

## Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

22 May 2023

Zoom Video Conference Scheduled 17:00 (London)

### Present

Udo Kruschwitz [UK] (Chair), Tony Russell–Rose [TRR] (Vice-Chair), Steven Zimmerman [SZ] (Secretary/Minutes), Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Jochen Leidner [JL] , Yashar Moshfeghi [YM], Haiming Liu [HL], Graham McDonald [GM], David Rau [DR], Monica Paramita [MP], Iadh Ounis [IO]

### 1. Apologies and Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

Annalina Caputo [AC], Sean MacAvaney [SM], Frank Hopfgartner [FH]

Minutes approved

### 2. Actions arising from January 2023

Action Number	Action	Action on
Jan 23.01	Set up document repository for committee documents on Basecamp. SZ to work with Kerry Weir to do this. <b>May 22.01</b> - [SZ] - TODO	ONGOING
Jan 23.02	Explore ideas for expanding diversity	DONE
Jan 23.03	Send out call for 1-day events once we have clarity on budget	DONE
Jan 23.04	Contact BCS to determine if possible for members to approach new/recent members  HL Reports that BCS cannot provide a members list due to privacy concerns	DONE
Jan 23.05	Handle the ECIR core submission in collaboration with UK	DONE
Jan 23.06	Put forth vote for specialist group nominee	DONE
Jan 23.07	Ask Kerry Weir for numbers on other member groups to rank against ours.  Total counts IRSG Linked group = 835, BCS IRSG members = 299, Jisc Mail (IR group) = 635  <b>May 22.02-</b> [HL] - Contact Kerry to get numbers from other BCS groups to run a comparison with above numbers	ONGOING

	<b>May 22.03</b> - [UK] - Message to Kerry to update the website with a message that you do not have to be a member of BCS to join our group.	
<b>Jan 23.08</b>	Put a survey together to understand our membership base and share with IRSG community.  <b>May 22.04</b> - [HL] - work with Graham and Monica to develop the questionnaire for a better understanding our members' preferences. This subject to JISCmail and BCS's ethical approval.	ONGOING
<b>Jan 23.09</b>	[UK] to connect [GM, YM, HL, IF] to discuss mentorship with Nicola Ferro and Christina Bauer	DONE
<b>Jan 23.10</b>	Connect ECIR 2024 general chairs with Jaap Kamps (PC co-chair of ECIR 2023)	DONE
<b>Jan 23.11</b>	Include in the Call for ECIR bids a statement about how to mitigate inclusionary issues such as religious holidays (e.g. virtual presentation)  <b>May 22.05</b> - [UK] to include in call	ONGOING
<b>Jan 23.12</b>	[UK] to send [GM] summary of experiences with ECIR 2023 sponsorship	DONE
<b>Jan 23.13</b>	Send details on publication process such as Springer contacts	DONE
<b>Jan 23.14</b>	Get final numbers to share with group	DONE
<b>Jan 23.15</b>	Upload slides to BCS website (for slides that can be shared)	DONE
<b>Jan 23.16</b>	Contact Kerry Weir to schedule rooms	DONE
<b>Jan 23.17</b>	Share the KSJ paperwork with [HL] as part of their handover of the role of KSJ award chair; as part of that, both will check when the funding provided by Microsoft Research will expire.	DONE
<b>Jan 23.18</b>	Discuss options and possibility of hosting at Southampton	DONE
<b>Jan 23.19</b>	Put together call for one-day event	DONE
<b>Jan 23.20</b>	Look at Medium as a new platform for Informer. Plan to run a parallel PoC with the April issue.	DONE
<b>Jan 23.21</b>	Bring forth ideas to hold AGM at an alternative time/venue. 2022 approach to holding AGM at end of SS 2022 did not work well (low attendance, people tired, etc).	DONE
<b>Jan 23.22</b>	Send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting.	DONE

### 3. Items Agreed by email

#### **No items agreed by email**

### 4. Chair's report

Key points:

- CORE submission has been completed (see Agenda item 7)
- KSJ Award agreement came to an end and MSR Cambridge will no longer be sponsoring (see Agenda item 8)

### 5. The future of Informer

MW reports 16 May 2023

#### **The past**

Informer was first published in 1992 under the editorship of Mark Sanderson as the Newsletter of the IRSG. The first issue of Informer as a title was in 1994, with issues typically running to 15 pages of three-column layout.

