UKeiG 2017 Tony Kent Strix Award

It is with great pleasure that we honor professor Maarten de Rijke with the UKeiG Tony Kent Strix Award 2017. His contributions to information retrieval, and in particular to the fast evolving areas of computational methods for analyzing, understanding and enabling effective human interaction with information sources, have been profound and a constant source of inspiration and influence.

His work impacts each of the four aspects of the Tony Kent Strix Award.

I. A major and/or sustained contribution to the theoretical or experimental understanding of the information retrieval process. De Rijke produced influential work on large-scale semantic analysis of online content and on the analysis of subjective aspects of information (sentiment, credibility, memory, reputation, experiences), yielding deep insight in novel types of information.

II. Development of, or significant improvement in, mechanisms, a product or service for the retrieval of information, either generally or in a specialised field. De Rijke has published highly cited work on semantic search, on semistructured retrieval, on social media search and on fusion methods to synthesize heterogeneous outcomes into high quality retrieval results. His recent work is on learning to rank principles combining many ranking features for aggregated search and personalization scenarios.

III. Development of, or significant improvement in, easy access to an information service. De Rijke has organized benchmarking tasks at all the major evaluation forums (TREC, CLEF, etc), resulting in 50 reports on benchmarking activities, typically making new data and tasks available to the field, and always based on realistic use cases and application scenarios, contributing to academic research as well as to industrial practice.

IV. Development and/or exploitation of new technologies to enhance information retrieval. De Rijke contributed to evaluation aimed at assessing the quality of retrieval results, with influential ideas on the creation of weakly supervised or even unsupervised methods for training, tuning and evaluating ranking features. Recent work here is on efficient and reliable methods for inferring feedbacks from user behavior, resulting in a successful spin off company (904 Labs).

IV. A sustained contribution over a period of years to the field of information retrieval for example, by running an information service or by contributing at national or international level to

organisations active in the field. De Rijke's service record is unmatched: he is the Editor-in-Chief of ACM Transactions on Information Systems; of Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval (NOW); and of the Information Retrieval book series (Springer), and associate editor for Information Processing & Management; the Information Retrieval Journal; and the Studies in Natural Language Processing (Cambridge) book series. He was PC and general chair of more than a dozen conferences, including GC of WSDM and ICTIR in 2017.

Brief biography

Maarten de Rijke is full professor of Information Retrieval in the Informatics Institute at the University of Amsterdam. He holds MSc degrees in Philosophy and Mathematics (both cum laude), and a PhD in Theoretical Computer Science. He worked as a postdoc at CWI, before becoming a Warwick Research Fellow at the University of Warwick, UK. He joined the University of Amsterdam in 1998, and was appointed full professor in 2004. He is a member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and a recipient of a Pioneer Personal Innovation grant, the Bloomberg Data Science Research Award, the Criteo Faculty Research Award, the Microsoft PhD Research Fellowship Award, and the Yahoo Faculty and Research Engagement Program Award.

De Rijke leads the Information and Language Processing Systems group, one of the world's leading academic research groups in information retrieval. His research focus is on intelligent information access, with projects on self-learning search engines, on semantic search, and on the interface between information retrieval and artificial intelligence.

A Pionier personal innovational research incentives grant laureate (comparable to an advanced ERC grant), De Rijke has helped to generate over 60MEuro in project funding. With an h-index of 63 he has published over 700 papers, published or edited over a dozen books, is editor-in-chief of ACM Transactions on Information Systems, co-editor-in-chief of Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval and of Springer's Information Retrieval book series, (associate) editor for various journals and book series, and a current and former coordinator of retrieval evaluation tracks at TREC, CLEF and INEX. Recently, he was co-chair for SIGIR 2013, general chair for ECIR 2014 and WSDM 2017, co-chair "web search systems and applications" for WWW 2015, short paper co-chair for SIGIR 2015, and program co-chair for information

retrieval for CIKM 2015. He is also general co-chair of ICTIR 2017.

He is the director of Amsterdam Data Science. He's a former director of the Intelligent Systems Lab (ISLA), of the Center for Creation, Content and Technology (CCCT), and of the University of Amsterdam's Ad de Jonge Center for Intelligence and Security Studies. The retrieval and language technology developed by his research group is being used by organizations around the Netherlands and beyond, and has given rise to various spin-off initiatives.

With 724 publications at the time of writing, it is impossible to be exhaustive.   We gladly refer to external pages with (near) complete lists:

- https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/m.derijke/publications/
- https://scholar.google.nl/citations?user=AVDkgFlAAAAJ&hl=en
- http://dblp.uni-trier.de/pers/hd/r/Rijke:Maarten_de

Maarten has an h-index of 63 based on 19,000 citations (Google Scholar, August 2017). Many of his papers are published as refereed conference papers, with a total of 345. In addition, he has written 83 journal papers, 46 books, 92 benchmark reports, 12 demonstration papers, 6 publications for the general public, and 140 other publications (workshop paper, abstracts, etc). He has 36 publication with more than 100 citations, but his impact is far broader than information retrieval. In fact, some of his earlier publications outside information retrieval remain his most cited work, in particular he coauthored the leading textbook on modal logic which received more than 3,000 citations.