

Candidate for Chair

Vanessa Murdock
Alexa Shopping Research (Amazon), Seattle, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

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

Professional Experience:

Applied Science Manager, Alexa Shopping Research (Amazon), Seattle, 2018 – Present;
Principal Scientist, Microsoft, Seattle, 2012 – 2018;
Senior Research Scientist, Yahoo! Research, Barcelona, 2006 – 2012.

Professional Interest:

eCommerce Search and Recommenders, Offensive content detection, Local Search, Location inference, Short text retrieval.

ACM Activities:

General Co-Chair, ACM RecSys, 2022 – Present;
Associate Editor, ACM TOIS, 2020 – Present;
Program Committee Co-Chair, ACM SIGIR , 2020;
Program Committee Co-Chair, ACM CHIIR , 2019.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Editor in Chief, Springer-Nature Journal of IR, 2021 – Present;
Editorial Board, Springer-Nature Journal of IR, 2018 – 2021.

STATEMENT

I am honored to be considered for SIGIR Chair. I have been attending SIGIR since 2001, and have served in some capacity as an Organizer, Workshop Organizer, SPC, and PC member for ACM Conferences including SIGIR, ECIR, CHIIR, WSDM, Recommender Systems, and The Web Conference every year since 2007. These experiences have prepared me well for contributing to SIGIR as Chair.

One of the really great things about SIGIR is its focus on helping people find and make meaning from information. The community has its origins in library science and AI, on both the algorithmic side, and the human side of information seeking. My goals are:

- 1.) to further the interdisciplinary approach to IR involving research from HCI, Library Science, Sociology and others;

- 2.) to foster IR research in locations with a strong research tradition that have not typically participated in SIGIR events (such as Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, etc.);
- 3.) to develop engaging and accessible hybrid programs to increase participation in SIGIR events when people cannot travel; and
- 4.) to disseminate the research program to a larger audience, including practitioners in industry and academia via online programming.

Candidate for Chair

Chirag Shah
University of Washington, Seattle, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

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

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, University of Washington, Seattle, USA, 2019 – Present;
Editor-in-Chief, Information Matters, 2021 – Present;
Amazon Scholar, Amazon, Seattle, USA, 2019 – 2020.

Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval, Recommender Systems, Responsible AI, Social Media,
Human-Computer Interaction.

ACM Activities:

General Co-Chair, SIGIR 2021 Conference, 2018 – 2021;
Chair, CHIIR Steering Committee, 2020 – 2021;
General Co-Chair, CHIIR 2018 Conference, 2016 – 2018;
Workshop Co-Chair, JCDL 2016 Conference, 2015 – 2016.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Chair, ASIS&T SIG AI, 2021 – Present;
Chair, ASIS&T Publication Committee, 2020 – 2021;
Director, ASIS&T Chapter Assembly, 2015 – 2016.

Awards Received:

ASIS&T Distinguished Member, 2021;
Karen Spärck Jones award, BCS, 2020;
Chancellor's Scholar Award, Rutgers University, 2017;
James M. Cretsos Leadership Award, ASIS&T, 2013.

STATEMENT

Through my long-term association with SIGIR, I know how impactful this organization can be for students, scholars, and professionals. But this impact and access to SIGIR activities and benefits are often not realized equitably. SIGIR has been addressing this through various efforts, but we have much to do. As a former international student, a person of color, and an immigrant, I have found issues related to students and diversity

very near and dear to my heart. This is evident in my leadership activities as the Chair of CHIIR Steering Committee (more inclusive and diverse members) and SIGIR 2021 co-organizer (DEI efforts, childcare, scholarships for students, need-based support). As SIGIR Chair, I will lead three initiatives:

(1) Increase student engagement in SIGIR conferences, publications, and other activities by working closely with student liaisons and forming ad-hoc committees/panels for special events.

(2) Be proactive about diversity and inclusion, especially for underrepresented or disadvantaged groups with the help of SIGIR DEI Committee, Women-in-IR, and Queer-in-AI; and creating opportunities for broader audiences through online, hybrid, and local events.

(3) Create cross-connections with non-SIGIR ACM conferences as well as industry in mutually beneficial ways.

Candidate for Vice Chair

Ryen W. White
Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Glasgow, 2005, Information Retrieval.

