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## About Informer

Informer is the quarterly newsletter of the BCS Information Retrieval Specialist Group (IRSG). It is distributed free to all members. The IRSG is free to join via the BCS website (<http://irsg.bcs.org/>), which provides access to further IR articles, events and resources.

The British Computer Society (BCS) is the industry body for IT professionals. With members in over 100 countries around the world, the BCS is the leading professional and learned society in the field of computers and information systems.

Informer is best read in printed form. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter among your colleagues.

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Welcome to the Spring Edition of Informer. Not surprisingly, thoughts at this time of year are dominated by two major upcoming events.

First of these is Search Solutions, our main practitioner event of 2007, which will be held at BCS Headquarters in Covent Garden on May 23. We have an excellent programme of speakers, and as promised attendance will be limited to keep the event focused and interactive and allow plenty of opportunity for networking with fellow delegates and presenters.

On the preceding evening at the same venue is our AGM, which is your opportunity to meet your IRSG colleagues and help shape the direction and purpose of the group. The AGM takes on particular significance this year, since (as some of you may be aware) the BCS is in the process of reviewing how it operates its Specialist Groups, and how they will relate to other organisational structures such as the BCS Forums.

In particular, one proposal currently under review is to evolve the forums and Specialist Groups into a new structure tentatively called "Knowledge Communities". As some of you may recall, our Feature Article in the Winter Issue touched on this, with Conrad Taylor's vision for a new community dedicated to Knowledge, Information, Data and Metadata Management (or "KIDMM").

In principle, such a development should present welcome opportunities for a group such as the IRSG, given our professional interests in information sharing, knowledge organisation, knowledge management and so on. But it does raise some fundamental questions regarding the role and purpose of the Group, and how it would operate under such an arrangement. For example, what kind of group would an "IRKC" be? How would it relate to other emergent communities such as

KIDMM? Where would our current events (such as ECIR) and publications (such as Informer) fit in this scheme?

Perhaps these questions represent issues that the IRSG committee should periodically contemplate anyway, to ensure that our activities remain relevant and valuable to the community we represent. For example, over many years now, we have maintained a policy of not charging for membership, and this has undoubtedly contributed to the healthy expansion of the group in recent years. But how sustainable is this? Can we adequately serve an expanded and growing membership without placing our activities on a more professional footing? The IRSG currently survives largely by volunteer effort, but the experience of other SGs would suggest that at some point in this growth we must consider how and where to utilise professional support.

Of course, if you feel you would like to contribute personally to the Group, or simply to express an opinion, then write to us at [irsg@bcs.org](mailto:irsg@bcs.org). Better still, join us at the AGM or come to Search Solutions the following day.

All the best,  
Tony Rose  
Informer Editor and Vice chair, IRSG  
Email: [irsg@bcs.org.uk](mailto:irsg@bcs.org.uk)

## BCS-IRSG Announcements from the Chair

by *Leif Azzopardi*



**AGM 2007:** Just a reminder that the [Annual General Meeting](#) will be held in the Central London Office this year on the 22nd of May starting at 6.30pm. After the AGM, a talk celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the BCS and over 30

years of the BCS-IRSG will be given by [Professor Keith van Rijsbergen](#), on the "Past and Future of Information Retrieval". The [agenda for the AGM](#) is now available from the BCS-IRSG website along with [registration details](#). This event is free to all BCS-IRSG members and also includes a buffet and refreshments.

Following the AGM on the 23rd of May will be [Search Solutions 2007](#), a one day event that aims to bring Industry and Academia together. See the [Search Solutions Website](#) for more details.

**FDIA 2007:** At the last committee meeting, it was decided that a new BCS-IRSG event will be run to encourage and promote research from PhD Students, Post Doctorates, and researchers new to the field. It was felt that such a forum is warranted because Information Retrieval conferences are now highly competitive and it is important that new researchers have an avenue for presenting and disseminating their research in a friendly and constructive environment.

