

Abstract

This report constitutes the proceedings of the ninth Text REtrieval Conference (TREC-9) held in Gaithersburg, Maryland, November 13–16, 2000. The conference was co-sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and the Advanced Research and Development Agency (ARDA). Sixty-nine groups including participants from seventeen different countries were represented.

TREC-9 is the latest in a series of workshops designed to foster research in text retrieval and related technologies. The previous eight TRECs each had an “ad hoc” main task through which eight large test collections were built. In recognition that sufficient infrastructure exists to support researchers interested in this traditional retrieval task, the ad hoc main task was discontinued in TREC-9 so that more TREC resources could be focused on building evaluation infrastructure for other retrieval tasks (called “tracks”). The seven tracks included in TREC-9 were web retrieval, cross-language retrieval, spoken document retrieval, query analysis, question answering, interactive retrieval, and filtering.

The conference included paper sessions and discussion groups. This proceedings includes papers from most of the 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-9 proceedings web site also contains system descriptions that detail the timing and storage requirements of the different runs.