

Information Processing & Management

Call for Papers for

Special Issue on Personalization and Recommendation in Information Access

Guest Editors

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Introduction and Motivation

The goal of enhancing IR models and methods towards user-aware and context-aware models has raised increasing interest in the research community, and is being identified as a key step in order to cope with the continuous growth of information environments (repositories, networks, users) worldwide. The notion of context refers to any dynamic condition occurring at the time when an information retrieval task takes place, and which may be relevant to fully define and understand a user need. When the notion of context focuses on persistent user characteristics and preferences, it is usually referred to as an issue of personalization.

A significant body of research in the last two decades has paid attention to the problem of personalizing information access and delivery, commonly addressed under such names as information filtering, collaborative filtering, recommender systems, or personalized IR, with variations in approach and perspective. From different angles, the problem has been a major research topic in fields such as IR, User Modelling, and Machine Learning. In general, personalizing the retrieval of content involves knowing something about the user beyond her last request, and taking advantage of this knowledge in order to improve the system response to the actual user need. In an increasingly demanding and competitive market, room for such improvement exists often nowadays, to varying degrees, in common retrieval scenarios, either because the request is vague or because there is no explicit request at all. The research activity in this area has been paralleled by a comparable interest towards making such techniques commercially profitable.

The concept of Recommender System (RS) is a broader term that combines typical features related to personalization and context. They were born as a solution to the huge amount of information the users can find in the Internet. RSs are applications that give advice to the user about items (movies, music, etc.) that are likely of interest to the user, according to their preferences and tastes. The system usually compares the user's profile with some information extracted from the item (content based recommendation), or from other users who have similar preferences (collaborative recommendation).

Personalization remains a hot topic in Information Access research and industry. Important problems are yet to be solved in order to achieve the quality, reliability and maturity required for a widespread deployment of these techniques. Personalization systems often fail to acquire enough or sufficiently accurate knowledge about users, as finding implicit evidence of user needs and interests through their behaviour is not an easy task. Inherent difficulties are involved indeed when attempting to deal with (or even define) aspects related to human cognition and volition. Even when the system assumptions are

correct, the adaptive actions can be obtrusive or inappropriate, if not handled properly. Coping with the dynamics of user interests (e.g. persistent vs. occasional), the different time scales on which they evolve (e.g. slow persistent changes, quick temporal changes), the interrelations among different time windows (e.g. a temporal interest becoming persistent, a long-term preference coming into play, etc.), the multiple sides or user preferences, or the relations between preference and situation, are some of the challenging problems in this area.

We think that it would be very interesting at this point to gather together in a journal special issue some relevant contributions showing innovative examples focusing on the topics of personalization and recommendation in information access. Therefore, papers dealing with these topics are welcome for submission to this *Information Processing & Management* special issue.

Scope

We welcome contributions related, but not restricted, to the following topics:

- Modelling and profiling personal, social and contextual information.
- User profiling, preference elicitation and use.
- Context modelling, identification and use.
- Personalized information access.
- Content-based, collaborative, and hybrid recommender systems.
- Group recommendation.
- Evaluation methodologies and metrics.
- Temporal aspects in personalised information access.

Submission and Reviewing Process

The deadline for abstract submissions is September 15th 2011 and should be submitted via the journal's online submission system available through the journal homepage:

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/infoproman>

Or directly via <http://ees.elsevier.com/ipm/>

Choosing “**Special Issue: Pers & Rec in Inf Access**” as the paper type.

Before submission, please consult the journal guidelines for authors at:

http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/244/authorinstructions

All the papers will be reviewed by, at least, two recognized researchers in the field.

Tentative Schedule

- Deadline for abstract submission: September 15, 2011
- Deadline for paper submission; September 30, 2011
- Notification of acceptance: December 30, 2011
- Deadline for final submission: February 28, 2012