

Editors' Note

The 15th International Symposium of Information Science, a biannual conference for scholars, researchers, professionals and students in information science, will be held at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin from 13 to 15 March 2017. This year's theme of "Everything Changes, Everything Stays the Same? Understanding Information Spaces" puts the dynamic of the field of information and its applications in the center.

The conference call explicates the theme: "With the ongoing digitization and virtualization of goods, services and living environments, information science reflects on the potential changes within the information society. While some parts of the community proclaim a revolutionary shift not only in the way we approach information and information systems, but also in the way society constitutes itself, others state that while the applications and interfaces adapt to advances in information technology, the underlying principles for human interactions with information remain the same."

At ISI 2017, contributions on the development of innovative information spaces and services, on analyses of human-computer interactions in physical or virtual information spaces and on the role of information science and its research endeavors were invited.

The two keynotes by Fabian Hemmert and Melanie Feinberg zoom in on various aspects of the theme, focusing on the transition between the physical and digital world and on the changes in meaning when objects transition between information spaces, respectively.

The submitted papers, posters and panel contributions were reviewed in a double blind peer review process. The programme committee consisted of 61 members from 13 countries. Of the 48 submissions (32 papers, 13 posters, 3 panels), the programme committee selected 15 long papers, 4 short papers, 11 posters and all 3 panels, resulting in a paper acceptance rate of 59%.

The conference is organized into two parallel tracks, presenting short and long papers in 6 paper sessions showcasing the depth and breadth of information science: information behavior, designing scholarly information systems, user perceptions of information systems, information systems evaluation,

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metrics & altmetrics, and (social) media analysis. The paper sessions are complemented by 3 panels (significance and relevance of information science in German-language countries, “information and learning” – research at the interface between information science and the learning sciences, and examining research integrity), and a poster session.

A particular focus of ISI conferences has always been the presentation of student and doctoral work. The Gerhard Lustig Award is awarded to the best Master thesis in information science of the last two years before the conference. One conference session is devoted to 6 Master thesis presentations, from which the award winner will be selected. The student session provides a safe space for students to discuss their work, while the doctoral colloquium presents a possibility to share research ideas with a larger mentoring group.

A satellite workshop on the relationship of information science and the digital humanities builds further bridges with other disciplines.

A conference can only be organized with the help of many people. We would like to thank the contributors to the research programme for submitting stimulating and innovative contributions and the members of the programme committee for their timely and constructive reviews. A special thank you to our partners, the German Association for Information Science (HI) and DIPF (Educational Research and Educational Information) for providing substantial support to the conference. Without their contributions, a successful conference would not have been possible. A special thank you to the conference sponsors, especially for the support of young scholars. We would also like to thank the voluntary helpers, mostly students, from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and DIPF, who ensure a streamlined local organization. The publisher Werner Hülsbusch once again provided the proceedings both in print and in an Open Access version in a timely manner – we are very grateful for the productive collaboration.

We wish all participants a successful, productive and inspiring conference.

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