



ICTIR 2026

ACM SIGIR Conference on Innovative Concepts and Theories in Information Retrieval

 25 July 2026

 Melbourne | Naarm, Australia

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre · Eureka 1/2/3

What ICTIR Is

Same acronym. A broader signal.

ICTIR 2024

**International Conference on the
Theory of Information Retrieval**



ICTIR 2025–PRESENT

**Conference on Innovative Concepts
and Theories in Information Retrieval**

FOUNDATIONAL IR

Relevance · ranking ·
representation
information needs · evaluation

THEORY, BROADLY CONCEIVED

Formal and cognitive perspectives
experiments welcome, not
mandatory

INTERDISCIPLINARY BY DESIGN

AI · cognition · digital humanities
ML · NLP · recommendation · society

ICTIR Steering Committee



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PROCEEDINGS CHAIR

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BEST PAPERS CHAIR

Oren Kurland

Technion

Program Information



Friday 24 July · 18:30

Dinner and awards · River's Edge Restaurant

MORNING

09:00–09:15	Opening
09:15–10:15	Keynote · Sole Pera
10:15–10:45	Coffee + posters
10:45–12:15	Oral Session 1 Ranking and Recommendation
12:15–14:00	Lunch + posters

AFTERNOON

14:00–15:30	Oral Session 2 Evaluation, Explanation, and RAG
15:30–16:00	Coffee + posters
16:00–17:00	Oral Session 3 Risk, Trust, and Human-Centered IR
17:00–17:15	Closing

Program Overview: Oral Presentations

10:45–12:15 · 6 papers

Ranking and Recommendation

- 1 RecQuest: Towards Estimating User Domain Knowledge in Conversational Recommender Systems
- 2 Rank, Don't Generate: Statement-level Ranking for Explainable Recommendation
- 3 Equity by Design? Trade-Offs in Fairness-Driven Recommendation in Heterogeneous Two-Sided Markets
- 4 Does Form Affect Function? An Extended Study of LLM Re-Ranking Behavior
- 5 Exposure-Based Reinforcement Learning to Rank
- 6 A Theoretical Framework for Risk Analysis of Stochastic Rankers

14:00–15:30 · 6 papers

Evaluation, Explanation, and RAG

- 1 Reasoning with Large Language Models for Relevance Judgements
- 2 DOGMATIQ: Automated Generation of Question-and-Answer Nuggets
- 3 Rank-ICL: Ranking-based In-context Learning for Search Result Explanation
- 4 Search Arena Meets Nuggets: Towards Explanations and Diagnostics in the Evaluation of LLM Responses
- 5 Towards Adaptive and Retriever-Friendly Retrieval-Augmented Generation via Reinforcement Learning
- 6 DeepResearchGym: A Free, Transparent, and Reproducible Sandbox for Deep Research

16:00–17:00 · 4 papers

Risk, Trust, and Human-Centered IR

- 1 Uncertainty Quantification for Multimodal Retrieval Augmented Generation
- 2 RoTRAG: Rule of Thumb Reasoning for Conversation Harm Detection with RAG
- 3 To Believe or Not To Believe: Comparing Supporting Information Tools to Aid Human Judgments of AI Veracity
- 4 A Design Science Framework for Human-Agent Teams in Information Retrieval

All 44 accepted papers are presented as posters; Oral selection reflects audience interest and topic coverage—not paper importance.

