

## Candidate for Chair

Ben Carterette  
Spotify, New York, NY, USA

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2008, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Sr. Research Scientist/Sr. Manager, Spotify, New York, NY, USA, 2018 – Present;  
Associate Professor, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA, 2014 – Present;  
Assistant Professor, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA, 2008 – 2014.

#### Professional Interest:

Information retrieval/search; Recommender systems; Offline and online experimentation;  
Offline evaluation with test collections; User models and user simulation.

#### ACM Activities:

Treasurer, SIGIR, 2016 – Present;  
Steering Committee Chair, AFIRM Africa School for DM and IR, SIGIR/SIGKDD, 2018 – Present;  
General co-Chair, ICTIR 2016, SIGIR, 2015 – 2016;  
General co-Chair, WSDM 2014, SIGIR/SIGWEB/SIGMOD/SIGKDD, 2013 – 2014.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Editorial Board, JASIST, ASIST, 2017 – Present;  
Editorial Board, Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval, Now Publishers, 2015 – 2019;  
Editorial Board, Information Retrieval Journal, Springer, 2010 – 2017.

#### Awards Received:

Best Paper Award, ICTIR 2015;  
Best Paper Award, ICTIR 2009;  
Best Paper Award, SIGIR 2006.

### **STATEMENT**

As Chair of the SIGIR Executive Committee, I will pursue three primary initiatives:

- (1) Continuing to push for diversity, equity, and inclusion across SIGIR activities. The previous EC has done much for this, including financial support for DEI events, creating a SIGIR DEI lunch, and increasing student participation in SIG leadership. As Treasurer, I spearheaded the creation of the Africa School on ML for Data Mining and Search, with one goal of growing IR and KDD communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

- (2) Forging closer ties and collaborations with related communities such as SIGKDD and SIGCHI, in particular RecSys and FAT\* communities. These communities are growing fast, and SIGIR can benefit by working with them on areas of mutual interest.
- (3) Updating our own SIG: bylaws, offices, budgeting, documentation and administrative infrastructure; greater coordination across sponsored events re: locations/dates, selecting organizing committees, reviewing standards; standardization around double-blind reviewing and preprint availability. These are important issues that we have begun to address.

My experience in SIGIR community leadership positions me for success: I have served on the EC as Treasurer, co-chaired three sponsored events, co-coordinated 10 TREC tracks, and sat on senior PCs and journal editorial boards.

## Candidate for Chair

Vanessa Murdock  
Amazon Research, Seattle, WA, USA

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, 2006, Information Retrieval.

#### Professional Experience:

Applied Science Manager, Amazon Research, Seattle, WA, USA, 2018 – Present;  
Principal Applied Scientist, Microsoft, Redmond, WA, USA, 2012 – 2018;  
Senior Research Scientist, Yahoo! Research, Barcelona, Spain, 2006 – 2012.

#### Professional Interest:

Voice recommenders and user experience; Sensitive content detection;  
User Engagement; Geographic information retrieval; Local Search.

#### ACM Activities:

PC co-Chair, CHIIR, 2018 – Present;  
Demos/Posters co-Chair, RecSys, 2018;  
Track Chair/ SPC member, SIGIR, CIKM, WSDM, 2012 – Present;  
SIRIP co-Chair, SIGIR, 2017.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Senior Program Committee member, The Web Conference, 2018 – Present.

### **STATEMENT**

I am honored to be nominated for Chair of SIGIR. As an organization, ACM SIGIR is unique in bridging academia and industry, and covering research centered around the user, and centered around the system, with multiple diverse scenarios and sources of information. In my time in the community, SIGIR has expanded to encompass a myriad of research challenges in information seeking.

If elected Chair, I will seek to increase the impact of SIGIR by broadening participation in three ways:

- 1) Promote smaller emerging conferences (such as CHIIR, liX and ICTIR) that offer a forum for subsets of the community, covering special topics such as user experience, ethics, theory, etc.

- 2) Develop ways to participate in the conference remotely, both attending and presenting, for those who are not at liberty to travel to the conference location. This will widen the audience for the work, and allow people to attend remotely if their institution or company will not fund the travel, or to present remotely in cases where a visa was not granted.
- 3) Encourage diversity in attendees and leadership, through new outreach initiatives to institutions in communities that are typically under-represented in the PC, and in conference leadership positions.