The new BCS-IRSG Symposium has been called [Future Directions in Information Access](#) (FDIA) and will be held in conjunction with the [European Summer School in Information Retrieval](#) (ESSIR) at the University of Glasgow on the 28th and 29th of August, 2007. The aim of this symposium is to provide a forum where future directions of information access can be presented and discussed in an open and friendly environment. Why "future directions"? Because we want to encourage submission that focus on the possible paths so

that they can be discussed. Presenting the “what if” scenarios, and solutions to them. Why Information Access? Because it captures the broader ideas of information retrieval, storage and management to include interaction and usage.

The objectives of the FDIA Symposium are:

- To provide an accessible forum for new researchers to share and discuss their research
- To create and foster the formative and tentative research ideas
- To encourage discussion and debate

The IRSG FDIA Symposium aims to provide researchers with an excellent opportunity to receive constructive feedback on their current and future research directions. To this aim, the format will differ slightly to standard conferences, to encourage this. Submissions will be required to be from sole authors, and will be reviewed by an experienced senior IR researcher. Accepted submissions will be published in eWics beforehand, and presented at the Symposium as short presentations which will be accompanied by a poster so that detailed and focused discussion about the research is possible. Full details about the Symposium are available from the BCS-IRSG website.

**ECIR 2009:** The BCS IRSG Committee is interested in hearing from bidders for organizing ECIR 2009 in continental Europe. The [bid document](#) is available from our website and the deadline for bids is the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007. Already we have had several parties expressing interest in hosting ECIR 2009 which we which look forward to receiving. The next ECIRs are to be held in Rome (2007) and Glasgow (2008).

**ECIR 2008:** Also, during the last committee meeting, it was decided that the introduction of Workshops and Tutorials will be trialled at ECIR 2008. Due to the increase in attendance and the desire to create more interaction at ECIR the committee felt it was time to consider the addition of workshops and tutorials to supplement to conference. A call for workshops and tutorials will be made available from the ECIR 2008 website in the near future.

**TLIR 2007:** Finally, congratulations and thanks to the Andy MacFarlane, Juan F. Huete, Juan M. Fernández-Luna and Iadh Ounis for putting together the [First International Workshop on Teaching and Learning of Information Retrieval](#) held in January. The workshop successfully provided a forum for lecturers of Information Retrieval to share their experiences and opinions about the teaching IR at different educational levels. The [TLIR 2007 proceedings](#) are available from eWics on the BCS website. On the back of the success of TLIR 2007 a second workshop will be organized in the future.

*Leif Azzopardi is an RCUK Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow, UK. His research interests include: formal models for information retrieval, distributed information retrieval and evaluation of information access systems. He can be contacted by email via: [leif@dcs.gla.ac.uk](mailto:leif@dcs.gla.ac.uk)*

**Feature Article:**

**SenseCam Flow Visualisation for LifeLog Image Browsing**

*By Daragh Byrne*



Recording of personal life experiences through digital technology is a phenomenon we are increasingly familiar with: music players, such as iTunes, remembers the music we listen

to frequently; our web activity is recorded in web browsers' "History"; and we capture important moments in our lifetime through photos and video. This concept of digitally capturing our memories is known as 'lifelogging.'

To enable "lifelogging" and memory capture, Microsoft Research in Cambridge, UK, have developed a device known as the SenseCam. The SenseCam ([research.microsoft.com/sendev/projects/sensecam/](http://research.microsoft.com/sendev/projects/sensecam/)) is a small wearable device, that passively captures a person's day-to-day activities as a series of photographs. It is typically worn around the neck and, so is oriented towards the majority of activities which the user is engaged in. Anything in the view of the wearer, can be captured by the SenseCam. At a minimum the SenseCam will take a new image approximately every 40 seconds, but sudden changes in the environment of the wearer, detected by the sensors, can trigger more frequent capture. The device requires no intervention by the user as its on-board sensors detect changes in light levels, motion and ambient temperature and then determines when is appropriate to take a photo. For example, when the wearer moves from indoors to outdoors, a distinct change in light levels will be registered and photo capture will be triggered.

This research prototype was made available to the Center for Digital Video Processing (CDVP) as one of 12 research institutes worldwide, winners of one of the Microsoft Digital Memories (Memex) 2005 RFP Awards. The CDVP was the only recipient within Europe and



**The Microsoft SenseCam**

has applied the SenseCam in a range of projects under the supervision of principal investigators Prof. Alan F. Smeaton, Dr. Noel E. O'Connor and Dr. Gareth J.F. Jones.

