Foreword

This report constitutes the proceedings of the 2002 edition of the Text REtrieval Conference, TREC 2002, held in Gaithersburg, Maryland, November 19–22, 2002. The conference was co-sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Advanced Research and Development Activity (ARDA), and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Approximately 175 people attended the conference, including representatives from 21 different countries. The conference was the eleventh in an on-going series of workshops to evaluate new technologies for text retrieval and related information-seeking tasks. Ninety-three groups submitted retrieval results to one or more of the workshop's tracks.

The workshop included plenary sessions, discussion groups, a poster session, and demonstrations. Because the participants in the workshop drew on their personal experiences, they sometimes cite specific vendors and commercial products. The inclusion or omission of a particular company or product implies neither endorsement nor criticism by NIST. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in the individual papers are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the sponsors.

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Ellen Voorhees
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