ICTIR 2026 Program Model

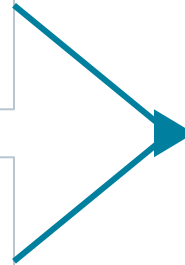
SUBMISSION PATHWAYS

Regular submissions

Original ICTIR manuscripts

SIGIR Revise-and-Resubmit

Eligible revised SIGIR full and short papers



SHARED REVIEW AND PRESENTATION MODEL

2–9 pages

Evaluated relative to submission length

Lightweight double-blind

OpenReview submission and reviewing

All accepted papers: posters

Selected papers also receive oral presentation slots

Acceptance Rate: Overall and R&R

97 submissions → 44 accepted

48 rejected after review · 5 desk rejected

Overall acceptance

45.4% 44 / 97

All submitted papers, including desk rejections

Excluding desk rejections

47.8% 44 / 92

Reviewed decision denominator

Valid SIGIR R&R

47.1% 16 / 34

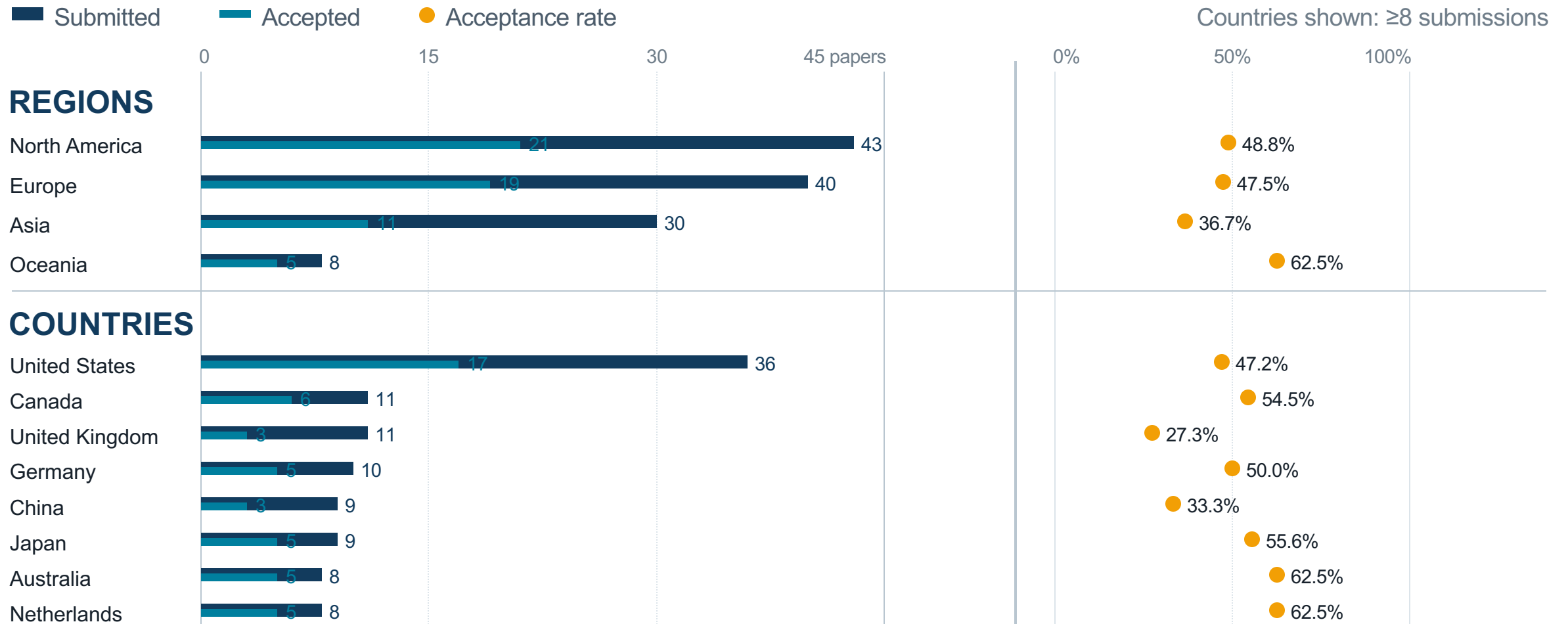
Short and Long R&R papers only

R&R by type

Short **38.1%** 8 / 21

Long **61.5%** 8 / 13

Country and Region Statistics



Multi-attribution by author affiliation: multinational papers appear in every represented country and region.