Professional Experience:

Partner Research Director, Microsoft Research, USA, 2018 – Present;
Director of Applied Science, Microsoft Cortana, USA, 2017 – 2018;
Chief Scientist, Microsoft Health, USA, 2015 – 2017.

Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval, Human-Computer Interaction, Machine Learning, Psychology, Health.

ACM Activities:

Editor-in-Chief, ACM Transactions on the Web, 2021 – Present;
Associate Editor, ACM Transactions on Information Systems, 2010 – 2021;
Awards Co-Chair, SIGIR, 2020 – Present;
Program Co-Chair, SIGIR Conference, 2017.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Co-Founder and Steering Committee Chair, ACM SIGIR CHIIR, 2014 – 2017;
Co-Editor-in-Chief, Information Retrieval Journal, 2018 – 2021;
Fellow, British Computer Society (BCS), 2016 – Present.

Awards Received:

ACM Fellow, 2021;
ASIS&T Best Information Science Book Award, 2017;
BCS-IRSG Karen Spärck Jones Award, 2014;
SIGIR Best Paper Award, 2013.

STATEMENT

I am honored to stand for election as Vice Chair. The SIGIR community has been a meaningful source of support and inspiration for me for 20 years. I would like to pay it forward and help SIGIR.

Beyond assisting the Chair in any capacity, I will:

- Collaborate with conference chairs, ACM, and others to maintain remote participation options in SIGIR-affiliated conferences and develop best practices to maximize hybrid conference effectiveness and inclusivity.

- Find more ways to recognize the diverse range of contributions from SIGIR members, e.g., innovation, service, social impact, etc.
- Establish and expand forums for students and early-career researchers to regularly network, meet senior leaders, and obtain advice (on research, career, etc.).
- Partner with our diversity, equity, and inclusion chairs to explore new initiatives (e.g., inclusion teams targeting special topics) and help any member raise any issue with the executive committee.
- Deepen connections to rapidly growing communities (e.g., NLP, ML) to help SIGIR grow, and explore new publication models (e.g., rolling review) to accommodate diverse publication needs.

I am open to your feedback and will work with anyone to make SIGIR successful. I would be grateful for your vote.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Min Zhang
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

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

Professional Experience:

Tenured Associate Professor, Tsinghua University, Beijing, 2008 – Present;
Assistant Professor, Tsinghua University, Beijing, 2003 – 2008.

Professional Interest:

Web Search, Personalized Recommendation, User behavior modeling, Data mining,
AI for health.

ACM Activities:

Editor-in-Chief, ACM Transactions on Information Systems, 2020 – Present;
WSDM 2021 Tutorial Chair, ACM SIGIR (half), 2021;
SIGIR 2018 Short Paper PC Co-Chair, ACM SIGIR, 2018;
WSDM 2017 PC Co-Chair, ACM SIGIR (half), 2017.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Executive Committee (Treasurer), ACM SIGIR, 2018 – Present;
Senior PC of SIGIR from 2017 to 2022, ACM SIGIR, 2017 – Present;
Professional Member, ACM SIGIR, 2011 – Present.

Awards Received:

Best Paper Honorable Mention (coauthor), ACM SIGIR, 2020;
Best Short Paper Honorable Mention (coauthor), ACM SIGIR ICTIR, 2019;
China Excellent Teachers Award in Computer Science, 2018;
Best Student Paper Award at SIGIR'17 (coauthor), 2017.

STATEMENT

In the past years, I have participated in dozens of SIGIR related conferences such as WSDM, CIKM, ICTIR, firstly as an author, then as a PC member, and later as a senior PC or co-Chair. I am currently serving as the Treasurer of SIGIR, and the Editor-in-Chief of ACM Transactions on Information Systems (TOIS). I have been greatly impressed with the professional spirit of the SIGIR community.

For the past two years, I have closely participated in the discussions within SIGIR's EC as the Treasurer and have gained extensive experiences and knowledge on issues that the committee and the whole community care about.

I have had strong connections in and beyond Asia and the Pacific, spreading widely in North America, Europe, and Africa in our IR community. Hence, I am honored to stand for the election of the SIGIR Vice-Chair. My past experiences as SIGIR Treasurer, TOIS EIC, conferences' PC Chairs/Local Organizers, and my willingness to learn from others will help me serve the position smoothly. Furthermore, I will try my best to promote the impacts of the SIGIR community and increase diversity and inclusion across continents and genders.

