Workshop Q4APS 2016 Chairs' Welcome

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the *1st Workshop on Question Answering And Activity Analysis in Participatory Sites (Q4APS)* associated with WWW 2016.

This workshop intends to bring together researchers and practitioners of Question Answering sites and services on the Web to present and discuss latest advances in analyzing, supporting and automating tasks of the life-cycle of such applications. The goal is to cover and bring together the different approaches existing in managing and answering natural language questions of users on the Web. This includes methods, models and algorithms from automated question-answering, for question-answering forums mining, as well as for monitoring and management automation.

Topics included in the call for papers were the following:

- question routing, question answering
- question and answer recommendation
- question and need analysis, question modeling
- expert finding, expertise categorization, expertise labelling
- debate analysis, argument mining, argument schemes
- moderating support and automation
- animation fostering, targeted solicitation and notification
- answer generation, multiple and/or heterogeneous answer sources
- answer detection and ranking, best answer identification
- answer building and answer improving
- questions and expert topic labelling
- role detection (questioner, answerer, editor, etc.), user modelling
- social aspects of question answering
- fact checking, cross-validation, supporting evidence
- spam or abuse prevention in questions and answers
- answer personalization
- challenges, datasets, benchmarks for question-answering evaluation

We received seven submissions for the workshop. Each submission received at least three reviews by members of the program committee. On the basis of these reviews, we decided to accept six papers to be presented at the workshop and to be included in the conference proceedings.

The paper by Burel et al. "Structural Normalisation Methods for Improving Best Answer Identification in Question Answering Communities" investigates the problem of how to identify the best answers in community-based Q/A portals. They propose to apply structural normalization techniques to feature-based best answer identification models.

The paper by Jenders et al. "Which Answer is Best? Predicting Accepted Answers in MOOC Forums" deals with a similar topic, and investigates the identification of best answers in the context of MOOCS. They present a method that exploits historical data to find best answers for a question.

In their paper "Using Semantics to Search Answers for Unanswered Questions in Q&A Forums", Singh et al. present an approach that tackles the problem that in many Q/A community sites there are many unanswered questions. To mitigate this problem, they propose a system that finds answered questions that are similar to unanswered questions.

Sándor et al. present an approach to the detection of user issues and request types in technical forum question posts. They propose a system that categorizes posts into these types using techniques from discourse analysis.

In their paper "Enriching Topic Modelling with Users' histories for Improving Tag Prediction in Q&A Systems", Loeckx et al. describe an approach to predict the tags for questions in social Q/A sites such as StackExchange. They propose a model that factors in the user context and show that this extension improves upon a purely textual content-based baseline.

Finally, Shekarpour et al., in their paper "Question Answering on Linked Data: Challenges and Future Directions", present an overview of open and future challenges in the field of question answering from Linked Data.

Presenters are encouraged to bring demos to the workshop to enhance oral discussions and presentations.

Philipp Cimiano
Workshop Chair

Jean-Michel Dalle
Workshop Chair

Fabien Gandon
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Workshop Q4APS 2016 Organization

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