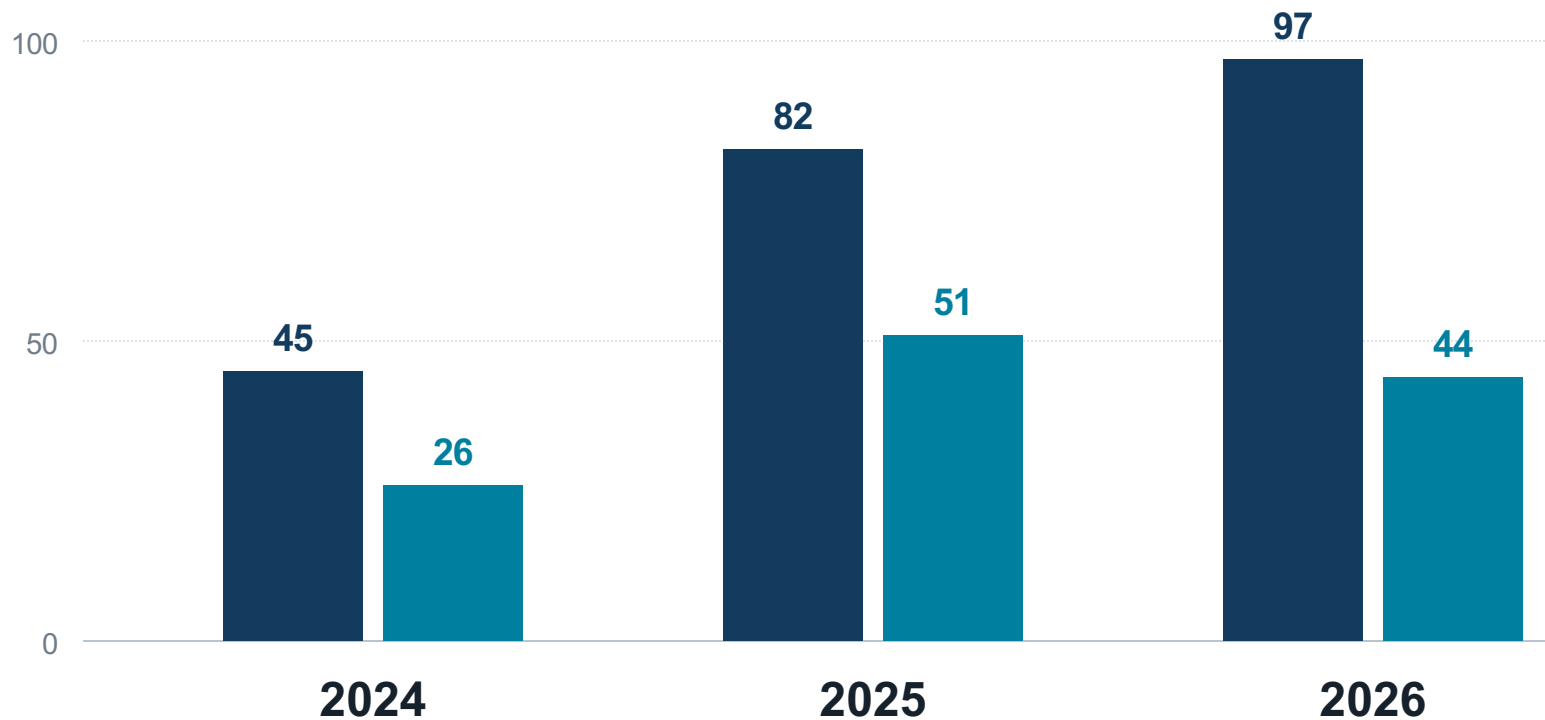
Proceedings reach: 16 countries · 87 institutions

