

CIKM 2013 Workshop on Living Labs for Information Retrieval Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

In the past few years the information retrieval (IR) community has been exploring ways to move further away from the Cranfield style evaluation paradigm, and make evaluations more ‘realistic’ (more centered on real users, their needs and behaviours). As part of this drive, living labs which involve and integrate users in the research process have been proposed. The Living Labs for Information Retrieval Evaluation workshop (LL’13) brings together for the first time people interested in progressing the living labs for IR evaluation methodology.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.3.4 [Information Storage and Retrieval]: Systems and Software—*Performance evaluation (efficiency and effectiveness)*

Keywords

Information retrieval evaluation, living labs

1. OVERVIEW

In the past few years, a new evaluation methodology known as living labs has been proposed as a way for researchers to be able to perform in-situ evaluation which involve and integrate users within the research process. The basic idea of living labs is that a central and shared environment resource is used rather than individual research groups having to develop their own experimental environment and their own individual set of experiment subjects.

Living labs would offer huge benefits to the community, such as: availability of, potentially larger, cohorts of real

users and their behaviours, e.g. querying behaviours, for experiment purposes; cross-comparability across research centres; and greater knowledge transfer between industry and academia, when industry partners are involved. The need for this methodology is further amplified by the increased reliance of IR approaches on proprietary data; living labs are a way to bridge the data divide between academia and industry. Progress towards realising actual living labs has nevertheless been limited. There are many challenges to be overcome before the benefits associated with living labs for IR can be realised, including challenges associated with living labs architecture and design, hosting, maintenance, security, privacy, participant recruiting, and scenarios and tasks for use development.

The workshop brings together for the first time people interested in progressing the living labs for IR evaluation methodology, with the explicit goal of formulating practical next steps for development. Issues concern implementation options, how to make the idea of living labs attractive to commercial organisations, alternatives when commercial providers will not get involved, coping with data privacy issues, and tasks and usage scenarios.

The workshop called for short papers (4 pages), position papers (2 pages), and demo papers (4 papers), which were reviewed by a program committee. In addition to the regular paper presentations, the programme includes an invited talk by Jan Pedersen (Microsoft Bing). We dedicate a separate track to demo submissions that showcase innovative prototypes or practical developments that are rooted in real-world applications. The workshop is intended to be highly interactive to encourage group discussion and active collaboration among attendees; multiple breakout sessions are scheduled throughout the day. A final discussion session wraps up the event with the objective to identify and formulate specific action items for future research and development.

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