The SenseCam can take up to 3,000 in a typical day and, as a result, a wearer can very quickly build large and rich photo collections. Within just one week, over 20,000 images may be captured and over a year the lifelog photoset could grow to over one million images. The benefits of this are numerous and include: the ability for a user to easily record events without having to sacrifice their participation, aiding memory and recall; and providing insight into a person's life and activities. Notably, work between Microsoft Research and Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridge, U.K demonstrates that a rich photo lifelog can dramatically improve memory and recall even for individuals with neurodegenerative memory problems.

**"the lifelog photoset could grow to over one million images"**

The rate at which a SenseCam photo collection can grow, however, presents a significant challenge to both browsing and retrieving relevant images compared with traditional photosets, which typically contain several thousand images at most. Imagine trying to find just a few images of times you went to a

particular supermarket, from a collection that span several years. It is clear that manual search through an entire lifelog would be far from practical.

A large portion of our days are spent doing relatively uninteresting things, and this is particularly challenging in a SenseCam photoset. During uninteresting or mundane activities in our day, very little typically changes in the environment around us. For example, when writing a report or watching TV, you will sit in front of a computer or TV for, perhaps, several hours. The SenseCam continues to capture an image every 40 seconds irrespective of its interestingness, and so you will end up with several hundred images of a computer screen or TV, albeit from different angles as you may move from side to side. A user's daily photoset easily becomes clogged with potentially hundreds of extremely visually similar photos. This poses significant problems for users, who must wade through large volumes of uninteresting photos before reaching potentially interesting, engaging content. The high frequency of capture employed by the SenseCam and the extreme size of the multimedia collection is a barrier to locating relevant content.

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### **Our memories are organised as "episodes"**

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To overcome the challenges presented by the volume of the photoset, we automatically divide the photoset into events. This segmentation of images into events uses automatically extracted visual features of the image as well as the sensor data recorded by the SenseCam. Not only does the segmentation process allow us to neatly package groups of related images into events but it also allows us to calculate a measure of each event's uniqueness within the collection, enabling us to identify the more interesting events in the photoset. By "ignoring" the mundane content, the amount of content presented to and navigated by a user is significantly reduced and this overcomes the problem posed by high proportion of uninteresting content found within SenseCam photosets. By overviewing the photoset at the event level, as opposed to the image level, we

can further reduce the amount of content presented to a user. The number of events displayed can, of course, be adjusted based on feedback from the user. This allows a user to provide some context to their search and navigation, for example, "I want to see all of the content from my day" compared with "I want only to see the most interesting content from my days."

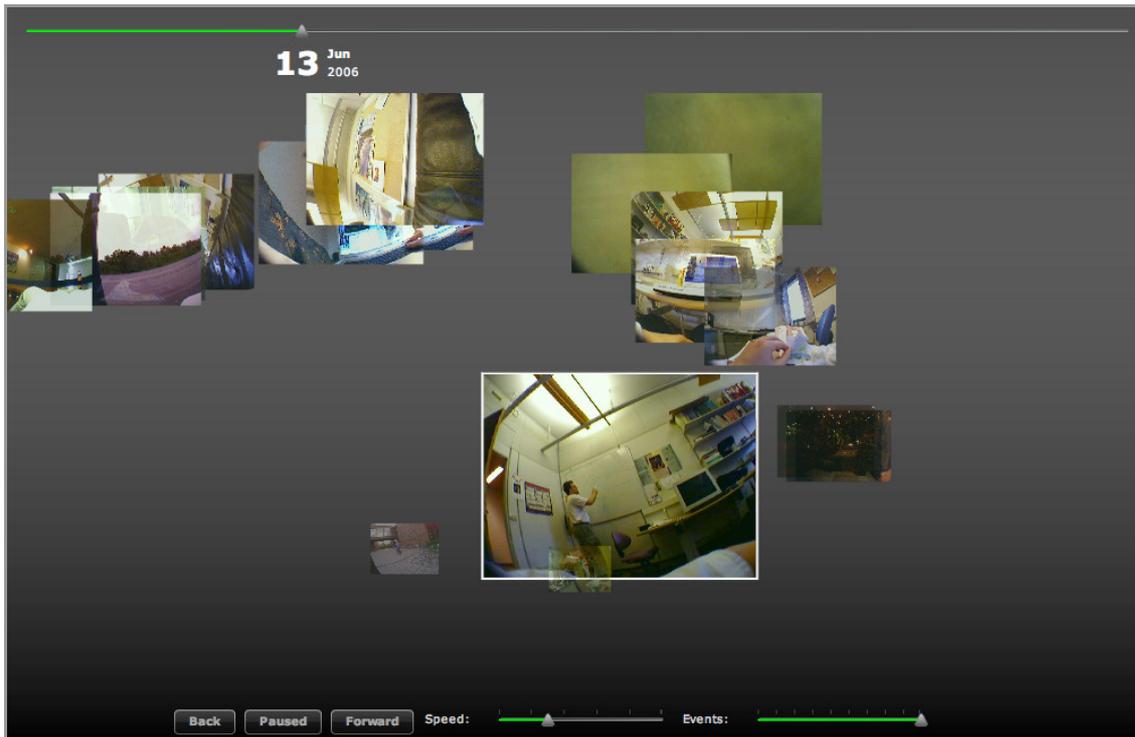
Our memories are organised as "episodes." The brain's organization of individual moments in time into episodes of memory closely mirrors the structuring of photo snapshots into events. We feel that, in so doing, we are providing better cues to recall of our memories and make the on-screen information more intelligible to a user.

