CASE STUDY : SIGIR 2013

CASE STUDY : SIGIR 2013

Event: 36th Annual ACM SIGIR Conference
Dates: 28th July – 1st August 2013
Delegate Attendance: 600 Pax
Venue: Trinity College Dublin

OVERVIEW: ACM SIGIR is the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval. SIGIR focuses on all aspects of information storage, retrieval and dissemination, including research strategies, output schemes and system evaluations.

Since the advent of the World Wide Web and the tremendous growth of the Web Search and Advertising industry, the SIGIR conference has become uniquely positioned as the pre-eminent forum for the dissemination and sharing of advances in the broad domain of Information Search and Retrieval. SIGIR brings together leading international minds from science and engineering drawn from academic institutions and across the entire spectrum of web content and search companies to explore the frontiers of Information Retrieval theory and practice.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE: SIGIR has long been the premier international forum for the presentation of new research results and the demonstration of new systems and techniques in the field of information retrieval. Since it was last hosted in Dublin in 1994, the SIGIR conference has grown enormously in participation and technical diversity, and search and information retrieval has become a ubiquitous part of the lives of many millions of people across the world. Returning to Dublin after almost 20 years gave the information retrieval research community the chance to reflect on how the field has developed, and to celebrate the continuing innovation of leading researchers in information retrieval.

SPEAKERS: 2013 marked the 20th Anniversary of the very first web search engine. SIGIR 2013 celebrated this milestone anniversary with an Opening Panel discussion which looked back over 20 years of Web search and the broader history of information retrieval research. This special panel session brought together pioneers and practitioners of information retrieval and web search engine technology.

JumpStation was the first Web search engine that behaved, and appeared to the user the way current Web search engines do. The creator of the JumpStation search engine, Jonathon Fletcher, was the special guest and was joined by representatives of Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! on the SIGIR 2013 panel, to recall Web search twenty years ago and discuss emerging trends in Web search today.

The panel session was chaired by Alan Smeaton of Dublin City University, who was also the General Chair of the SIGIR conference when it was held in Dublin in 1994.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME: The stimulating scientific content of SIGIR 2013 was complimented by a wonderful programme of social events incorporating the best that Dublin has to offer. The social programme was extremely successful from a networking perspective, with one of the key highlights being a newcomers breakfast at Trinity College. This involved new attendees to the SIGIR conference enjoying a breakfast on the first day of the conference. This provided delegates with the opportunity to network and acquaint themselves with their fellow colleagues, whom they would be spending the next week with.

SIGIR 2013 Opening Panel; Organised by Conference Partners