The 24th ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media (HT2013): A Personal Review

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This article provides a review of this year's ACM Hypertext and Social Media Conference (Hypertext). Hypertext 2013 was part of the First ACM European Computing Research Congress (ECRC 2013), which was co-located with the ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2013) and the ACM Web Science Conference 2013 (WebSci 2013) at the Palais des Congrès in Paris. The entire event attracted certainly around 4,000 participants from all over the world. As in 2012, this year the focus was on exploring, studying and shaping relationships between three major dimensions of links in hypertextual systems: people, data and documents. This year, Hypertext was organized by Gerd Stumme and Andreas Hotho and featured 16 full and 20 short papers oral presentations, three exciting workshops, two vibrant keynotes delivered by one of "the fathers of the Internet" Vinton Cerf (Google, USA) and by Denny Vrandečić (Wikimedia, Germany), and two social events with delicious French food and wine. This article reflects the authors personal view of Hypertext 2013 and may not represent the opinions of other individuals who attended the conference.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The ACM Hypertext and Social Media Conference (Hypertext) is the premium venue for high-quality peer-reviewed research on hypertext theory, systems and applications. It is concerned with all aspects of modern hypertext research, including social media, semantic web, dynamic and computed hypertext and hypermedia, as well as narrative systems and applications. The 24th Hypertext took place at the Palais des Congrès in Paris and was part of the ACM European Computing Research Congress (ECRC 2013) organized by ACM Europe, which took place in Europe for the first time and which is similar to the Federated Computing Research Conference (FCRC) held in the US every four years. Under the umbrella of ECRC, the following conferences came together: SIGACCESS, HiPEAC Spring Networking Computing Systems Meeting, GLSVLSI 2013, ACM WebScience 2013 and ACM Hypertext 2013.

Moreover, ECRC was co-located with the ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2013), making it one of the largest conference events ever, at least in my experience. Although I do not know the exact number of participants, it was certainly over 4,000 (since CHI 2013 alone had around 3,300 attendees).

2. ORGANIZATION

Hypertext 2013 [1] was organized by Gerd Stumme (University of Kassel, Germany), the General Chair, and Andreas Hotho (University of Würzburg, Germany), the Program Chair. It was great to finally meet them in person and talk about their research on social tagging systems, with which I am familiar from my PhD studies. Our discussions went so well that we followed them up by several Skype conversations about starting a joint project.

Hypertext lasted three days (from May 1st until May 3rd) and, as in 2012, had three tracks:

—*Track 1: Linking People (Social Media)* chaired by Martin Atzmüller (University of Kassel, Germany) and Kristina Lerman (University of Southern California, USA)
—*Track 2: Linking Data (Semantic Data)* chaired by Peter Mika (Yahoo! Research, Barcelona, Spain) and Elena Simperl (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany)
—*Track 3: Linking Documents (Adaptive Hypertext and Narrative Connections)* chaired by Paul de Bra (Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands) and David Millard (Southampton University, UK)

Each of the tracks had its own Program Committee, on which I had the pleasure to serve. I reviewed 3 papers for the *"Linking People"* and 2 papers for the *"Linking Documents"* track. Overall, Hypertext 2013 featured 16 full and 20 short papers with 16.6% and 37.5% acceptance rates, respectively. Denis Helic (Graz University of Technology, Austria) was the Chair for the Workshops and Folke Mitzlaff (University of Kassel, Germany) was the Publicity Chair.

3. WORKSHOPS

Hypertext 2013 featured three workshops: Narrative and Hypertext (NHT13) [4], Intelligent Exploration of Semantic Data (IESD13) [2], and Modeling and Recommending Things in Social Media (MSM13) [3].