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### **"We designed our visualization with enjoyment and engagement in mind"**

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Personal photographs are inherently meaningful to their owner and reviewing photographs is often a very engaging experience. This is particularly of interactions with physical paper photographs. Personal photographs are also a very powerful cue to memory and can cause vivid recollections of an event, sometimes even in minute detail, to resurface. Browsing photos, particularly traditional paper media, is typically a very enjoyable experience. We felt that it was important to bring a similar experience to browsing lifelog data and as such designed our visualization with enjoyment and engagement in mind. Animation is an extremely effective way to engage users and so we display the most interesting events from a user's photoset as a rich animated stream. We apply the river metaphor, which displays temporal data as a 'river' with the time axis aligned with the flow, for the animation. The displayed events are determined by a timeline, with each point on the timeline representing a day in the user's photoset. Users can adjust the timeline's play-head manually or allow the visualisation to automatically play through each day sequentially. As the timeline moves to a new day, its most interesting events begin to flow across the screen, with a single keyframe representing each event on screen.



**The SenseCam Flow Visualisation displays interesting events from a user's day**

The on-screen movements and appearance of each event are determined by its relative interestingness (or uniqueness), duration, and time of the day at which it occurred. Temporal relationships between the events are also maintained, so, events, which occur earlier in the day, will move into view ahead of the later events. The size and opacity of the keyframe image correspond to how interesting it is. Very interesting events are presented as large and solid items on screen, while, conversely, less interesting events are small and faded, drawing less visual attention. The rate at which the event moves is also an indicator of its interestingness: more interesting events move slower, giving the user more opportunity to attend to them. After the event has moved into focus, it will briefly pause on screen, the length of which is related to its duration.

The visualisation also allows for deeper exploration of the event by two means. If a user is particularly interested in a specific event, they can select it by moving the mouse over it, which causes it to stop moving, and become highlighted and enlarged. When selected, the event will play back a "montage" video (a sequential, rapid play-back of the event's images.) This provides the user with

more cues to what occurred during that event, enabling them to rapidly determine if the event is indeed of interest. To explore the event further, the user can click on it to reveal a pop-up window. This allows a user can review basic information on the event as well the individual images recorded by the SenseCam.

The visualisation offers a user the ability to actively explore and perform directed search and retrieval. Alternatively, the visualisation works equally well for passive review of their photo collection, in a manner akin to a slideshow. By packaging the photos into events, we have offered an effective way to reduce the amount of visual information that the user must navigate without impacting the richness of the dataset.

It is planned to extend the functionality of the visualisation by leveraging ongoing work which enables similarity-based retrieval and relevance feedback by using of additional sources of context information (e.g. GPS, Bluetooth information, computer activity.) The visualisation seems well suited to the integration of SenseCam data from multiple users and this is something that we would also like to explore in future iterations.