The newsletter went 'web' in January 2012 using a custom template of WordPress which (I gather) has remained unchanged until now. Over the last 11 years 440 content items have been published, including an Events listing by Andy Macfarlane which has appeared in every issue.

Informer has two objectives. The first of these has been to provide a source of news and insights for IRSG members and the second has been to attract readers to become members of IRSG. As Informer is published open access there is no requirement to be a member of IRSG or even BCS to be able to read Informer.

I took over the editorial role early in 2019. Although I enjoy the process of compiling each issue, to maintain a balance of content between academic and industry topics requires the editor to have a broad awareness of what is going on, both inside IRSG, inside academia and inside industry.

It immediately became obvious when I took over that the WordPress platform was not fit for purpose but did at least (after a fashion) work. The same could be said for the IRSG web site and in mid-2019 the web site was migrated to the BCS corporate web server and content management software. It became clear early in the discussions on the web site upgrade that incorporating Informer into the software was not an option.

Although both I and Tony have had many discussions over possible platforms the options are very limited. The core requirement is that each issue of Informer can be compiled as the content became available and then converted into a logical structure as a second operation. This work was latterly undertaken with great skill by Tony Russell-Rose and Steve Zimmerman.

I am informed by the BCS that IRSG is unique in maintaining a member newsletter. As a result, there is no capability (or incentive) in BCS to support the development of a new WordPress platform. It could of course be developed under contract with a web development company but the costs are likely to be in the £2000 to £3000 + VAT range.

### **The present**

This year I am only compiling two issues, rather than four. This was primarily because although I have ostensibly retired I seem to be busier than when I was running Intranet Focus Ltd! I was in fact less than eager to continue to be Editor for 2023 but a call for editorial support gained no viable responses. In the April issue I mentioned again that the October issue would be my last, but that has not resulted in any potential candidates appearing over the horizon.

### **The future?**

To restate the objectives of Informer

- To provide a source of news and insights for IRSG members
- To attract readers to become members of IRSG.

Both have to be considered in the context of the IRSG web site, which has sections specifically about IRSG Events and IRSG Awards, which are the two major 'benefits' to members of IRSG, even though neither the Events nor the Awards are limited to IRSG members. As a result, there is significant overlap and duplication between the content of the web site and the content of Informer. However, the web site can be updated on a day-to-day basis if required and Informer in its prime only appeared every three months.

We are now in a situation where IR has never developed at such a fast pace and offered so many opportunities for academia and business. IRSG should be in the vanguard of highlighting these opportunities for both IRSG members and the wider BCS community.

At the time that the web site was rebuilt I highlighted the importance of IRSG appointing a web site manager to ensure that the content met the objectives of IRSG and that it was maintained to a high level of quality and timeliness. This has not happened.

### **Recommendations for discussion**

The future has to be an adroit blend of content on the web site updated in as near real time as possible, to which Twitter (other social media platforms are available!) and LinkedIn can be used to bring the attention of a wider audience to the events, awards and other content that is available on the web site.

1. I would recommend that Informer is discontinued following the publication of the October issue. This should be positioned as a strategic decision to be able to enhance the level of communication with members making the optimum use of social media and the web site.
2. IRSG should have a social media strategy based on Twitter/Mastadon and LinkedIn which should be used to drive traffic towards the web site as the definitive source of information on Awards and Events.
3. An element of this strategy should be the adroit use of email lists where appropriate to support web social channels.
4. IRSG should appoint a web manager with a responsibility to ensuring that the web site is kept up to date by members of the Committee and other IRSG members as appropriate. This should be a process management role, not an editorial content role.
5. There should be a consideration of using Medium as a channel to communicate more widely with the IR community about issues, news and events on an as-required basis.

## Discussion

- TRR
  - Picked up Informer in 2005 as PDF Newsletter
  - Website will need a news section to house archive issues
  - Need a policy that decides what goes on website vs elsewhere
- JL
  - Content that comes out that would not have otherwise come about, it is good to have this information
  - Prefers we stay away from commercial platforms
  - Web better than PDF
  - We have a lot more control if it's our own and thus things can be published faster
  - Simple static website is one approach we could use
  - IMPORTANT NOTE: Informer is not easy to find. It should rank high in Google given we are the IRSG
  - Suggests that all Informer issues should be tweeted
- DR
  - Asks: Who are we targeting? We should decide on this
- UK
  - Consider proposal of shutting it down, but it would be a pity
  - Consider possibility of bringing in non-committee members to help (nothing prevents us from doing this)

**Action May 22.06** - [IO, GM, JL, DR, MP] Explore options to find solutions for comms and Informer. Consider all points/options in today's discussion and report from Martin White + Michael Upsulla's report earlier this year.

