

## **IRJ-ECIR Partnership Agreement**

The Information Retrieval Journal (IRJ) and the European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR) have entered into a partnership to provide additional publication and presentation opportunities to authors and mutual benefits for the two venues. The Editors of IRJ and the British Computer Society Information Retrieval Specialist Group on behalf of ECIR agree to the partnership on the following terms.

### **1. Fast-track publication of top-ranked full papers from previous ECIR in IRJ:**

- a. Publish special issue of IRJ with top-ranked ECIR full papers from the most recent ECIR.
- b. ECIR PC chairs will serve as guest editors for the IRJ special issue. They will select and run the review process for selected papers.
- c. Benefits to both parties:
  - i. ECIR: Additional incentive for authors to submit to conference.
  - ii. IRJ: Source of high-quality publications for the journal.
- d. Eligibility:
  - i. Two types of paper are eligible:
    1. Full papers that have received an ECIR award:
      - a. Best paper award.
      - b. Best student paper award.
      - c. Highly-commended paper award.
    2. Full papers that have received a high rank during the ECIR review process:
      - a. Full papers shortlisted for best paper.
      - b. Full papers in the top 15% of accepted papers by review score.
- e. Requirements:
  - i. Publication of the IRJ special issue needs to happen by next ECIR, so papers need to be finalized before mid-December in the year before the next ECIR.
  - ii. For copyright reasons, extended papers need to have at least 30% new technical content over the conference version.
  - iii. The first IRJ issue of the calendar year is the ECIR special issue. This special issue will be published before the next ECIR.
- f. Review process:
  - i. Authors of award-winning papers will be contacted immediately following ECIR by the IRJ special issue editors (ex ECIR PC Chairs) with an invitation for fast-track submission to IRJ. The invitation will expire after two weeks.
  - ii. Papers will be lightly reviewed by two reviewers.
  - iii. One member of the IRJ editorial board will be involved in the review process, either as one of the two reviewers or as an additional (third) reviewer.
  - iv. Primary review criteria:
    1. Additional contribution of new material over ECIR version.
    2. Technical merit of the new material.
    3. Coherence of the new material combined with ECIR paper content.
  - v. Reviewers will be informed that they are reviewing a fast-track paper.
  - vi. Review timeline will be compressed:
    1. Reviewers need to complete their reviews strictly within three weeks.
    2. There is only one round of review, with possible decisions of (a) accept, (b) minor revision, or (c) reject.

- vii. To allow time for one round of revision and for the publication of the IRJ special issue before the next ECIR, there is a June/July deadline for submitting the extended version.

## **2. Presentation of IRJ articles at next ECIR:**

- a. Benefits to both parties:
  - i. ECIR:
    - 1. Enrichment of the technical program.
    - 2. Additional registrants for the conference.
  - ii. IRJ:
    - 1. Increased visibility for journal.
    - 2. Incentive to submit to journal.
- b. BCS-IRSG makes it a condition of bidding for ECIR that at least 4 oral presentation slots are made available for IRJ paper presentations.
- c. The process for selecting IRJ papers to be presented at ECIR will be as follows:
  - i. IRJ editors will contact authors of IRJ papers published in the calendar year to October and ask them if they would like to present at the next ECIR.
  - ii. IRJ editors will notify ECIR PC chairs by 1 December (unless a delay is mutually agreed) with details about which authors would like to present their papers, plus associated titles and other metadata (keywords, etc.).
  - iii. If the number of proposed IRJ papers exceeds the number of oral presentation slots the IRJ editors and the ECIR PC chairs acting jointly agree the IRJ papers which will be accepted for oral presentation at ECIR. Criteria for selection will include the recency of the work and the relevance to the themes of the conference.
  - iv. ECIR PC chairs decide how to schedule article presentations in the conference program.
  - v. Note: The original IRJ paper will not be re-published in the ECIR proceedings. Abstracts of the IRJ paper will be made available via, e.g., the conference web site.

## **3. Termination and Non-Exclusivity**

- a. This agreement will be valid for three years initially, covering ECIR 2020, ECIR 2021, and ECIR 2022 and the corresponding calls for proposals to hold the conference.
- b. It will continue thereafter until or unless terminated by either side by giving written notice by the end of the April approximately two years before the corresponding conference. So, for example, if either side wishes to terminate the arrangement for ECIR 2022 they must issue the notice by 30 April of 2020.
- c. The BCS-IRSG will make it a condition of the award of ECIR that the organizers do not enter into a similar arrangement with any other journal whilst this agreement is in force.
- d. The editors of the IRJ agree not to enter into a similar agreement with any other conference without the consent of the BCS-IRSG Committee.
- e. The authors of ECIR papers who do not take up the invitation to submit to the ECIR Special Issue are free to publish extended and revised papers in other journals, or to submit to IRJ through the normal submission process, provided they respect the usual rules of reuse of copyright material from their ECIR paper.