Details of ongoing SenseCam projects in the Center for Digital Video Processing can be found at: [www.cdvp.dcu.ie/SenseCam/](http://www.cdvp.dcu.ie/SenseCam/)

*Daragh Byrne is a PhD Student with the Centre for Digital Video Processing (CDVP) at Dublin City University (DCU), under the supervision of Dr. Gareth Jones and his research is funded by a research scholarship awarded by the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET.) He holds a M.Res*

*degree in Design and Evaluation of Advanced interactive Systems from Lancaster University and a BSc in Computer Applications from DCU. His research interests include: human computer interaction; task-oriented system design; multimedia information systems, and emergent technologies. He can be contacted via: [mdaragh.byrne@computing.dcu.ie](mailto:mdaragh.byrne@computing.dcu.ie).*



**BCS  
IRSG  
AGM**

## **BCS Information Retrieval Specialist Group Annual General Meeting**

This year the AGM will be followed with a talk to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the BCS.

The talk is entitled 'Past and Future of Information Retrieval' and will be given by Prof. Keith van Rijsbergen of the University of Glasgow.

These events are free, and we welcome all IRSG members to attend both the AGM and the Talk. It will be an ideal opportunity to socialise with other IRSG members and meet up with colleagues. You don't need to attend the AGM though, just come along and join us for an enjoyable evening of good company, food and drink.

We look forward to seeing you at the BCS Central London Office.

### **Event Schedule**

Tuesday 22 May 2007  
6pm - Reception  
6.30 - 7.15pm - AGM  
7.30 - 8.30pm - BCS  
50th Anniversary Talk

For more information visit:  
[irsg.bcs.org](http://irsg.bcs.org)



**Book Review:****Ontology Learning and Population from Text: Algorithms, Evaluation and Applications**, by Philip Cimiano*Reviewed by Dileep Damle*

This book is very welcome as a summary of recent research in what is one of the most difficult fields in Semantic Web research. It is widely believed that to make the idea of the semantic web a reality, applications need

models of the relevant knowledge – so ontologies. Such a model is expressed in the formal notation of mathematical logic and so allows logical inferences to be made (or tested) from the information in web documents. Such models are intended to be sharable and reusable between applications in the same way that a data model might be shared by a variety of conventional applications.

Such ontologies are difficult, time consuming and expensive to construct and maintain and it is hoped that constructing ontologies automatically from relevant natural language documents will overcome this *knowledge acquisition bottleneck* and enable the semantic web. However, computer programs can't currently interpret human languages very well (they may need appropriate ontologies) and so current methods depend on combining statistical methods, formal logic, and shallow linguistic theories as well as machine learning.

As an edited version of the author's doctoral thesis on constructing ontologies from text, the book gives a very good review of the work in the field while still focussing on the author's contributions. The first part of the book provides background on areas relevant to understanding the second part which focuses on the authors main claims. I think the mathematics in part I may be too advanced for a lay reader and possibly unnecessary for someone in the field. For a reader in between, it will be useful to refreshing some and introducing the less familiar concepts.

Part II is concerned with structuring the main concepts identified in the text into a hierarchic structure, identifying the attributes associated with the concepts, identifying non-hierarchic relations between concepts and finally populating a knowledge base.

The first stage is the use of the Formal Concept Analysis (FCA) algorithm for this purpose for the first time. FCA is based on Aristotle's observation that the members of a subcategory all have the same attributes as the parent category, but are differentiated on the basis of the value some other attribute(s). Even without the mathematics the idea behind the algorithm is easy to follow.

FCA performs better (using metrics specially adapted for labelled graphs) of compared with traditional cluster analysis based techniques. In fact, the FCA algorithm is preceded by parsing and identifying syntactic dependencies between verbs, nouns and adjectives in the same sentences, while clustering methods are preceded by just co-occurrence analysis. So, the credit must be due also to the parsing. Performance is further boosted by looking for explicit assertions about hypernymic relations between pairs of concepts in the list and searching the web and WordNet (an electronic thesaurus with considerable ontological information). A machine learning approach to combining the results from these disparate searches is described. The final evaluation figures are impressive improvements over previous methods, but it seems we are still a long way from usable technology.