MW suggest this be linked to task-force strategy proposal below

**Action May 22.07** - [SZ] - to add MP as Admin on Informer website to look at analytics of articles

**Action May 22.08** - [MP] to look at analytics on articles and find possible themes

**Action May 22.09** - [IF/IO] - To share / admin of IRSG Twitter account

## 6. ECIR Core Ranking

SM reports:

- I've compiled and submitted the CORE form to request that we maintain rank A. By various measures, I suspect we're in similar standing as we have been before, though it's worth noting that we do not have access to all of the measures they will use at this time. For instance, they compute the average h-index of our SPC based on the values we submit; in the past, this has been one of the main contributing factors to final rank. We also received substantial support from community members worldwide when I asked to list them as supportive of maintaining the rank.

- Djoerd reached out to me to request that the IRSG discuss the possibility of moving to open access.

**IRSG committee** expresses thanks to SM for completing this important task

## 7. ECIR Open Access

GM reports:

I had a conversation with Sweitze Roffel from Elsevier at ECIR'23. He is very keen for Elsevier to publish the ECIR proceedings open access in future years. The topic of publishing ECIR proceedings has been discussed in depth in previous IRSG committee meetings but I thought I should let the committee know what he is offering in case anyone wants to explore it further (I'm not advocating it, just passing on the information). I can summarise at a suitable point in the meeting. Here is how he summarised it to me:

{{{

We can to Publish CS Proceedings as follows

- On ScienceDirect — this means ECIR will be accessible and archived by one of the worlds largest and most visible online scientific platforms ... <https://www.sciencedirect.com/>
- Gold open access ( you , or authors keep copyright and each paper is published under a CC-BY licence –. this means ECIR will be ready for any and all upcoming US and EU policies wrt OA publication . as nothing will ever be resold as subscription it does not get more OA than this
- Bulk copy delivery – this means ECIR can use any conference submission system ( EasyChair , Microsoft CMS, Papercept , EDAS , open review m etc etc ) for peer review and triage. Our typesetters “top and tail” your selected CRC content for indexing , add Digital Object Identifier , etc . all the things you need to :
- Be in an indexed series – this means all ECIR published papers will be “abstracted and indexed “ , and these papers , and their incoming and outgoing citations will be counted where they count – in Clarivate web of science and Scopus ( the 2 systems used for national research assignments around the world) - we also feed paper matadata into a host of other discovery services , like DBLP , google scholar , engineering village , Inspec and the like .

- All ECIR Editors who are responsible for selecting individual papers for publication in conference (or workshop) XYZ need to e-sign a statement where they agree to abide by our Elsevier ethics agreement , ( <https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/publishing-ethics> - eg i promise I dont cheat ) and post publication we work w you to resolve any post publication ethics issues (– if this should arise ) - according to global scientific ethical standards and policies . ( if author’s cheat we can retract , etc) also note the Editors are also credited for their work as editors of the proceedings , and this conference proceedings metadata is also fed into all systems used for research evaluation .
- We sign one bulk OA agreement at a price point a conference should be able to afford – think around 50 USD per 10 page paper -price per paper is be less if you have a lot of papers , and more if you have a few papers .
- The above be our standard , if you want more that is possible but the rest tends to be at extra cost ( books , print , CD rom , USB sticks , whatever you like )

Also happy to discuss bespoke / one off things  
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### Discussion

- IO stated
  - Is expensive
  - Not as prestigious as Springer
  - It is not wise to be affiliated with a controversial publisher
- GM stated
  - No urgency to make a change

**Action May 22.10** - [GM] to contact Elsevier and let them know no change currently, and they are welcome to have booth again at ECIR 2024

**Agreed** No change to publishing for now

## 8. KSJ Award Funding

UK reports:

Microsoft Research Cambridge has informed us that they will not have the resources to renew the funding of the award which means the 2022 award was the last one covered by that agreement. We nevertheless still have leftover money (due to the pandemic) that should be sufficient to cover costs for a 2023 award (to be confirmed by our Treasurer IF).

