FIRE, RecSys, and UMAP. See `http://sigir.org/general-information/sponsorship/` on details and privileges of becoming an "in cooperation" conference with SIG-IR.

## 5.2 ACM ICTIR

Charlie noted that we have two new fully sponsored conferences starting in the next 12 months. The first is the *ACM SIGIR International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval* (ICTIR).

Oren Kurland (ICTIR SC chair) took the stage and explained that ICTIR focuses on foundational aspects of information retrieval. ICTIR 2015 will be held from September 27–30, 2015 in Northampton, Massachusetts, USA. The organization committee includes James Allan and Bruce Croft as general chairs, and Arjen de Vries and ChengXiang Zhai as program chairs. A total of 53 papers (31 full and 22 short papers) were accepted to be presented in a single track. ICTIR 2016 will be held from September 11–15, 2015 in Newark, Delaware, USA. The organization committee includes Ben Carterette and Hui Fang as general chairs, and Mounia Lalmas and Jian-Yun Nie as program chairs. The ICTIR steering committee is soliciting bids to organize ICTIR'17 and beyond, see `http://sigir.org/general-information/hosting-ictir/` and contact Oren Kurland (ICTIR SC chair).

## 5.3 ACM CHIIR

Charlie took over again announced the *ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval* (CHIIR, pronounced as "cheer"). CHIIR represents merger of the HCIR and IIiX conferences, sponsored by SIG-IR and supported by SIG-CHI. The first annual CHIIR conference, CHIIR 2016, will be held in March 13–17, 2016 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA. The organization committee includes Diane Kelly and Rob Capra as general chairs, and Nick Belkin, Jaime Teevan, and Pertti Vakkari as program chairs. CHIIR 2017 will be held in March 7–11, 2017 in Oslo, Norway. The organization committee includes Ragnar Nordlie and Nils Pharo as general chairs. The CHIIR steering committee is soliciting bids to organize CHIIR'18 and beyond, see `http://chiir.org/` and `http://sigir.org/general-information/hosting-chiir/` and contact Ryen White (CHIIR SC chair).

## 5.4 ACM SIGIR

Next on the agenda was the SIGIR conference itself, or officially called the international *ACM SIGIR conference on Research & Development in Information Retrieval*.

### 5.4.1 SIGIR 2014 Report

Andrew Trotman and Shlomo Geva (general chairs) presented the final report on SIGIR'14 held from July 6–11, 2014 in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. A total of 387 full papers were submitted of which 82 (21%) were accepted, 263 short papers were submitted of which 104 (40%) were accepted, and 34 demo's were submitted of which 16 (47%) were accepted. In addition, 7 tutorials were accepted out of 17 submissions, 7 workshops were accepted out of 11 submissions, and 8 students were accepted at the doctoral consortium out of 11 submissions. A total of 414 delegates registered representing 32 countries, including 125 student registrations. Despite the challenges of running a SIGIR conference at an expensive and far away location, SIGIR'14 made a profit of US $62,000.

### 5.4.2   SIGIR 2015 Interim report

Ricardo Baeza-Yates presented an interim report on the ongoing SIGIR'15 to be held from August 9–13, 2015 in Santiago de Chile. The organization committee included the presenter as general chair, and Berthier Ribeiro-Neto, Mounia Lalmas, and Alistair Moffat as program chairs. A total of 341 attendees registered, of which 334 attended the main conference. The preliminary budget shows a surplus of at least $100,000. Charlie thanked Ricardo for running an excellent conference, and in particular noted Ricardo's dancing skills at the excellent banquet.

### 5.4.3   SIGIR 2016 Update

Fabrizio Sebastiani presented SIGIR'16 to be held from July 17–21, 2016 in Pisa, Italy. The organization committee includes Fabrizio Sebastiani and Raffaele Perego as conference chairs, and Javed Aslam, Ian Ruthven, and Justin Zobel as program chairs. The venue will be the conference center "palazzo dei congressi" in Pisa, located just 2 kilometers from Pisa airport, hence everything is walking distance in 2016. SIGIR 2016 will replace the large poster session with several thematic poster sessions, running in parallel to the sessions and overlapping with the coffee breaks. The banquet will be held at the famous Charterhouse, and there are optional wine tasting tours and opera visits. In line with Ricardo's dance demonstration, Fabrizio promised to consider to sing some opera at the banquet.

### 5.4.4   SIGIR 2017 Update

Noriko Kando presented SIGIR'17 to be held August 7–11, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. Noriko Kando, Tetsuya Sakai, and Hideo Joho will be the general chairs, and Ryen White, Hang Li, and Arjen de Vries will be the program chairs. The venu will be the Kelo Plaza hotel in the heart of Tokyo. It was stressed how affordable Japan is nowadays, with options that suit any budget.

### 5.4.5   SIGIR 2018 Announcement

Charlie took the stage and officially announced the location of SIGIR'18. We received three strong proposals that all were financially viable and had different strengths. Eventually the preference was for a college setting: SIGIR'18 will be in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Kevyn Collins-Thompson presented SIGIR'18 to be held July 8–13 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ann Arbor is the home of the University of Michigan, and located a 25 minute shuttle ride away from Detroit Metro Airport, a main domestic and international airline hub. Despite Ann Arbor's moderate size of 115,000 inhabitants, it has "big city sophistication," in terms of hotels and accommodation, dining and nightlife, and cultural attractions. The organization committee includes Kevyn, Qiaozhu Mei, and Dragomir Radev as general chairs. The organization is looking at several on campus venues, such as the Michigan League conference center. Kevyn is looking forward to hosting us in Ann Arbor in 2018.

### 5.4.6   SIGIR 2019 Informal Bids

Charlie took the stage, and announced that the SIG-IR is asking for bids for SIGIR'19 to be held in Europe. He asked for "informal bids" with formal bids were due on September 15, as

stipulated on `http://sigir.org/general-information/hosting-sigir/`. No less than three informal bids were made.

Emine Yilmaz presented a bid to host SIGIR'19 in Istanbul, Turkey, with her and Adnan Yazici as conference chairs. Istanbul connects Europe and Asia, and is one of the historical centers of civilization. The organization team has organized successful conferences in Istanbul, and proposes a hotel/conference center venue such as the Harbiye or the Hilton in the heart of the city.

Benjamin Piwowarski presented a bid to host SIGIR'19 in Paris, France, with him and M. Chevalier and Eric Gaussier as general chairs, backed up by the French IR community organized in ARIA. Paris is a major metropole, but with a compact city center. The venue is a conference hotel such as the Marriott, in the heart of Paris.

Jaap Kamps and Maarten de Rijke presented a bid to host SIGIR'19 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, with the two of them acting as general chairs, and backed up by the Dutch-Belgian IR community—in a country with the highest density of IR researchers per capita in the world. Rotterdam is famous for its skyline with the harbor and modern architecture. The venue will be the centrally located world trade center.

Charlie continued and asked the audience for their preferences: Istanbul got about about 1/2 of the raised hands, Paris got slightly less, and Rotterdam got also about 1/2 of the raised hands. There was no clear preference in favor of, or against, any of the informal bids.

# 6 Conclusion

As sessions were about to start again, and Charlie Clarke concluded the business meeting with thanks to all attendees at 14:20.