

Abstract

This report constitutes the proceedings of the 2003 edition of the Text REtrieval Conference, TREC 2003, held in Gaithersburg, Maryland, November 18–21, 2003. 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). Ninety-three groups including participants from 22 different countries were represented.

TREC 2003 is the latest in a series of workshops designed to foster research in text retrieval and related technologies. This year's conference consisted of six different tasks: web-based retrieval, novelty detection, question answering, retrieval in the genomics domain, improving the consistency of retrieval systems across queries, and improving retrieval effectiveness by focusing on user context.

The conference included paper sessions and discussion groups. This proceedings includes papers from the majority of participants (some groups did not submit papers), track reports that define the problem addressed by the track plus summarize the main track results, and tables of individual group results. The TREC 2003 proceedings web site also contains system descriptions that detail the timing and storage requirements of the different runs.