We will have to explore ways of getting a new sponsor on board.

IF reports we have £1800 in prize money, which is sufficient to cover the award and part of travel.

**Action May 22.11** - [IF] to confirm remaining money will not be reclaimed by Microsoft if we have co-sponsorship for award

**Action May 22.12** - [IF] to speak with BCS about possibility for £700 for additional coverage of travel expenses

**Action May 22.13** - [HL] to confirm with EACL that conference fees will be waived for the award winner. This is assumed, as EACL gets a keynote, but does need confirmation.

### Discussion

- UK proposes
  - Call with transparency saying £800 guaranteed support for travel
  - We should approach new sponsors, ideally ones that are relevant to her field of study
- MW proposes
  - Approach small or medium companies in search / LLM space. There are lots of companies in this space, that would likely be interested in visibility
- HL proposes
  - Approach BCS for sponsorship
- JL Suggests many relevant potential sponsors
  - University of Cambridge (and her affiliated Girton College)
  - Charitable foundations
  - Open AI
  - Allen AI
  - Government bodies such as NIST

**Action May 22.14** - [HL, UK] - Finalise and send out call based on outcomes of above actions

## 9. A task-force strategy for IRSG

MW 16 May 2023:

The level of commitment of IRSG Committee members to the effective functioning of the Group is very high. However, most of the members of the Committee have full-time (and more!) roles as academics and fitting in time to support IRSG is always a challenge.

The arrival of AIGC applications is already having a major impact on the IR community as it tries to establish good working practices with these applications. Many new avenues for research are opening up, as well as novel opportunities for career development.

Over the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to attract new members to the Committee and this is never a good situation for the Committee of any professional organisation. It is also of note that most of the Committee members hold senior academic positions, The low representation of the practitioner community may not reflect the balance of the membership of the Group.

In my view, one of the reasons for this is that there is no 'feeder' route into the Committee where IRSG members can take on roles and responsibilities without the need to be a full member of the Committee.

It is many years since I was actively involved in the Institute of Information Scientists, and times have changed a lot over that period! However, one of the strengths of the IIS was the development of task groups on specific topics. These working groups gave both established and new members an opportunity to support the work of the IIS and acted as a feeder into membership of the IIS Council itself. They not only enabled the IIS Council to take a strategic, rather than an operational role, but also acted as a source of ideas for the Council to consider.



I would like to propose that the IRSG Committee considers the role that could be played by limited-term task-and-complete groups which can complement the continuing work of the members of the Committee.

At this stage I am not going to suggest specific task-force scopes. This report is to recommend that the Committee considers in principle whether there is scope for the foundation of task-forces, and to develop a governance structure for them even if at present there is no short-term requirement.

By setting up a governance structure IRSG would be able to react quickly and professionally should a requirement emerge where such a task-force would be beneficial to the development and impact of the Group.

Promoting this approach would also send a signal to the IRSG membership that the Committee was keen to support the continued evolution of the Group.

**Agreed** to use Informer as test case for task force strategy

**Action May 22.15** - [IO, GM, JL, DR, MP] use task-force strategy in resolution to Informer and IRSG comms

## 10. Report Inclusion Officer

YM reports:

In terms of the inclusion officer report, the progress has been slow. I have been trying to meet with Jon Jeffery to discuss the inclusion officer roles within BCS. He is keen on doing so but we haven't manage to find a suitable time yet.

## 11. Report Early Careers Advocate

GM reports:

no input (discussion / decision) required.

I met with Nicola Ferro (along with HL and IF) to discuss the possibility of a student mentorship scheme aligning the three annual events ESSIR (and FDIA), CLEF and ECIR, with a view to students submitting a paper to ECIR. Nicola's ideas seem to fit well within the existing ESSIR structure, and submissions to ECIR would be through the existing submission process. So, no action for ECA just now.