—NHT13 was organized by Charlie Hargood (University of Southampton, UK) and David Millard (University of Southampton, UK) to provide an interdisciplinary forum to the humanities and science communities. It covered a range of topics, from hypertext narrative systems to hypertext narrative and the humanities.
—IESD13 was organized by Dhaval Thakker (University of Leeds, UK), Kouji Kozaki (Osaka University, Japan), Vania Dimitrova (University of Leeds, UK), Anthony Jameson (German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, Germany) and Riichiro Mazoguchi (Research Center for Service Science, Japan). It included a number of interesting paper and challenge presentations focusing on semantic data exploration. The challenge award, which was funded by the Dicode project for novel semantic data exploration applications, was won by the team of the University of Lleida for their work *"Rhizomer: Overview, Facets and Pivoting for Semantic Data Exploration."*
—MSM13 was organized by Martin Atzmüller (University of Kassel, Germany), Alvin Chin (Nokia, China) and me. The workshop was founded in 2010 and this year was dedicated to recommender systems in social media. It featured a brilliant keynote by Shlomo Berkovsky (NICTA, Australia) and seven very interesting talks. We received 12

submissions and had the acceptance rate of 33% for full papers, which is quite impressive for a workshop this size.

In addition, there were seven plus three other workshops (on May 1st and May 5th) that were organized jointly with the ACM WebScience Conference. Unfortunately, I missed all of them.

4. KEYNOTES

Hypertext 2013 was special in terms of the keynotes: a keynote on hypertext by Denny Vrandečić (Wikimedia, Germany) and a joint keynote by Vinton Gray "Vint" Cerf. They were truly remarkable, particularly the joint ECRC and CHI keynote that was delivered in an auditorium for a couple of thousand people. I attended one of Vintons talk two years ago at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, when I was a visiting researcher at the University of Pittsburgh. As expected, his keynote was great. Even though I was all the way in the back of the conference hall and could hardly see the slides, Vintons humor and rhetoric skills made me appreciate his *"Conversations with a Computer"* without the visuals.

The keynote *"Wikidata- A Machine Readable Wikipedia of Linked Open Knowledge"* by Denny was dedicated to the hypertext community and was reportedly very interesting. Unfortunately, I missed it since I was involved in several fruitful discussions with people from the community that took longer than expected.

5. MAIN SESSIONS

The main sessions followed the workshops that began on May 1st at 8:30 A.M. and lasted until noon. The first session chaired by Ethan Munson (University of Wisconsin, USA) introduced the Ted Nelson Newcomer Award candidates selected from the authors whose papers were accepted by Hypertext for the first time. The candidates were:

—*A Question of Complexity Measuring the Maturity of Online Enquiry Communities* [5] by Gregoire Burel and Yulan He
—*Wheres @wally? A Classification Approach to Geolocating Users Based on their Social Ties* [11] by Dominic Rout, Daniel Preotiuc-Pietro, Kalina Bontcheva and Trevor Cohn and
—*Microblog-Genre Noise and Impact on Semantic Annotation Accuracy* [6] by Leon Derczynski, Diana Maynard, Niraj Aswani and Kalina Bontcheva

The presentations were excellent, and the Ted Nelson Newcomer Award went to the authors from the University of Sheffield for *"Wheres @wally? A Classification Approach to Geolocating Users Based on their Social Ties"* (and, in part, for their brilliant British humor).

After a short coffee break, the first two parallel sessions started:*"Social Media"* chaired by Kristina Lerman (University of Southern California, USA) and *"Stories and Semantics"* chaired by Markus Strohmaier (University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany). Since both

featured really interesting papers, I decided to alternate between them. It seemed to be a good plan, but I later learned from Peter Brusilovsky that I had missed a great paper that was highly relevant to my research with Peter's group.

