Foreword

This report constitutes the proceedings of the eighth Text REtrieval Conference (TREC-8) held in Gaithersburg, Maryland, November 16–19, 1999. The conference was co-sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and was attended by 170 people. Sixty-six groups including participants from 16 different countries were represented. The conference was the eighth in an on-going series of workshops to evaluate new technologies in text retrieval.

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 cited 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 relect those of the sponsors.

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Ellen Voorhees,
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September 19, 2000

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