## 12. ECIR 2023

UK reports:

- ECIR 2023 was very successful overall
- Personal reflection on the conference by a first-time attendee as well as another one on Industry Day have appeared in the Spring issue of Informer
- More detailed report to appear in SIGIR Forum (which is a requirement anyway as they served as sponsors of the event)

### 13. ECIR 2024

IO reports:

- Friends of SIGIR has given £5000 in sponsorship
- Calls for papers have been sent

### 14. ECIR 2025/2026

**SZ Asks** Do we want to try to get 2 years ahead as we did pre-pandemic? i.e.. consider 2025 and 2026

**Agreed** to only do a call for 2025 bids, and decide on best options. Any additional options we can tell them to apply for 2026.

**Action May 22.16** - [UK] to send out draft call to IRSG for review

**Action May 22.17** - [UK/SZ] to send out final call to appropriate channels (e.g. SIGIR forum)

### 15. AGM 2023

**SZ Asks** Where and when do we want to hold this? Do not hold this the day of Search Solutions?

**Action May 22.18** - [UK] to send out poll to determine best option: 1) Fully virtual on non-SS day OR 2) Hybrid option on day of tutorial

### 16. Search Solutions 2023

MW reports:

**Report to IRSG Committee 22 May 2023 for information and comment.**

Martin White and Michael Upshall [martin.white@intranetfocus.com](mailto:martin.white@intranetfocus.com) and [michael@consultmu.co.uk](mailto:michael@consultmu.co.uk)

The Search Solutions conferences have been very successful over a long period of time. In our initial discussions about SS2023 a number of small changes emerged which we feel would freshen up the event without comprising its well-established scope and vitality.

We will co-chair the event, with one of us chairing the morning session and the other the afternoon session, with Tony Russell-Rose taking over for the Search Industry Awards.

We will continue to provide a time slot (and the technology) to select the Best Paper at SS2023 as a component of the Search Industry Awards.

The notes below are for information and comment. We would stress that this is a 'work-in-progress' report and we would welcome comments and especially suggestions for speakers.

1. In previous conferences a pattern of two related papers per session as been adopted, as much by happenstance than design. In our view this makes it difficult to cope with a speaker not being able to attend and breaks up the day into four 'chunks'. We'd like to move towards exploring a wider range of topics in perhaps less depth.
2. A fundamental component of search and discovery is that it is both an academic subject and a tool of vital importance to all of us as users. Hence there is a constant need to exchange ideas between academia and business. We hope to get one speaker with solid recent experience of both sides to talk about how to improve communication between the two.
3. We see case studies as being important as they give an indication of the human challenges involved in getting funding, adopting a discovery tool and undertaking a robust evaluation.
4. We feel it is important that presentations match the 'solutions' theme of the event. Presentations from Google and Spotify may be fascinating to those with a deep knowledge of AI/ML etc. However, we feel that the emphasis should be on 'transferable knowledge', providing delegates with solutions that they can take advantage off in their own organisations.
5. Our overall approach to programme development is to select three speakers that could be highlighted in the initial call for papers as a means of indicating that planning for the conference has already started and establishing some core themes.
6. There are a few (from very many!) topics that we would regard as important that we address. SS2023 takes place almost to the year of the launch of ChatGPT on 30 November 2022. We are planning to invite an opening speaker to look back over the last year and to also look forward to the year to come. We are extending an invitation to [Julie Weeds, University of Sussex](#), but have not yet had a confirmation.
7. We are already seeing a substantial interest in embedding ChatGPT into search applications, and this will undoubtedly increase. Paul Cleverley, a recent winner of the King's Award for Innovation, has agreed to talk about [his own work in this area](#)

8. When it comes to professional searching, including systematic and critical reviews, the impact of AIGC is still a very open issue. [Professor James Thomas](#) has agreed to talk on this topic.

9. Another theme that we are working on is career development, especially from academia into industry. We have identified a potential speaker.

10. We plan to issue a Call for Papers by 16 June, inviting papers that either

- a. Take one of the three themes and build on it in more detail, ideally with a case study
- b. Offer an additional topic that enriches the scope of the event.

11. The closing date for papers would be 31 July and we would want to be able to release the complete programme no later than the last week in August.

12. We would expect the attendance to be on-site at the BCS London office, but as with last year we may offer speakers the opportunity to present over a video link if transport to London is not viable from a cost/travel time perspective. We also need to take account of the fact that Thanksgiving Day takes place on Thursday 23 November.

