Evaluating Human Language Technology: General Applications to Information Access and Management

A Special Issue of *Knowledge Organization* on Evaluation of HLT

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Call for papers

The last few years have seen a growing interest in evaluating human language technology (HLT) in general and its applications to information access and management in particular. Several initiatives have been conducted in Europe and in the United States. The first initiatives on HLT evaluation can be traced back to the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Japanese programs on Machine Translation Evaluation. The DARPA/ NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Projects continued on a more regular basis and particularly with the Text Retrieval Conferences (TREC) and the Message Understanding Conferences (MUC). More projects are gaining momentum, be they independent or part of the famous TREC Tracks (Language Engineering Track, Question & Answering (Q & A) track), or within the context of the Translingual Information Detection, Extraction, and Summarization (TIDES) Document Understanding Conference (DUC), Cross-Language Information Retrieval (CLIR), Text Summarization Systems, Filtering, or Spoken Document Retrieval.

Some evaluation projects have been supported within the programs of the European Commission (EAGLES, ELSE, ISLE, SQALE, etc.); others have been conducted within national programs (the French evaluation projects: GRACE Project for evaluating part-of-speech taggers, the AUF four Projects on evaluating Text Retrieval Systems, Alignment Technology, Terminology Acquisition System Evaluations, and Message Understanding). These many endeavours show the relevance of HLT evaluations. Researchers and practitioners in the field of information are interested, by an assessment of the contribution of these technologies in order to measure the progress achieved, to compare different approaches to a given problem and to assess system usability and user satisfaction.

This Special Issue of *Knowledge Organization* (scheduled as volume 29, number 3/4) will aim at bringing together the community of researchers in the field of HLT from the perspective of Knowledge Organization, Information Access and Management. Moreover, it will look forward to providing an overview of the state-of-the-art of HLT, discuss problems, exchange information on the use of this technology in monolingual and multilingual environments, discuss evaluation methodologies and metrics and promote initiatives for international cooperation in these areas.

We invite original and unpublished submissions to the special issue covering any of, but not limited to, the following topics. Contributions previously published in a language other than English may be considered.

Possible Topics

General Issues on Evaluation
- Historical and theoretical backgrounds of HLT evaluation
- Evaluation methodologies, protocols and measures
- Benchmarking of systems and products
- Linguistic Quality

Information Access
- Automated Question & Answering
- Monolingual and Cross-Language Information Retrieval
- Machine Translation in IR environments
- Document Understanding
- Multimedia document and image retrieval

Information Management
- Automatic tracking and detection of emerging topics from unstructured data (Text Mining)
- Evaluating methods for knowledge extraction and acquisition (e.g. terms)
- Information Filtering
- Knowledge mapping and access (lexical information, language modelling)
- Text Summarization
- Categorization

Submission Information

Deadline for submissions is: 1 June 2002

Submissions will be refereed by a special committee of experts in the field.

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically in Word, WordPerfect or RTF format in English only and should be accompanied by an indicative abstract of 100-200 words. Submissions via e-mail are preferred; submissions will also be accepted via post provided that four copies are submitted or that submissions are accompanied by a 3.5" diskette encoded in Word, WordPerfect or RTF format. For further details regarding manuscripts and publication please refer to the instructions for authors in each issue of *Knowledge Organization*.

Submissions should be directed to:

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