

1. Reports from ACL management

President's Report

- 1) Mark Steedman, Johanna Moore, Aravind Joshi, and I all discussed the possibility of trying to colocate the ACL08 conference (which Mark is in charge of, and which will be in the US) with CogSci. This would probably involve a one day overlap of sessions. Mark was going to pursue this idea.
- 2) The most important item is with respect to AFNLP. Keh-Yih Su, Jinitichi Tsujii and I met with Benjamin Tsou on Tuesday, 6/28. Several aspects of a joint AFNLP/ACL conference were discussed, as well as a possible model for a closer relationship between AFNLP and ACL. AFNLP has such a different structure from EACL and NAACL, that it is patently obvious the standard chapter arrangement would not work. (For instance, there is no reason or need to share bank accounts.) On the other hand, it is important to define a method of collaboration that strengthens both organizations rather than putting them in competition with each other. Coherence and unity is to be preferred over discord and the possibility of warring factions.

One of the main ways AFNLP differs from NAACL and EACL is that it is made up of several independent organizations, each one of which has its own structure, its own membership, handles its own finances, and in some cases publishes its own journal. An ACL membership that would bring with it a subscription to an English-language journal is not necessarily of much benefit to many of the members of those organizations.

These circumstances point to a much looser relationship between AFNLP and ACL than the current Chapter relationship.

Keh-Yih suggested a cooperative arrangement where ACL members would get a discount on membership in any of the AFNLP organizations, and those members would in turn get a discount on membership in ACL. I believe we already have a similar type of relationship with a speech organization (was it ICASP?) that Julia Hirschberg recommended.

However, it could still be mutually beneficial to have the president of AFNLP sit on the ACL exec board, in the way that the NAACL and EACL presidents do.

And there would be advantages to both sides in having a single joint conference every 6 years when ACL and AFNLP are both scheduled to have Asian conferences, rather than competing ones.

What we came up with in the end was the notion of an official "Affiliate" status for AFNLP, rather than a Chapter status. The general outline is:

- 1) The AFNLP president sits on the ACL exec board
- 2) There is a cooperative agreement with respect to membership fees (on both sides) that includes the option of a "conference only" membership (or "affiliate" membership) that does not include journals.
- 3) Every 6 years a joint conference is held, with AFNLP handling the local arrangements.
- 4) Financial accounting is kept separate, except for shared responsibility for the joint conference.

(I suspect we could also count on AFNLP's assistance with local arrangements for the Asian ACL conferences held on the even years when there is not supposed to be an AFNLP conference.)

There are many details to be worked out, and the attached document is not yet an official proposal. It is something for us to read and think about, and be prepared to discuss at the January meeting. Meanwhile, the AFNLP officers will also be considering this as a possibility.

An official proposal would first require amending the constitution to include the definition of a general organizational "affiliate" relationship that includes a definition of an "affiliate" membership.

However, that relationship might come in handy for other things as well, such as an appropriate vehicle for associating the Nordic Language group with EACL.

ACL Secretary Report: Sandra Carberry

The ACL election web page is being set up. Due to difficulty in getting a full slate of candidates for office, there has been a delay in getting candidate statements and the web page online. Greg Silber is handling the election software, and the election will again be overseen by Greg, Dmitriy Genzel, and me.

Drago Radev is continuing to serve as "technical webmaster" with responsibility for a variety of items, including the ACL Universe and maintaining the email aliases.

The annual newsletter was sent out to the membership. Besides announcing the new officers, it included short articles on the following:

- 1) the ACL Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Karen Sparck-Jones at ACL-04.
- 2) the ACL conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 3) Coling-ACL in 2006.

We have again purchased a license for the START electronic reviewing software for use at ACL-05. Since we have used the software several times, we were charged a reduced license fee. Our charges for subsequent licenses will continue to decrease until we reach their base level for use. The software appears to be running smoothly, and based on feedback from the conference chairs, we will decide whether to continue using it. (Although there has been a proposal from another conference software developer, it will be up to the conference chairs to decide whether to investigate it.)

ACL Treasurer's Report -- June 2005

ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

We were finally able to establish secure methods for paying memberships/publications on-line. The method chosen uses an outside vendor to handle the credit card transactions thus ACL does not keep any sensitive financial information (e.g., credit card numbers).

Because of difficulties establishing the ability to accept online payments in multiple currencies, the ACL exec made the decision that the membership form would be posted in USD only. In order to offset the conversion fee that our non-US credit-card-holders would incur in paying a USD amount, the exec decided to provide a 3% currency exchange discount for those paying with non-US credit cards.

