

Preface

Information access technologies provide the interface between human information needs and digital information resources. The reliable evaluation of these technologies has been recognized for decades as central to the advancement of the field. As information retrieval becomes more pervasive, the forms of retrieval more diverse, and retrieval tools richer, the importance of effective, efficient, and innovative evaluation grows as well. Following the success of the First (May 2007), Second (December 2008), and Third (June 2010) International Workshop on Evaluating Information Access, the Fourth International Workshop on Evaluating Information Access (EVIA 2011) was held on December 6, 2011 (coinciding with Day 1 of the NTCIR-9 Workshop Meeting), at the National Institute of Informatics (NII), Tokyo, Japan.

Workshop papers were reviewed in a double-blind process by at least three members of the EVIA 2011 program committee. Four papers were accepted, and presented orally at the workshop. In addition, we had reports from organizers of NTCIR's sister evaluation campaigns: TREC/TAC, Medieval, INEX, CLEF, and FIRE. These reports were followed by a panel discussion on the topic, "TREC is 20 years old, where now for evaluation campaigns?"

We would like to thank all the participants, the program committee, and the NTCIR organisers, for making the fourth EVIA a success.

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