## Candidate for Vice-Chair

Yi Chang  
Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin, China

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., USC, 2016, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Dean, School of Artificial Intelligence, Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin, China, 2018 – Present;  
Technical Vice President, Huawei Research America, Santa Clara, CA, USA, 2016 – 2018;  
Research Director, Yahoo Research, Sunnyvale, CA, USA, 2006 – 2016.

#### Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval; Data Mining; Artificial Intelligence.

#### ACM Activities:

General Chair, ACM SIGIR 2020;  
General Chair, ACM WSDM 2018;  
Industry Chair, ACM SIGIR 2018;  
Industry Chair, ACM CIKM 2018.

#### Awards Received:

ACM Distinguished Scientist, 2018;  
British Computer Society Fellow, 2018;  
ACM WSDM Best Paper Award, 2016;  
ACM KDD Best Paper Award, 2016.

### **STATEMENT**

I am honored to run for the SIGIR Vice-Chair position. In addition to assisting the SIGIR Chair to contribute to the SIGIR Community as a team, I would like to pursue a series of initiatives in an effort to attract more new blood into our community, specifically by:

- 1) Broadening the scope of SIGIR, and embracing diversified research topics as new theme topics of SIGIR, (such as Question Answering, Knowledge Graphs, Chatbot, etc.);
- 2) Attracting more industrial researchers into the SIGIR Community, and encouraging healthier communications and exchanges between industry and academia;

- 3) Encouraging more young researchers and graduate students to join the SIGIR Community, particularly from emerging regions of China, from emerging countries, and from other inter-disciplined research communities.

I am serving as the Dean of School of Artificial Intelligence in China, before that, I was a Technical Vice President of Huawei Research and a Research Director in Yahoo! Research. I have successfully run WSDM 2018, and soon I will run SIGIR 2020. I have vast experience across academia and industry, across China and the USA; therefore, I am confident that I can assist the SIGIR Chair to contribute and to grow our SIGIR community in a healthy manner.

## Candidate for Vice-Chair

Tetsuya Sakai  
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Waseda University, 2000, Information retrieval and filtering.

#### Professional Experience:

Professor, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, 2013 – Present;  
Lead Researcher, Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, China, 2009 – 2013;  
Director, Natural Language Processing Lab, NewsWatch, Inc., Tokyo, Japan, 2007 – 2009.

#### Professional Interest:

Information retrieval and access; Natural language processing; Human computer interaction.

#### ACM Activities:

Vice-Chair, ACM SIGIR Tokyo Chapter, 2018 – Present  
General Co-chair, SIGIR 2017;  
ACM Recognition of Service Award, 2017;  
PC Co-chair, SIGIR 2013.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Steering Committee Advisor, Asia Information Retrieval Societies, 2013 – Present;  
Steering Committee Chair, Asia Information Retrieval Societies, 2012.

#### Awards Received:

ACM Distinguished Member, 2018;  
ACM MobileHCI 2014 Honourable Mention.

### **STATEMENT**

I am running for the SIGIR Vice-Chair position for the second and last time. I have 20 years of experience in industry plus five years of experience in academia. I am Japanese but lived in the UK for a total of 6.5 years and in China for 4.5 years. Owing to these first 50 years of my life, I always try to appreciate different perspectives of people from different backgrounds. I would like to address harassment, unfairness, prejudices, and other problems that exist in current research communities. Being an IR evaluation nerd, I would also like to propose realistic ways to improve the reproducibility of published experimental results so that the SIGIR community can really build on top of one another's findings and advance as a whole. Last but not least, for the future growth of SIGIR, I would like to foster ways to encourage young students to take up IR research and acquire what it takes to publish papers at top conferences like SIGIR, just as the SIGIR Tokyo Chapter (where I serve as Vice Chair) is now trying to do in Japan.

## Candidate for Vice-Chair

Chirag Shah  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill 2010, Information Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA, 2010 – Present;  
Research Scientist, Spotify, Inc., New York, NY, USA, 2018 – 2019;  
Consultant, Brainly, Inc., New York, NY, USA, 2016 – 2017.

#### Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval (IR); Human-Computer Interaction (HCI); Recommendation Systems;  
Personalization; Social Media.