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**"For the researcher, however, it is an excellent resource"**

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In addition to taxonomic hierarchy construction, the book deals with finding attributes of concepts and other relations between concepts. Sometimes, I am unsure of the validity of the human created gold standard ontologies (who would put apartments and vehicles as sub-concepts of rentable objects while putting hotels in a different category?). For all that, there is much interesting work, new ideas and many references and overall this is a good resource of other researchers. In particular, the author

has provided the data he used on the website so other researchers can compare other methods using common data. This is a laudable move, but as has been argued by Brewster and others, the field badly needs standardised data sets, tasks, gold-standards and evaluation criteria from some collaborative effort.

I am unsure that the book will be of much use to the lay reader. This is a hot topic with many researchers pursuing different techniques and nothing published at the present time can be definitive. If there is a criticism of the book, it is that it ignores other perspectives of ontology, linguistics and psychology. This is fair as the author has pointed this out in the preface. Without these perspectives, the novice is given little idea of the controversy and difficulty in this area. For the researcher, however, it is an excellent resource.

*Having retired from an IT career spanning 35 years, and having a pioneered Knowledge Management at Abbey National, Dileep is currently a research student in Computational Linguistics at the Open University. He can be contacted via: [md.g.damle@open.ac.uk](mailto:md.g.damle@open.ac.uk)*

## Book Review:

### Wittgenstein, Language and Information: "Back to the Rough Ground!" by David Blair

*Reviewed by Sándor Dominich*



I must begin by saying that it was a real joy to read this book. It is very carefully written. The sentences are balanced in lengths, and the ideas are clearly presented using many examples. I am very tempted to say that this book may be viewed as if it consisted of two

'sub-books': one written with normal-sized characters (the 'main' book), and another written with small-sized characters (the footnotes and quotes). And yet the 'main' book is at the same time a stand-alone entity, it can be read almost entirely just on its own.

After a comprehensive Introduction the Author takes us, step by step, in part II. into Wittgenstein's philosophy of language. We find out that "Instead of language being a *product* of thought, ... language is 'the *vehicle* of thought'.". In Wittgenstein's view, meaning as such cannot be defined. If one wants to find out the meaning of words, one has to study their uses. More specifically, if one can use a word appropriately, then he/she understands its meaning. The way in which words are being used together in given circumstances is referred to as "depth grammar" or language game (how a sentence relates to circumstances and context). Let us consider the following two sentences: "I know that this tree is an oak, but I could be mistaken." and "I know that I am in pain, but I could be mistaken.". The surface grammar (i.e., what we usually mean by the word grammar, syntax of sentences) of these two sentences tell us that they are two assertions about what we know. However, their depth grammar tells us something quite different. The first sentence is an assertion about an observable fact, while the second sentence is not an experiential one: either I am in pain or I am not in pain; I cannot be mistaken about it. Understanding the meaning of a word is not a mental state,

like, for example, "depression". The analysis of depth grammar can teach us about how our mind works without studying any mental events at all.

One of the most important properties of language, and hence of thought, is categorization. This may be conceived as a system of coordinate axes, or space, in which objects that are different are viewed as if they were similar. Thus, categorization is a kind of simplification. Categories determine what we call reality. In other words, reality is made up of linguistic categories.

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### **"the ideas are clearly presented using many examples"**

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We find out that Wittgenstein used a number of metaphors to describe language. For example, "Language as a city. Language as a labyrinth. Words are like tools, and language use is similar to tool use."

There are a number of other exciting topics which are treated in part II, such as reality and myth, language and cognition, mind and reality, behaviourism, to name just a few. In part III the author describes an application of Wittgenstein's philosophy of language to information and information systems. An information system is defined as an "organized process which attempts to provide correct or pertinent information in response to a formal request of some kind". Information (or data) should have a representation of some kind within an information system (this is referred to as a "fundamental relationship" between information and representation). Indexical relations (e.g., index terms) are of basic importance for the retrieval of information. There are two basic types of information: highly determinate (information that makes clear-cut distinctions between objects), and less determinate information (partial distinction between objects). In the representation of information, there are many indeterminacies: semantic ambiguity (e.g., the word "head" used in different contexts), productivity of language (a relatively small vocabulary and a few syntax rules can be used to generate a large number of descriptions), and so on.

