

Professional Information Search: Technology Transfer Summit in Vienna 4th IRF Symposium, 6-9 June 2011, Vienna, Austria

The IRF Symposium has established itself over the last years as a unique meeting place where both science and industry come together to discuss and solve technological challenges for professional information retrieval. The main objective is the alignment of research activities to the real needs of end-users who cope with skyrocketing amounts of information. The complexity of patent documents as well as the sophistication of patent search strategies make patent collections an excellent test bed for experimentation.

After a discovery phase, during which the patent information professionals explained their needs and showed the limits of the systems they work with, the last IRF Symposium in June 2010 marked the start of the integration phase: Information retrieval scientists have started to integrate these parameters in their research. In 2011, the IRF Symposium will demonstrate further examples of retrieval techniques developed to better solve the needs of information professionals in 3 specific fields: **Image Retrieval, Machine Translation and User Interfaces.**

The highlights of the IRF Symposium 2011 include: **Keynote by Nicholas Belkin**, Professor of Information Science, Rutgers University, about relevant benchmarks for the evaluation of interactive IR systems; Live **demos of interactive user interfaces, machine translation prototypes and patent image retrieval systems**; 3 sessions analyzing insights from **E-Discovery** for patent search, potential technology transfer from **biomedical entity recognition and trademark & design retrieval**; **PatOlympics2011**; **Exhibition of novel technologies** from commercial providers and research groups.

Keynote speaker **Nicholas Belkin** has focused his research in the past 25 years on understanding why people engage in interactions with information, the nature of such interactions, and the problems that people face in engaging with information systems. He is one of the founders of the so-called "cognitive view" of information science, which has led to his being one of the most highly cited information scientists in the world.

The IRF Symposium is preceded by the 2nd IRF Scientific Conference on 6 June 2011. The IRF Conference is a multidisciplinary forum for researchers in Information Retrieval, Natural Language Processing, Semantic Web technologies and large-scale or distributed computing.

<http://www.irfs.at>

Early-bird registration deadline: 22 March 2011

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