13. In the past SS has a 'panel session' at the end of the day. Although this gives an opportunity for the full range of topics to be discussed delegates have a habit of leaving at this point. We propose to run a themed (rather than an ad hoc) panel session at the end of the morning so that there is an opportunity for delegates to continue the discussions over the lunch break.

14. A possible topic for the morning panel session could be the potential for closer working relationships between academics and practitioners, as noted in 2. above.

15. We also propose to set up the panel membership in advance so that the panel is balanced and prepared to make contributions.

16. We will work closely with Tony Russell-Rose in scheduling the Search Industry Awards. We feel that the Search Industry Awards should be a major feature of SS2023 to help fulfill the case study focus we have set out in 3. above.

**Discussion** brief point by UK on point 4 that we should be fairly open to topics. UK has already been in contact with Phillip Radlinski about possibility of speaking.

**Action May 22.19** - [MW] - MW to complete draft call and send to committee for approval

17. [KSJ Award](#)

Outgoing KSJ Chair[JL] reports:

Haiming Liu and myself co-presented a little pitch talk to attendees of EACL 2023 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in the first week of May, about who Karen was, about the KSJ award as well as the new alternating mode between ECIR and EACL. The talk, which was done in a 10-min Format embedded inside the EACL business meeting (plenary session), which contained other sub-slots, got good attention and was well-received.

The new piece of uncertainty is that due to complaints about cost, a previous plan for hosting EACL was spontaneously ditched (also because EACL 2023 made a loss, which may have to be carried forward), but no new venue has been fixed yet (but Michael Strube will be the general chair). So we will keep monitoring the EACL Twitter account for updates.

Following my stepping down as the chair, I will continue shadowing Haiming for the current (2023) award year as usual.

Incoming Chair [HL]

To add to this, I've also verbally suggested to Preslav that I am happy to attend some of their EACL committee meetings for keeping them updated about KSJ award and knowing the plans for EACL 2024. He suggested to wait until they have confirmed where the EACL 2024 is. I will follow this up with them through email later.

#### 18. ICTIR report

NO REPORT Provided

#### 19. Strix Award

GM reports:

The 2022 annual memorial lectures were held online on Thursday February 23rd 2023. The lectures were very well attended and the lectures were well received by the audience. There were lots of discussions and questions after the lectures. The organisers were very happy with the turn-out and the successful event. There were lots of live tweeting of the lectures and a report of the event was published in the Informer.

#### 20. Budget

- Submitted the budget for the financial year 2023/24
- Preparing SFRs for KSJ Award and FDIA

## 21. Search Industry Awards

[TRR] Quick update on SIA:

- Plan: same as last year
- Scope: ditto
- Timeline: ditto
- Judges: TBD

## 22. Call for one-day events

[TRR] Closing date Friday (so deadline not passed at time of meeting). A proposal did come in the day of meeting. Pasted in APPENDIX below. TRR proposed we make a decision during the meeting.

**Decision** IRSG committee is broadly supportive of the proposed 1 day event. Some details will need to be finalised.

**Action May 22.20** - [TRR] to work with MW and IF to work specifics of schedule with proposed location at BCS London office

**Action May 22.21** - [TRR] to work with MW to fine-tune proposal

## 23. AOB

None

## 24. Next meeting

TBD

## 25. Actions Arising From Meeting

Action Number	Action	Action on
May 22.01	Set up document repository for committee documents on BCS O365	SZ
May 22.02	Contact Kerry to get numbers from other BCS groups to run a comparison with above numbers	HL
May 22.03	Message to Kerry to update the website with a message that you do not have to be a member of BCS to join our group.	UK