The idea of a strict logical model of language as well as of a strict determinacy of sense in language was false ideal for Wittgenstein. The transition from the former to the latter was referred to as "Back to the rough ground!". In his view, meaning in language was context-dependent. Similar to this, it is time to move, according to the Author, from the Data Model to the Document Model of information systems. This latter model should allow for a precise representation of data leaving room, at the same time, also for a less determinate one (context-dependence). The Author takes a Wittgenstein-like view of information retrieval (IR), and describes and discusses a number of "diseases" in IR; for example, the data model is an effective model, content representation can be unambiguous, reducing running time can improve intellectual access to data, the size of the database does not matter, the bigger the system the better, in-document information is enough for representational purposes, computerized information can lose context, and so on.

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### **"this book will be useful reading for several classes of researchers, educators and students"**

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I am convinced that this book will be useful reading for several classes of researchers, educators and students: linguists, philosophers, information scientists, computer scientists, physicists (especially those concerned with the issue of time in metaphysics and language). And equally useful and interesting for any reader attracted by intellectual excursions or interested in novel intellectual achievements.

*Sándor Dominich is the George Pólya Professor of Computer Science, Head of the Information Retrieval Research Group, and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology of the University of Pannonia, Hungary. His research interest includes retrieval models, formal aspects and foundations, applications. He is the author of the book "Mathematical Foundations of IR", and co-organiser of the SIGIR MF/IR workshop series. He can be contacted via: [mdominich@dcs.vein.hu](mailto:mdominich@dcs.vein.hu)*

## Forthcoming Events

*Edited By Andy MacFarlane*

## Talks & One Day Events

### BCS IRSG AGM and 50th Anniversary Talk

"Information Retrieval: Past and Future", by Keith van Rijsbergen. BCS London Office, Covent Garden, London 22nd May 2007. AGM of the IRSG followed by a talk in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the BCS, and the 30th Anniversary of the IRSG. Registration is essential.

<http://irsg.bcs.org/agm.php>

### BCS IRSG Search Solutions 2007

BCS London Office, Covent Garden, London 23rd May 2007. A one day event devoted to the specific interests of information retrieval practitioners. <http://irsg.bcs.org/sse2007.php>

## Conferences/Workshops

### Search Engine Strategies

May 25–26, Xiamen, China. The Search Engine Strategies Conference and Expo series continues its World Tour with its 2nd Annual SES China event.

<http://www.searchenginestrategies.com/sew/c hina07/>

### 2nd International Conference on Scalable Information Systems (Infoscale 2007)

Suzhou, China, 6-8 June 2007. A conference on parallel and distributed systems with a particular theme in such contexts of IR.

<http://www.infoscale.org/topics.shtml>

### The 7<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Pattern Recognition in Information Systems (PRIS 2007)

Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, 12-13 June 2007. A workshop of interest to members working in the field of Machine Learning and IR. Held as part of the 9th International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems (ICEIS 2007)

<http://www.iceis.org/workshops/pris/pris2007-cfp.html>

### 4<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on XQuery Implementation, Experience and Perspectives (XIME-P 2007)

Beijing, China, 15th June 2007. A one day workshop for members interested in XQuery and IR. The workshop is co-located with ACM SIGMOD 2007

<http://research.yahoo.com/workshops/ximep-2007/>

### 11th International Conference on User Modeling (UM 2007)

Corfu, Greece, 25-29 June 2007. A conference of interest to members with a strong user focus.

<http://www.iit.demokritos.gr/um2007/>

### Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (EMNLP-CoNLL 2007)

Prague, Czech Republic, 28-30 June 2007. A natural language processing conference of interest to members who apply NLP techniques to IR.

<http://cs.jhu.edu/EMNLP-CoNLL-2007/>

### 5<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Adaptive Multimedia Retrieval (AMR 2007)

LIP6, Paris, France, 5-6 July 2007. A workshop of interest to members working in the field of multimedia IR.

<http://amr2007.lip6.fr/>

### IADIS International Conference – Interfaces and HCI 2007

Lisbon, Portugal, 6-8 July 2007. An HCI conference of interest to members working on IR interfaces.