2024–2026 Conference Statistics

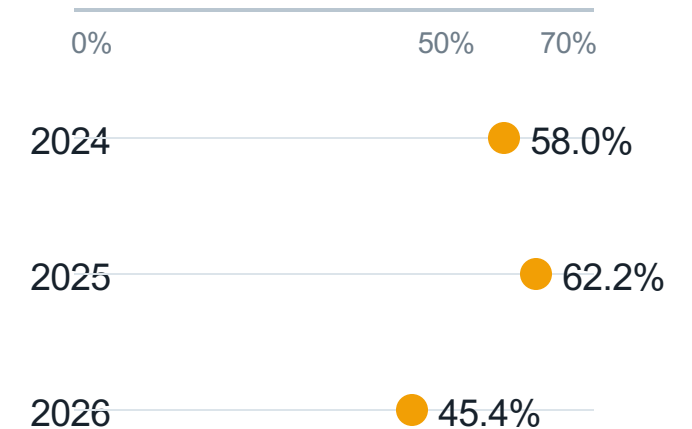
Submitted

Accepted

Submissions: +82% in 2025 · +18% in 2026 · +116% since 2024



Acceptance rate



2024

57 reviewers · 12 meta-reviewers

2025

97 reviewers · 9 meta-reviewers · 8 oral

2026

123 reviewers · 18 area chairs · 16 oral

Role terminology differs across years: meta-reviewers (2024–2025) versus area chairs (2026).

Program Committees

Senior PC · 18

Qingyao Ai
Tsinghua University

Jiaxin Mao
Renmin University

Mohammad Aliannejadi
University of Amsterdam

Bruno Martins
IST, University of Lisbon

Krisztian Balog
Stavanger + Google DeepMind

Gabriella Pasi
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University of Glasgow

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Alessandro Giuliani
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Mayank Kejriwal
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Aleksandr Vladimirovich Petrov
Martin Potthast
Ashraf Bah Rabiou

Zhang Heng Ran
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Clara Rus
Alireza Salemi
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Chuan-Ju Wang
Pengfei Wang
Xi Wang
Xianzhi Wang
Xingzhu Wang
Yue Wang

Zhaobo Wang
Shiguang Wu
Tianxing Wu
Xuyang Wu
Anzhe Xie
Xin Xin
Bo Xu
Chen Xu
Yang Xu
Yiyan Xu
Zhichao Xu
Takehiro Yamamoto
Jiyuan Yang
Lulu Yu
Puxuan Yu
Wenchao Yu
Richard Zanibbi
Fattane Zarrinkalam
Dake Zhang
Hainan Zhang
Mingkun Zhang
Yang Zhang
Yangjun Zhang
Yingchen Zhang
Yunfei Zhong
Shuqi Zhu
Yunchang Zhu
Lixin Zou

| Best Papers Committee

Shane Culpepper

The University of Queensland · Australia

Claudia Hauff

Spotify · Netherlands

Oren Kurland

Technion · Israel

Fiana Raiber

Technion · Israel

Hamed Zamani

University of Massachusetts Amherst · USA

Paper Awards



BEST PAPER

Exposure-Based Reinforcement Learning to Rank

Harrie Oosterhuis · Rolf Jagerman · Zhen Qin · Xuanhui Wang



HONORABLE MENTION

A Theoretical Framework for Risk Analysis of Stochastic Rankers

Debasis Ganguly

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🏆 **BEST PAPER**
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⭐ **RUNNER-UP · HONORABLE MENTION**
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Outstanding Reviewers

PC Reviewers

Mark D. Smucker	University of Waterloo
Richard Zanibbi	Rochester Institute of Technology
Ian Soboroff	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Adam Roegiest	Zuva
Paul Thomas	Microsoft
Joel Mackenzie	The University of Queensland

Meta-reviewers

Masaharu Yoshioka

Hokkaido University

Kazunari Sugiyama

Osaka Seikei University

Suzan Verberne

Leiden University



Maria Soledad (Sole) Pera

Associate Professor · Delft University of Technology

Child's Play? Search and Recommender Systems in Practice

25 July · 09:15–10:15 · MCEC, Eureka 1/2/3

ABOUT SOLE

Dr Sole Pera is an Associate Professor at Delft University of Technology, working at the intersection of information retrieval, recommender systems, and human-centered computing. Her research explores how search and recommendation algorithms shape real-world information access, particularly for children. For over a decade Sole has examined where these systems fall short in practice and how they can better reflect the people who rely on them. Through her research and outreach, she works with her team and collaborators to bridge gaps between technical development, real-world contexts, and policy, supporting safer and more meaningful information access. Sole's work has appeared widely in leading venues, and she is an active contributor to the IR and RecSys communities, including through leadership and service roles such as Program Chair for RecSys 2025, SIGIR Student Travel Chair, and ACM Global Engagement Chair.