The following day, two parallel morning sessions took place: *"Structured Information Access"* chaired by Elena Simperl (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany) and *"Reading"* chaired by David Millard (University of Southampton, UK). Both sessions featured three papers, and due to my personal research interests I chose to attend the one chaired by Elena. In the afternoon, a keynote by Denny Vrandečić opened "the moment of truth" session chaired by Simon Harper (University of Manchester, UK) and featuring the Douglas Engelbart Best Paper Award. The candidates for Hypertext 2013 best paper prize were:

—*Models of Human Navigation in Information Networks Based on Decentralized Search* [7] by Denis Helic, Markus Strohmaier, Michael Granitzer and Reinhold Scherer

—*How Big is the Crowd? Event and Location Based Population Modeling in Social Media* [9] by Yuan Liang, James Caverlee, Zhiyuan Cheng and Krishna Y. Kamath and

—*Canyons, Deltas and Plains: Towards a Unified Sculptural Model of Location-Based Hypertext* [10] by David Millard, Charlie Hargood, Michael Jewell and Mark Weal

As expected, the scientific level of the presentations was very high (I was especially thrilled by the presentation of Denis Helic, my former PhD advisor). In the end, David and Charlie won the award with their presentation of *"Canyons, Deltas and Plains: Towards a Unified Sculptural Model of Location-Based Hypertext"*. I was a bit disappointed, since our research group here at Graz missed the second chance to win the prestigious Best Paper Award at Hypertext (last year, it was my turn with a paper written together with colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh and I did not win, either). However, I have to admit that David and Charlie delivered a great presentation and certainly deserved the award. In addition, there was an SIGWEB business meeting thereafter moderated by SIGWEBs Chair Simon Harper (University of Manchester, UK). Among other things, we discussed the future of SIGWEB-sponsored conferences (e.g., ACM DocEng, ACM WebSci, ACM WSDM and ACM Hypertext), the new ACM digital library licensing schema and the ACM Authorizer service (a "cool" new ACM feature for sharing your papers from the ACM digital library using your personal website).

The last day of Hypertext started with a panel discussion *"Computing Research 2020 and Beyond"*, followed by two parallel sessions, *"Personalisation"* chaired by Peter Brusilovsky (University of Pittsburgh, USA) and "Structure of Social Media" chaired by Martin Atzmüller (University of Kassel, Germany). Although both sessions were of interest to me, I decided to attend Peter's since my current research is focused on recommender systems. Interestingly, one of the presented papers co-authored by Ralf Krestel et al., was off my radar, although his previous work contributed to the development of a novel LDA-based tag recommender approach developed by my research group.

6. SOCIAL EVENTS

There were two social events: a welcome reception on May 1st, with superb French wine and finger food, and a joint ECRC reception a day later at the Le Meridien Etoile hotel next

to the conference venue (again, with fantastic the food). The social events were particularly interesting for me since I had a chance to meet new people from the hypertext community (I knew some of them only from their research papers) and to catch up with old friends (Peter Brusilovsky, who hosted me during my research stay at the University of Pittsburgh two years ago, Martin Atzmüller and Alvin Chin, with whom I ran a joint workshop at the IEEE SocialCom 2011 conference in Boston, and Kristina Kristina Lerman, who collaborated with Denis Helic, Markus Strohmaier, Markus Muhr and me on the 2011 WWW paper).

7.   CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

Overall, in my opinion, Hypertext 2013 was THE scientific conference event of the year, not only because it was the largest scientific event I ever attended, but also thanks to the awesome hypertext community, the brilliant talks, the great networking opportunities (= social events) and the new impressions that inspired my future research.

During the farewell ceremony, Gerd Stumme (General Chair) and Andreas Hotho (Program Chair) shared information about next year's Hypertext conference. It will take place in Santiago, Chile and will be chaired by Leo Ferres (Universidad de Concepcion, Chile) and Gustavo Rossi (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina). The exact venue and the submission deadlines for papers, posters or workshops were not fixed at the point when this article was written. Although Chile may seem a bit too far away from Europe, do not miss your chance to submit to Hypertext 2014! It is a great opportunity to present your research. I will do my best to be there. My friend from the University of Pittsburgh, USA Denis Parra and me plan to submit something "awesome" to next year's Hypertext conference. Please, keep your fingers crossed that our paper gets accepted! And the wine in Chile is apparently just as good as in France :) – Yours, Chris

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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