



John TAIT'S Biography

John Tait graduated in Computing Science from the University of Essex in 1976. He obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 1983 for a thesis entitled "Automatic Summarizing of English Text". He subsequently followed a career in industry, mainly working on problems of large scale information retrieval and management, before taking up a post at the University of Sunderland in 1991, where he eventually became Professor of Intelligent Information Systems and Associate Dean of Computing and Technology, as well as leading the University of Sunderland Information Retrieval Group. In September 2007 he took up the post of Chief Scientific Officer of the Information Retrieval Facility, a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to promoting research in large scale information retrieval. He has been joint programme committee chair for several recent relevant workshops: "iNeWS 07 - Improving Non-English Web Searching" at ACM SIGIR 2007 in Amsterdam; and at iNeWS '08 and the "First International Workshop on Patent Retrieval" (PaIR'08) both at the ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management in California. John is a past Programme Committee chair of the ACM SIGIR conference (2005), and an Associate Editor of ACM Transaction on Information Systems. He has published over 100 refereed conference and journal papers. His current research focuses on problems of patent retrieval and large scale multimedia retrieval.