#### ACM Activities:

Member, Steering Committee, CHIIR, 2018 – Present;  
General Co-Chair, SIGIR 2021, 2018 – Present;  
General Co-Chair, CHIIR 2018, 2017 – 2018;  
Workshop Co-Chair, JCDL 2016, 2015 – 2016.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Editorial Board Member, Journal of IP&M, 2016 – Present;  
Director of Chapter Assembly, ASIS&T, 2015 – 2016;  
Chair, NJ ASIS&T, 2013 – 2016.

#### Awards Received:

Best Student Paper award at JCDL 2016;  
James M. Cretsos Leadership Award (ASIS&T), 2013;  
SIGIR Best Paper Award, 2008.

### **STATEMENT**

SIGIR has been my professional home since even before I knew what "SIG" meant as a student. How the times have changed -- I regularly serve as SPC for SIGIR, attend the conference annually, served as Co-Chair for the CHIIR 2018 conference, and serving as General Co-Chair for SIGIR 2021. What got me from my student days to now a Senior Member of ACM, and what got me so engaged in various leadership activities in SIGIR and CHIIR are precisely the reasons I am running for the Vice-Chair position.



This is the professional society that has shaped my career and I want to keep giving back for the new generations of students and scholars. Therefore, in addition to assisting the Chair for advancing SIGIR's agenda, I will pursue a few initiatives as Vice-Chair:

- (1) Increase student engagement in SIGIR conferences, publications, and other activities by working closely with student liaisons and forming ad-hoc committees/panels for specific events.
- (2) Be proactive about diversity and inclusion in SIGIR, specifically to find solutions for certain disadvantaged participants from underrepresented or travel-banned countries.
- (3) Create cross-connections with non-SIGIR ACM conferences (CHI, RecSys) in mutually beneficial ways.

## Candidate for Secretary

Shane Culpepper  
RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., The University of Melbourne, 2008, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Vice-Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow/Associate Professor, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 2008 – Present.

#### Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval; Algorithms; Systems; Machine Learning.

#### ACM Activities:

General Co-Chair, WSDM, 2019;  
Program Co-Chair, CIKM, 2017;  
Program Co-Chair, ADCS, 2013 – 2014;  
Program Co-Chair, SIGIR Doctoral Consortium, 2014 – 2015.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Workshop Co-Organizer, The Third Strategic Workshop on Information Retrieval in Lorne, 2018;  
Workshop Co-Organizer, ACM SIGIR Workshop on Open Source Information Retrieval, 2012;  
Workshop Co-Organizer, SPIRE Workshop on Compression, Text, and Algorithms, 2008.

#### Awards Received:

Best Paper, Australasian Document Computing Symposium (ADCS), 2016;  
Australian Research Council DECRA Award, 2014;  
SIGIR Outstanding Reviewer Award, 2018;  
WSDM Outstanding Reviewer Award, 2019.

### **STATEMENT**

I am a longstanding member of the SIGIR community, and I see serving on the SIGIR executive committee as a way to help give back to a community that has been so valuable in my own career, and help grow our community. In the recent past, I have helped organize WSDM and SWIRL, and I have held various Program Chair roles at SIGIR, CIKM, and ADCS. I have been a Program Committee or Senior Program Committee member for several of the leading Information Retrieval conferences for the last 10 years. If elected, my primary goal would be to help develop new SIGIR programs for Early Career Researchers in our community.

SIGIR has a strong tradition of supporting students through various initiatives, but relatively few opportunities for postdoctoral and early tenure-track academics. So, understanding how best to help researchers between Ph.D. and continuing / tenured positions is an opportunity for us to help grow our senior membership base from within. I am also keen to see SIGIR begin to actively support more speculative workshops such as SWIRL and DESIRES which help broaden long term research vision and goals within our community.

## Candidate for Secretary

Claudia Hauff  
Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Twente, 2010, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands, 2018 – Present;  
Assistant Professor, Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands, 2013 – 2018;  
Postdoc, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands, 2011 – 2013.

#### Professional Interest:

Search as Learning; Collaborative Search; Neural IR; Fairness; Interactive IR.

#### ACM Activities:

Program Co-Chair ACM CIKM 2020, SIGIR;  
SIGIR Mentor Doctoral Consortium, 2014 – 2017;  
SIGIR Forum Editor, 2016 – Present;  
SIGIR Mailing List Editor, 2013 – 2016.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Steering committee, Lorentz Center workshop "ICT with Industry", 2016 – Present;  
Editorial board member, FnTIR, 2016 – Present;  
Editorial board member, Information Retrieval Journal, 2017 – Present.

