ACM Transactions on the Web

Special Issue on Conversational Information Seeking

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Conversational information seeking (CIS) draws growing attention in both academia and industry. In the narrow definition, conversation refers to multi-turn dialogs in written or spoken form; in a broader perspective, the conversation means any form of interaction between users and systems using natural language. The interaction is a natural solution to the long-standing information asymmetry problem in information seeking and natural languages act as powerful information carrier. Therefore, conversational interactions create unprecedented solutions to many information seeking topics such as searching, recommendation, and question answering.

Topics

Since this is a relatively new field, many challenges exist in problem formalization, methods, and evaluation. The aim of this special issue is to bring together researchers to explore the challenges in this field, and we hope this special issue will focus more attention on this important area. We welcome novel discussions about the conversational form of any information seeking tasks. Given the growth of the Web as a platform for CIS, we are especially interested in submissions targeting CIS in a Web setting. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Information seeking dialog systems
- Multi-turn text retrieval and ranking
- Dialog interfaces for search engines, e.g., Web search
- CIS systems and the Web
- Multi-turn response generation for CIS
- Result list explanations for CIS
- Conversational query understanding and re-writing
- Conversational question answering
- Conversational recommender systems
- Preference elicitation and clarification
- Agent-initiative and mixed-initiative interactions for CIS
- Exploration and exploitation trade-off in CIS systems
- Evaluation methodologies and metrics for CIS
- User simulation for training and evaluating CIS systems
- Speech-only and multi-modal CIS systems
- Causal inference and analysis for CIS
- Issues of robustness, fairness, and privacy in CIS

Important Dates
- Open for submissions: April 15, 2022

- Submissions deadline: June 1, 2022
- First-round review decisions: August 15, 2022
- Deadline for revision submissions: November 15, 2022
- Notification of final decisions: December 30, 2022
- Tentative publication: 2023

Submission Information

Submitting authors should follow the Style and Author Guidelines for regular TWEB submissions available at https://dl.acm.org/journal/tweb/author-guidelines. Please submit manuscripts via Manuscript Central, https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tweb.

Submissions are encouraged be accompanied by a cover letter that: (1) confirms that the manuscript is not currently under submission at another journal or conference; (2) confirms that the manuscript is substantially different from any previously published work; (3) confirms that none of the co-authors is a guest editor for this special issue; and (4) discloses any conflicts of interest with the guest editors.

For questions and further information, please contact **wenqianglei@gmail.com**.