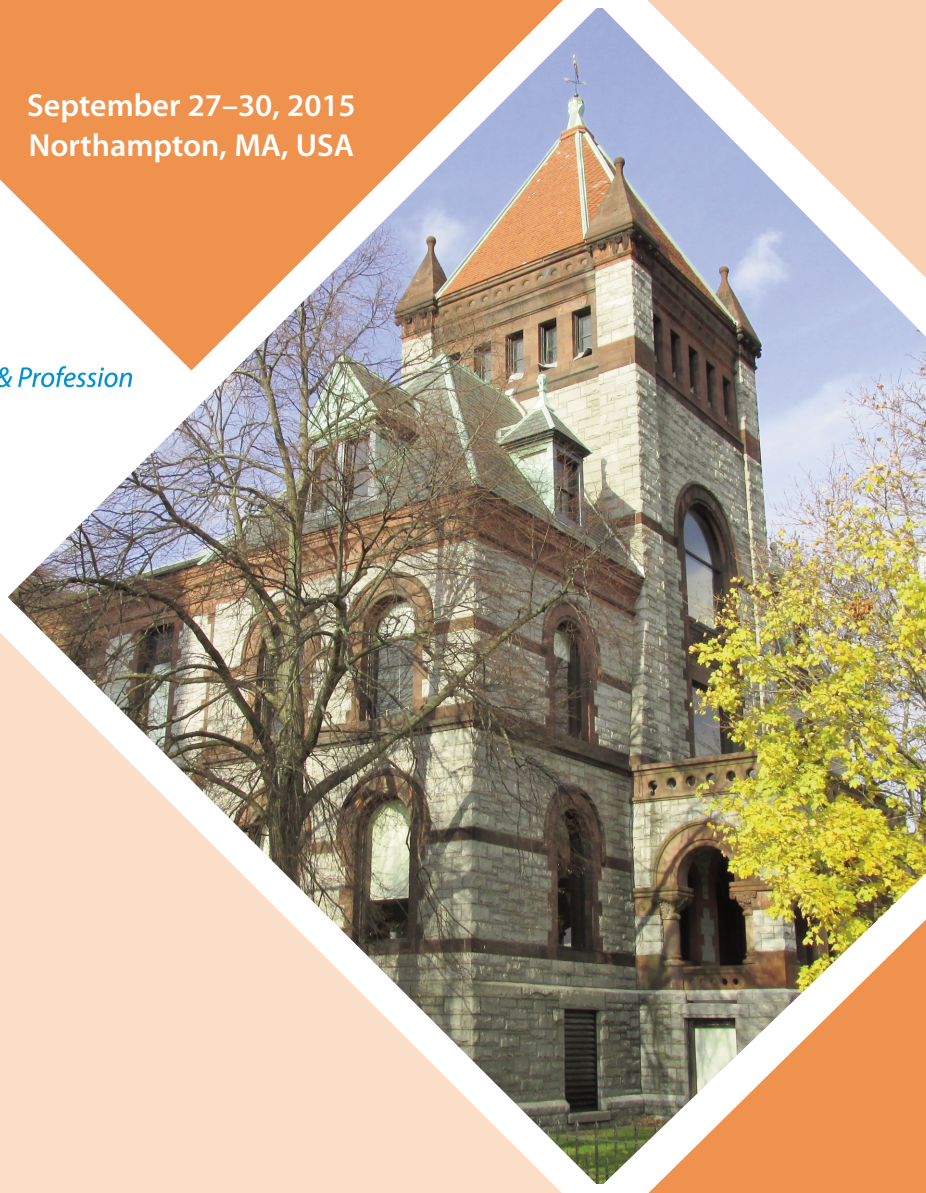
September 27–30, 2015
Northampton, MA, USA



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ICTIR'15

Proceedings of the 2015 ACM SIGIR International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval

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ICTIR 2015 General Chairs' Welcome

Welcome to ICTIR 2015, the 5th International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval and the first conference with that name to be fully sponsored by the ACM Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (SIGIR). Becoming part of the SIGIR family, along with the well-known SIGIR conference and the new CHIIR conference, will improve both the coordination between these venues and the availability of resources such as student scholarships. We believe that ICTIR is a natural complement to the SIGIR conference, with a stronger emphasis on theory and formal approaches, and less emphasis on large-scale experimentation and practice.

Given that ICTIR has generally been a smaller, more discussion-oriented conference than SIGIR, we felt that the Pioneer Valley, and Northampton in particular, would be an ideal venue for a September meeting. We hope to provide a relaxing small-town setting, beautiful Fall colors, and enough restaurants and bars to satisfy attendees used to living in large cities. The Center for Intelligent Information Retrieval and the University of Massachusetts are just on the other side of the Connecticut River in Amherst, and Noah Webster and Melvil Dewey did some of their best work at Amherst College, so there is a strong association with information retrieval. Given the quality of research that will be presented at ICTIR 2015, this should be another milestone in this local IR history. Enjoy the conference!

James Allan
College of Information and Computer Sciences
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Bruce Croft
College of Information and Computer Sciences
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Program Chairs' Welcome

The program chairs are excited to welcome you to the ACM SIGIR International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR); a new episode in the history of ICTIR where the conference has been embraced by ACM SIGIR and now runs for the first time under their flag.

The conference aims to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of research related to the *foundational* aspects of Information Retrieval (IR), including, for example, new or improved models of relevance, ranking, representation, information needs, and evaluation. Norbert Fuhr helped define foundation precisely as *a scientific result that others can build upon and use for their own research*. The class of scientific works solicited in the call for papers thus covers both purely theoretical contributions as well as reproducible experimental results; where reproducibility is emphasized (e.g., through sharing the data sets and/or software implementations).

The conference has been very successful in attracting high quality contributions, helping us compose a strong and varied program. In response to the call for contributions, the conference received a healthy number of submissions: 4 tutorials out of which we accepted 2 (or 50%), 43 short paper submissions where we accepted 22 (51%), and, 57 long paper submissions out of which 29 have been included in the final program (51%). (As an aside, due to the high quality of the submission pool, we would like to emphasize that acceptance rate is obviously not an indicator of quality!)

We thank all the program committee members for their effort and excellent reviews, the Tutorial Chair, Peter Bruza, and his committee for the selection of tutorials, and the General Chairs, James Allan and Bruce Croft, for their guidance. We invite you to enjoy the scientific program with exciting novel results in our field!

Arjen de Vries and ChengXiang Zhai
(Long paper PC Chairs)

Norbert Fuhr and Yi Zhang
(Short paper PC Chairs)

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