GENERAL BANK STATEMENT REPORT

With the exception of the European Accounts (which I do not have a report on) the accounts are balanced through March 2005. But, because of a large influx of cash due to the ACL2005 registrations, I decided to show reports through June 15, 2005 (though the account information is somewhat incomplete for May and June).

(SLIDE)

Account Balances

Converted to base currency: US dollar

As of 6/23/2005

Account Total

Wachovia Money Market Account	\$254,534.07
Swiss Bonds	\$138,811.10
Wachovia CAP Account	\$77,858.74
NAACL -- First Union Checking	\$43,659.05
French Bank European Account	\$30,897.84
Wachovia - Walker Fund	\$29,466.58
EACL Shadow Account	\$18,859.18
All Others	\$2,525.58
Total Assets	\$596,612.15

All of our accounts in the US are now in Wachovia Bank -- most of our activity is in the CAP account. This account fluctuates quite a bit over the year since this is the account that all of the credit card payments come into (and is our checking account). The European accounts are as of 12/31/03.

SLIDE: Net-Worth-Over-Time (can't show in text)

By looking at the way the net worth changes over time from 1/1/02 to 6/15/05, we can see quite a bit of fluctuation. You can see that our bank balances remain pretty healthy with a high reaching almost \$800,000 6/30/03 and a low at the end of last year of about \$455,859.

The trend seems steady, with a slight lowering over the past year. (Our low this past year was about \$30,000 lower than our low the previous year.) I do not think this is something to worry about. Keep in mind that the high reflects the on-line credit card payments through early registration, but did not capture the early registration whose cards were faxed in (or any of the late registration).

(SLIDE)

Income Versus Expenses by Category

1/1/2004 Through 6/15/2005

Income Categories Total

HLT-NAACL-04	\$246,744.52
ACL-04	\$186,788.58 Partial
ACL-05	\$167,065.00
Membership	\$125,389.32
Publications Income	\$25,776.28
SIGdial-04	\$12,710.00
ACL Offices	\$7,359.63
HLT-NAACL-03	\$4,546.10
HLT-02 To ACL	\$4,462.28
Walker Fund	\$2,168.01
SIGLEX Shadow	\$1,800.30
SIGdial-05	\$1,500.00
EMNLP/HLT-05	\$959.56
Investment Income	\$726.82
Income – Unassigned	\$608.79
NAACL Offices	\$66.80
ACL-03	(\$166.62)

Total Income Categories \$788,505.37

Expense Categories Total

ACL-2004	\$235,541.46
HLT-NAACL-2004	\$207,284.14
ACL Office	\$83,327.20
ACL-2002	\$63,488.91
CL Journal	\$61,996.14
ACL-2005	\$56,321.24
Publication	\$39,049.29
Memberships	\$13,300.54
NAACL Administration	\$12,650.92
SIGdial2004	\$11,607.41
NAACL-2006	\$9,891.75
Anthology	\$9,230.65
EMNLP/HLT-2005	\$5,926.51
ACL Exec	\$5,053.52
Walker Account Adjust	\$3,979.00
EMNLP/HLT-2005	\$486.80
Bank Charges	\$420.00

EACL Administration	\$176.35
Fund Expenses	\$124.43
ACL-2007	\$120.62
ACL-2006	\$72.38

Total Expense Categories\$ 820,049.26

Grand Total (\$31,543.89)

This file gives you a year slice of the categories that we are making/spending money in.

Note: conference income very partial because of slice AND ACL2004 income was collected both here and in Europe (and I have not included those monies in this report).

REPORT ON ACL2003

I want to thank Jean Blair (our bookkeeper up until the middle of this past year) for her work on the conference. She has nicely implemented many suggestions about how to do the accounting (particularly with the sig-shadow accounts) and we have greatly benefited from it. Unfortunately, Jean has since started working in a full time position and is unable to continue (though, we have someone else working on ACL2004).

Income and Expense Worksheet -- surplus of 38,704

- very nice job on sponsorships - Sapporo City and local foundations (\$38,500) + nearly \$69,000 from other sponsors.

Profit and Loss by Event Worksheet

- Main Conference showed a healthy surplus of \$46,947

- Tutorials were quite reasonable in their surplus of \$5,387

- Workshop program in general lost a bit of money (almost \$1,000). We have learned

a lesson from this and have slightly adjusted the fee structure for this conference.
 In addition, the exec has taken on rethinking the workshop program and their
 budgeting.