Part of the IADIS Multi Conference on Computer Science. <http://www.ihci-conf.org/>

### International Conference on Machine Learning and Data Mining in Pattern Recognition (MLDM 2007)

Leipzig, Germany, 18-20 July 2007. A machine learning and data mining conference of interest to those who apply such techniques to IR.

<http://www.mldm.de/frame.htm>

### The 4th Annual International Conference on Mobile and Ubiquitous Systems

Philadelphia, USA, 6-10th August 2007. A

conference of interest to members working in the

area of mobile search. <http://www.mobiquitous.org/>

### The Sixth International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science

"Featuring the Future" (COLIS 6), Borås, Sweden,

13-16 August 2007. An LIS conferences with a

theme on IR. <http://www.hb.se/colis/>

### IASTED International Conference on Internet and Multimedia Systems and Applications

Honolulu, Hawaii, 20-22 August 2007. A multimedia conference with several themes, such as Digital Libraries, of interest to IRSG members.

<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/home-577.html>

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## **The Sixth International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Modelling and Using Context (Context'07)**

Roskilde University, Denmark, 20-24 August 2007. Of interest to members who work in context and user modelling for IR. Has a particular workshop on Context-Based Information Retrieval (CIR'07)  
<http://context-07.ruc.dk/CONTEXT07MainPage.html>

## **International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications (DC-2007)**

Singapore, 27-31 August 2007. A meta-data conference of interest to members who apply knowledge organisation techniques to IR.  
<http://conferences.nlb.gov.sg/dc2007/>

## **BCS IRSG Symposium: Future Directions in Information Access 2007**

Glasgow, Scotland, 28-29 August 2007. An IRSG event for sharing new ideas in IR, particularly for new researchers (held in conjunction with ESSIR 2007). <http://irsg.bcs.org/fdia2007.php>

## **ACM Symposium on Document Engineering 2007**

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada 28-31 August 2007. A generic document engineering conference, which will be of interest to IR researchers and practitioners.  
<http://www.cs.umanitoba.ca/~doceng07/>

## **Summer Schools**

### **Summer School in Sound and Music Computing**

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, 2-6 July 2007. A music computation summer school of interest to members who wish to move into the area of Music IR.  
<http://www.soundandmusiccomputing.org/summerschool/stockholm2007>

### **Summer School on Multimedia Semantics Analysis, Annotation, Retrieval and Applications (SSMS 2007)**

Glasgow, Scotland, 15-21 July 2007. A generic multimedia summer school of particular interest to those members whose focus is on multimedia IR.  
<http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/ssms07/>

### **European Summer School in Information Retrieval (ESSIR 2007)**

Glasgow, Scotland, 27-31 August 2007. A generic summer school on IR, held in conjunction with FDIA 2007. <http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/essir2007/>



SEARCH

SOLUTIONS 2007

## BCS Information Retrieval Specialist Group

### Search Solutions 2007

Weds May 23, BCS Central London Office

Search Solutions is a special one-day event in which invited speakers present the latest innovations in information search and retrieval, and share opinions, case studies and expertise.

The format of the day will be series of talks and discussions with a focus on interaction and discussion with our guest speakers.

We look forward to seeing you at the BCS Central London Office.

For more information visit:

[irsg.bcs.org](http://irsg.bcs.org)

#### Presenters:

- Mike Lynch, Autonomy
- Conrad Taylor, BCS EPSG
- Alistair Duke, BT Labs
- Gora Sudindranath, FAST
- Thomas Hoffman, Google
- David Milward, Linguamatics
- Nick Craswell, Microsoft
- Paul Matthews, ODI
- Andrew Maisey, Solcara
- Nigel Hamilton, Trexy

The British Computer Society  
 First Floor, Block D, North Star House,  
 North Star Avenue, Swindon. SN2 1FA  
 Tel: +44 (0)1793 417 417 Fax: +44 (0)1793 417 444  
 BCS IS A REGISTERED CHARITY: NUMBER 292786



### Contacts

Web: <http://irsg.bcs.org/>  
 Email: [irsg@bcs.org.uk](mailto:irsg@bcs.org.uk)  
 Subscriptions: <http://irsg.bcs.org/membership.php>  
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