Candidate for Treasurer

Carsten Eickhoff
Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Biography:

Ph.D., TU Delft, 2014, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Assistant Professor, Brown University, USA, 2018 – Present;
Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University, USA, 2017;
Postdoctoral Fellow, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, 2014 – 2017.

Professional Interest:

Neural Retrieval Models, Uncertainty Estimation, Clinical Decision Support, Natural Language Processing, Crowdsourcing.

ACM Activities:

SPC, SIGIR, WSDM, 2019 – Present;
DC Chair, WSDM, 2019;
Proceedings Chair, SIGIR, 2018.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Associate Editor, Frontiers in Public Health (Digital Health), 2019 –Present;
Reproducibility Chair, ECIR, 2022;
Labs Chair, CLEF, 2020.

Awards Received:

Best Short Paper Award (ECIR), 2019;
Best Paper Award (AIMed), 2016;
Best Paper Honorable Mention (SIGIR), 2015;
Best Reviewer Award (ECIR), 2014.

STATEMENT

It is my great pleasure to run for the office of SIGIR Treasurer. I attended my first IR conference 12 years ago and was immediately taken by the warm and welcoming atmosphere where colleagues and friends strive to advance our joint understanding of information retrieval and its adjacent disciplines. It took me some more years to fully realize how rare this approach is among professional scholarly societies. Since becoming a SIG regular, I have attended dozens of SIGIR events, published the

majority of my work here, and am an SPC member of SIGIR and WSDM. I organized several IR workshops and events, and served as SIGIR 2018 Proceedings Chair, HCOMP 2018 and WSDM 2019 DC Chair, CLEF 2020 Labs Chair and ECIR 2022 Reproducibility Chair.

As SIGIR Treasurer, I will dedicate myself to keeping our SIG in good financial health while investing into student support and outreach to underrepresented regions and institutions. Aside from my duties as Treasurer, on the SIGIR Executive Committee, I will work towards an overhaul of our peer review system via joint rolling review cycles across SIGIR events, and better coordination between conferences and journal outlets. I would be honored to have your vote!

Candidate for Treasurer

Xuanjing Huang
Fudan University, Shanghai, China

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Fudan University, 1998, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 2006 – Present;
Visiting Scholar, CIIR, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA, 2008 – 2009;
Associate Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 2001 – 2006.

Professional Interest:

Information extraction, Sentiment analysis, Question answering and reading comprehension, Explainable natural language processing, Machine learning for natural language processing.

ACM Activities:

SPC/PC Member: SIGIR, theWebConf, KDD, CIKM, WSDM, ICTIR,
SIGIR/SIGWEB/SIGMOD/SIGKDD, 2001 – Present;
Mentor, SIGIR 2020 Doctoral Consortium, SIGIR, 2020;
Local Organizer: WSDM 2015, SIGIR/SIGWEB/SIGMOD/SIGKDD, 2014 – 2015;
Competition Chair, CIKM 2014, SIGIR/SIGWEB, 2014.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Program Co-Chair, EMNLP 2021, ACL/SIGDAT, 2021;
Executive Board Member, Asia-Pacific Chapter of the ACL, 2021 – Present
Editorial Board Member, Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval, 2019 – Present.

Awards Received:

AI 2000 Most Influential Scholar Award Honorable Mention in NLP, 2021;
Best Paper Award, CCL, 2019;
Area Chair Favorites Award, COLING, 2018;
Outstanding Paper Award, ACL, 2017.

STATEMENT

Since 2009, I have contributed to various ACM-sponsored conferences, first as an author, then volunteering as a (senior) PC member or Local Organizer at SIGIR,

theWebConf, KDD, CIKM, WSDM, and ICTIR. Meanwhile, I am also active in the NLP community and helped organize recent NLP conferences, including EMNLP, ACL, and NAACL. These experiences have given me the confidence to run for the Treasurer position at ACM SIGIR.