<b>May 22.04</b>	work with GM and MP to develop the questionnaire for a better understanding our members' preferences. This subject to JISCmail and BCS's ethical approval.	HL
<b>May 22.05</b>	Include in the Call for ECIR 2025 bids a statement about how to mitigate inclusionary issues such as religious holidays (e.g. virtual presentation)	UK
<b>May 22.06</b>	Explore options to find solutions for comms and Informer. Consider all points/options in today's discussion and report from Martin White + Michael Upsulla's report earlier this year.	IO, GM, JL, DR, MP
<b>May 22.07</b>	Add MP as Admin on Informer website to look at analytics of articles	SZ
<b>May 22.08</b>	Look at Informer analytics on articles and find possible themes	MP
<b>May 22.09</b>	Share / admin of IRSG Twitter account	IF/IO
<b>May 22.10</b>	contact Elsevier and let them know no change currently, and they are welcome to have booth again at ECIR 2024	GM
<b>May 22.11</b>	confirm remaining money will not be reclaimed by Microsoft if we have co-sponsorship for award	IF
<b>May 22.12</b>	speak with BCS about possibility for £700 for additional coverage of travel expenses	IF
<b>May 22.13</b>	confirm with EACL that conference fees will be waived for the award winner. This is assumed, as EACL gets a keynote, but does need confirmation.	HL
<b>May 22.14</b>	Finalise and send out KSJ call based on outcomes of above actions	HL/UK
<b>May 22.15</b>	use task-force strategy in resolution to Informer and IRSG comms	IO, GM, JL, DR, MP
<b>May 22.16</b>	send out draft ECIR 2025 call to IRSG for review	UK
<b>May 22.17</b>	send out final call for ECIR 2025 to appropriate channels (e.g. SIGIR forum)	UK/SZ
<b>May 22.18</b>	send out poll to determine best option: 1) Fully virtual on non-SS day OR 2) Hybrid option on day of tutorial	UK
<b>May 22.19</b>	complete draft SS call and send to committee for approval	MW
<b>May 22.20</b>	work with MW and IF to work specifics of schedule with proposed location at BCS London office	TRR
<b>May 22.21</b>	work with MW to fine-tune one day proposal	TRR
<b>May 22.22</b>		

Meeting Closed 19:03

APPENDIX - Proposal for 1 day event

**One-Day Event Proposal to the BCS IRSG**

**Martin White, on behalf of The Search Network**

[Martin.white@intranetfocus.com](mailto:Martin.white@intranetfocus.com)

**17 May 2023**

1	Title of the event	Search Insights 2024
2	Chairs and organisers	Organised and produced by <a href="#">The Search Network</a> . (TSN) The Session Chairs would be Martin White FBCS Principal Analyst, SearchResearch.com and Helen Lippell. We would welcome the participation of members of the IRSG Committee to act as Conference Chair and as Chairs of the panel sessions so that the event can be seen as a joint venture between IRSG and TSN.
3	Contact information	<a href="mailto:Martin.white@intranetfocus.com">Martin.white@intranetfocus.com</a>
4	A description of the event topic and its goals	<p>For the last five years TSN members have written an annual report entitled Search Insights which contained a range of 10-15 contributions (around 1500 words) on a wide range of topics. The contents of these reports can be found and downloaded on the TSN web site free of charge. The objective was to identify emerging opportunities and challenges in search, covering web, academic, e-commerce and enterprise search.</p> <p>Given the pace of development of search, especially over the last few months, TSN took the decision to discontinue the report series as it would be out of date by the time it was written.</p> <p>We are now proposing to take this established brand image into a one-day event for IRSG in a unique approach of providing a package of contributors, all of whom have significant experience, are excellent presenters and have a high visibility in the UK search community.</p>
5	A statement on how the event complements or relates to other IR events	There are no other IR events other than ECIR (which is primarily for academic presentations and an academic audience) and Search Solutions, which takes place in November 2024. Search Solutions is focused on operational search implementation, The concept of Search Insights 2024 is that this would provide a strategic perspective on trends in technology and implementation at the start of the year.



		<p>We are proposing to run this event on-site in London in late January/early February 2024 with the title and tag line of Search Insights 2024 – Planning for the Future.</p> <p>This timing would ensure that there is no conflict with ECIR 2024 in Glasgow, and indeed this event would be an opportunity to promote ECIR 2024</p>
6	Proposed venue	We would propose using the BCS London office to reinforce the alignment with BCS and IRSG
7	Desired format, including preferred dates and duration, onsite or hybrid	<p>The event would be on-site with nominally 9 presentations in the course of the day, together with two panel sessions. Each presentation would be 25 minutes with 5 minutes for immediate questions, and then the speakers would come together for panel sessions at the end of the morning and afternoon presentations.</p> <p>The event could be streamed to increase the audience for the event.</p>
8	Outline of the program (including talks, breaks, and any social events)	<p>10.00 Conference starts</p> <p>10.15 Presentation 1</p> <p>10.45 Presentation 2</p> <p>11.15 Break</p> <p>11.30 Presentation 3</p> <p>12.00 Presentation 4</p> <p>12.30 Panel session with the morning presenters</p> <p>13.00 Lunch</p> <p>13.45 Presentation 5</p> <p>14.15 Presentation 6</p> <p>14.45 Presentation 7</p> <p>15.15 Break</p> <p>15.30 Presentation 8</p> <p>16.00 Presentation 9</p> <p>16.30 Panel session with the afternoon presenters</p> <p>17.00 Close of the event</p> <p>Potentially there would be an opportunity to provide post-conference refreshments.</p>
9	Potential (or accepted) speakers	All the speakers would be members of TSN. However, in our Search Insights reports we invited guest contributors with specific expertise and experience and we would consider doing so with SI2024.