### **STATEMENT**

Having been a regular SIGIR attendee since 2007 and volunteering in various roles at SIGIR, I have seen the development of our research community up close in the past ~10 years. I am also an active visitor at venues organized by neighbouring research communities and would like SIGIR to adopt and promote some of the positive trends that I see elsewhere, including a more diverse range of awards to recognize diverse research contributions as well as increased travel and research support for junior researchers (but not solely focused on Ph.D. students) and underrepresented groups.

IR is currently not on a path of increasing the community size, in contrast to, for instance, NLP. At the same time, IR is very regularly an application area in NLP research. Attracting researchers from other communities to IR venues instead of IR researchers shifting their focus away from core IR venues is another area I would like to focus on.

## Candidate for Treasurer

Milad Shokouhi  
Microsoft, Seattle, WA, USA

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., RMIT University, 2008, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Principal Applied Scientist Manager, Microsoft, Seattle, WA, USA, 2017 – Present;  
Principal Applied Scientist, Microsoft, Seattle, WA, USA, 2015 – 2017;  
Senior Applied Scientist, Microsoft Research Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, 2012 – 2015.

#### Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval (metrics, crowdsourcing); Machine Learning (Personalization, speech queries); Human Computer Interaction (user modeling on email/search).

#### ACM Activities:

General Conference Chair, WSDM 2017;  
Treasurer, WSDM 2016, 2015 – 2016;  
Senior Program Committee Member: SIGIR, WWW, WSDM, CIKM (several years);  
Program Committee Member: KDD 2017, 2018; ICWSM, 2014.

#### Awards Received:

Notable Computing Books and Articles of 2016;  
Notable Computing Books and Articles of 2013;  
Best Paper Award CHI 2016;  
Best Paper runner up WWW 2014.

### **STATEMENT**

I am running for the treasurer position in the SIGIR executive committee because I am passionate about "giving back" to science, and improving the connections between industry and academia. Although I joined industry 12 years ago, I have continued to publish and serve as PC and senior PC in top-tier international conferences and journals. As a middle easterner, I believe I can also represent and hopefully inspire researchers in a large population which is relatively under-represented in such executive committees.

I have been involved in running ACM conferences both as general chair and treasurer in the past, which makes me confident that my prior experience will be useful in this role.

## Candidate for Treasurer

Min Zhang  
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Academic Background:

Ph.D., Tsinghua University, 2003, Computer Science.

#### Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, 2008 – Present;  
Visiting Researcher, Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, China, 2010 – 2011;  
Assistant Professor, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, 2003 – 2008.

#### Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval; Recommender Systems; Web Search and Mining;  
User Behavior Modeling; Machine Learning.

#### ACM Activities:

Associate Editor, ACM TOIS, 2015 – Present;  
Tutorials Co-Chair, SIGIR 2019, 2018 – Present;  
Short Papers Co-Chair, SIGIR 2018;  
WSDM: Program Co-Chair, 2017; Workshop Co-Chair, 2018 – Present.

#### Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Professional Membership, Beijing ACM SIGIR Chapter, 2018 – Present;  
Co-Chair, EVIA 2019, 2018 – Present.

#### Awards Received:

China Excellent Teachers Award in Computer Science, 2018;  
Best Student Paper Award at SIGIR'17 (coauthor), 2017;  
Beijing Science and Technology Award (First Prize), 2015.

### **STATEMENT**

In the past years, I have participated in dozens of SIGIR-related conferences such as WSDM, CIKM, ICTIR, first as an author, then as a PC member, and later as a senior PC member or co-Chair. I have been greatly impressed with the professional spirit of the SIGIR community. In addition, I respect the efforts of the community in helping young students (e.g. with lots of travel grants, lower registration fees, and volunteer positions), and in keeping SIGIR in a healthy financial state. All participants, including myself and my students, benefit from this every year.

I think now is the right time for me to serve the community. Hence I am honored to stand for election for SIGIR Treasurer. I believe a good Treasurer should be highly responsible, careful, and self-disciplined to get things done in a timely manner. My past experiences of running international conferences as PC Chair/Local Organizer, and General Chair of many local (but big scale) conferences, and my willingness to learn from others will help me serve in the position smoothly. Furthermore, I will try my best to promote the impact of the SIGIR community in Asia, and to women researchers.