If elected, I will do my utmost to offer more financial support (reduced rate memberships, lower registration fees, and offer more travel grants), sponsor various activities (doctoral consortium, volunteer positions, diversity and inclusion events, and affinity groups) for junior or underrepresented participants, and still keep SIGIR financially balanced. I will also assist the Chair in expanding SIGIR's leadership role in information retrieval by promoting the diversity of IR research topics and fostering collaboration with related research communities such as NLP, Multimedia, Data Science, Machine Learning, and HCI. I was involved in founding CCIR, China's largest IR conference, and have served on the executive committees of several regional IR/NLP communities. My final goal is to continually promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the SIGIR community.

Candidate for Secretary

Laura Dietz
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Max Planck Institute for Computer Science and Saarland University, 2011,
Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Assistant Professor, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA, 2016 – Present;
Post-doctoral Researcher, Mannheim University, Mannheim, Germany, 2015 – 2016;
Post-doctoral Research Scientist, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA,
2010 – 2015.

Professional Interest:

Information Retrieval, Entities, Knowledge Graphs, Bringing Relevance to NLP,
Machine Learning.

ACM Activities:

SIGIR Reproducibility Track Chair, SIGIR, 2022;
Associate Journal Editor of ACM TOIS, SIGIR, 2019 – 2020;
ACM SIGIR Student Affairs Chair, SIGIR, 2016 – 2019;
WSDM Cup Committee Chair, SIGIR, 2017.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

ECIR Tutorial Chair, ECIR, 2020;
Organizer of the “HIPstIR” strategic research trends workshop, Independent, 2019;
Chair of Women in Information Retrieval, Independent, 2015 – 2018.

Awards Received:

NSF CAREER Award, 2019;
Best Paper Award at JCDL, 2018.

STATEMENT

After spending years of research in the areas of Machine Learning, NLP, and Semantic Web, I finally found my "home" in the SIGIR community as a post-doc in 2014. I volunteered in various conference chair roles, initiated the KG4IR workshop and conference tutorial series. I always step up when I see an opportunity to improve

community access for anyone: co-founding Women in IR, co-organizing the SIGIR Student party, serving as SIGIR Student Affairs Chair, co-creating the HIPstIR strategic research trends workshop for early-career researchers.

If elected as SIGIR Secretary, I would advocate for community events wherever they are needed. The current ACM SIGIR "in cooperation" status is an important step, but I would like to see better recognition of volunteers to take on the organization of such events, to further remove organizational barriers, and simplify the interaction with (and for) conference organizers for co-located community events. Finally, I would like to ensure the un-bureaucratic availability of monetary funds for international community events, such as via the SIGIR Friends funding instrument.

Candidate for Secretary

Hussein Suleman
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Virginia Tech, 2002, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Professor of Computer Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2020 – Present;
Head of Department: Computer Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa,
2015 – Present;
Associate Professor, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2010 – 2019.

Professional Interest:

Digital Libraries, Information Retrieval, Educational Technology, ICT for Development,
Internet Technology.

ACM Activities:

Co-DEI Chair, SIGIR, 2019 – Present;
Co-Programme Chair for JCDL 2021, SIGIR/SIGWEB, 2021;
Co-Chair: AFIRM Summer School 2020, SIGIR/SIGKDD, 2020;
Chair: AFIRM Summer School 2019, SIGIR/SIGKDD, 2019.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, Board of Directors, Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations,
2004 – Present;
Member, British Computer Society, 2016 – Present;
Member, South African Institute of CS and IT, 2004 – Present.

Awards Received:

NDLTD Leadership Award, 2019.

STATEMENT

Computing is a contested space, where rapid innovation within a large community of researchers and practitioners is giving rise to questions that we seldom have the answers to. Questions around fairness in algorithms and fairness in professional practice have to be confronted. Diversity and related issues are no longer marginal topics but capture our attention as we navigate the discipline, we thought we knew. Our practices as researchers and professionals evolve as rapidly as the content of the discipline.

I have spent more than 20 years working as a lecturer and researcher in South Africa, where I have been a key participant in DEI-related activities. I can therefore bring to the table new perspectives, expertise and experience to help SIGIR to formulate responses to these difficult questions as they arise.

My research is on the fringes of Information Retrieval, focusing on algorithms and design to meet the needs of marginalised communities of the world. My work is closely aligned with the philosophical basis of the ICT for Development research community. I can therefore contribute to discussions on diversity in the research agenda.

I have watched SIGIR asking the hard questions and expanding its horizons - I believe I can help.