		At this point in time it is not sensible to define the topics and the speakers for the conference as the search/IR/AIGC sector is moving with such rapidity. We would aim to have defined the scope and the appropriate TSN presenters by late October so that the full programme could be trailed at SS2023.
10	Publicity plans	The initial date of SI2024 would be announced in July 2023, with further publicity (including the speakers and topics) alongside SS2023. All the speakers have a high visibility on social media and can promote the event, supported by IRSG access to list serves and the use of (for example) relevant LinkedIn channels. The October issue of Informer, due out in mid-October, would contain a feature article on the event. The event would also be highlighted on the TSN web site.
11	Funding plans and preliminary budget  Accepted events will be supported up to £1,000 and are expected to have a credible financial plan and budget.	TSN would make no charge for managing the event, nor would it seek a commission on ticket sales. The only TSN costs would be a reimbursement of travel from Europe into London for two of the speakers, Agnes Molnar and Cedric Ulmer.  The only expenditure would be for the hire of the BCS venue and for catering.  We anticipate that there would be a fee for the event but this can be set by IRSG in discussion with TSN.  This ensures that IRSG is in control of the budget and the financial outcomes of the event.
12	Organisers of accepted events are expected to announce the event and call for speakers, solicit speakers, compose the program, and organise the event. Evaluation criteria include topic significance and timeliness, scientific quality, proposed organisation, level of interest, and synergy with other events	There will be no need for a call for speakers. TSN members cover all aspects of search from research, development, implementation and evaluation.  Many of the speakers are already known to IRSG and have participated in IRSG events. Martin White is a Fellow of the BCS and a Visiting Professor at the Information School, University of Sheffield. The cvs of TSN members can be found at <a href="https://thesearchnetwork.com/">https://thesearchnetwork.com/</a>
13	Topics should be related to the theory and practice of information retrieval and interaction, such as:  • Topical issues in IR practice, e.g. trust, bias, and fairness	The expertise of the speakers will ensure that the event could cover  • Domain specific issues in e-commerce and academic search  • The impact of LLMs on search applications and implementation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interdisciplinary topics, e.g IR and information science, data science, or user experience</li> <li>• The use (and abuse) of large language models and other AI techniques</li> <li>• Domain-specific or professional issues, e.g. in eCommerce, media, recruitment, library and information science, healthcare information, etc.</li> <li>• Innovative approaches used in operational IR systems and products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in e-commerce with special reference to relevance determination and assessment</li> <li>• The integration of LLM technologies into commercial search applications, including e-commerce, enterprise search and systematic search, in particular in query development</li> <li>• The role of taxonomies and metadata in achieving search satisfaction</li> <li>• A summary of research that has been published on the impact of LLMs on search development</li> <li>• Opportunities for open source applications in enterprise and e-commerce search</li> </ul> <p>However as we have indicated above the conference programme will be determined by a consideration of the topics that are likely to have the most significant impact in the course of 2024</p>
1 4	Risk analysis	<p>Because all the speakers will be from TSN the programme can be developed and confirmed well in advance of the event.</p> <p>This will enable the publicity to be initiated three or four months ahead of the event.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be competing events on search in the UK in early 2024</p> <p>Using the BCS London office as a venue means that both IRSG and TSN are fully aware of the facilities and the associated costs</p> <p>The range of skills and experience of TSN members means that we have cover should one or more speakers not be available on the date of the event</p> <p>The budget for the event can be set and managed by IRSG as the only expenses to be incurred outside of the BCS venue will be some travel costs of perhaps £800 in total.</p>