(SLIDE)

SIG-SHADOW REPORT

ACL SIG Shadow Account Calculation Through ACL2003, HLT-NAACL-2003
 6/23/05 Note - missing calculations from HLT-NAACL Conferences (2003, 2004
 including SIGDIAL04), ACL2004

SIGCHAN

18-Jan-05	ACL2003	(494.00)
TOTAL SIGCHAN SHADOW		(494.00)

SIGDAT

6-Jul-01	ACL2000	2,597.81
15-Jul-02	NAACL2001	9,877.64
31-Jan-04	ACL2002	(1,946.62)
18-Jan-05	ACL2003	(221.00)
TOTAL SIGDAT SHADOW		10,307.83

SIGDIAL

4-Oct-01	IGDIAL 2001 Regs	10,594.00
23-Oct-01	SIGDIAL 2001 Expenses	(3,551.64)
2-Nov-01	SIGDIAL 2001 Salaries	(365.50)
10-Feb-03	SIGDIAL Misc Salaries	(67.05)
6-Jul-01	ACL2000	1,927.06
28-Jan-02	ACL2001	711.70
31-Jan-04	ACL2002	(918.11)
TOTAL SIGDIAL SHADOW		8,330.46

SIGGEN

16-Jul-02	INLG-02 Registrations	34,220.00
16-Oct-02	INLG-02 Expenses	(39,923.59)
18-Jun-03	Elhadad INLG-2000 Surplus	2,868.00
TOTAL SIGGEN SHADOW		(2,835.59)

SIGLEX

31-Dec-01	SigLEX Domain name?	(196.35)
28-Jan-02	ACL2001	2,123.83
31-Jan-04	ACL2002	2,672.28
7-May-04	Senseval-3 Surplus	1,800.30 ELRA Surplus
18-Jan-05	ACL2003 - WS3	(145.00)
18-Jan-05	ACL2003 - WS7	761.00
TOTAL SIGLEX SHADOW		7,016.06

SIGMEDIA

28-Jan-02	ACL2001	(178.43)
TOTAL SIGMEDIA SHADOW		(178.43)

SIGNLL

28-Jan-02	ACL2001	(86.56)
31-Jan-04	ACL2002	382.79
5-Feb-05	HLT-NAACL-2003	(240.33)
TOTAL SIGNLL SHADOW		55.90

SIGPHON

31-Jan-04	ACL2002	382.79
TOTAL SIGPHON SHADOW		382.79

SIGMOL

5-Apr-05	Edinburgh Rooms for Conference	(GBP 1,546.87)
TOTAL SIGMOL SHADOW		(GBP 1,546.87)
Underwriting Hotel rooms to hold for conference 2005		

EACL Report, June 2005 Gertjan van Noord, Chair Anette Frank, Secretary

1. Preparations for EACL 2006

The 11th EACL conference will take place next year in Trento, Italy.

Organization: Cognitive and Communication Technology (TCC) Division of
ITC-IRST (Centro per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica).

Dates are now settled:

The conference will take place from April 3 to April 7.

Tutorials and workshops: April 3-4

Main programme: April 5-7

The chair positions for ACL 2006 have been filled as follows. We decided to have co-chairs for most tasks.

Programme Co-chairs:	Diana McCarthy (Sussex, UK) Shuly Wintner (Haifa, Israel)
Tutorial Co-chairs:	Kemal Oflazer (Istanbul, Turkey) Alexis Nasr (Paris, France) Miles Osborne (Edinburgh, UK)
Workshop Co-chairs:	Maarten de Rijke (Amsterdam, NL) Caroline Sporleder (Edinburgh, UK)
Posters and Demos Co-chairs:	Frank Keller (Edinburgh, UK) Gabor Proszeky (Budapest, Hungary)
Publications Co-chairs:	Eneko Agirre (Donostia, Spain) Sergio Balari (Barcelona, Spain)
Exhibition/Sponsorships Chair:	tbd
Local Arrangements Co-chairs:	Alberto Lavelli (Trento, Italy) Bernardo Magnini (Trento, Italy)

The budget and contract for EACL 2006 has been solidified, and will be signed soon.

2. EACL Newsletter

Issue 6 of the EACL newsletter appeared in March 2005. Editor is our new chair-elect, Alex Lascarides. All EACL newsletters are on-line at the EACL website, www.eacl.org
The letter is electronically distributed to EACL members, and to the ACL board members.

Contents of Issue 6 were:

- * Editorial by Alex Lascarides
- * From the Chair: the new EACL board
- * Report on ACL 2004
- * Report on ISCOL'04
- * Sponsorship information
- * First announcement of EACL 2006
- * Calendar

3. EACL Sponsorships

The EACL sponsorship policy is available on the website.

<http://www.coli.uni-sb.de/eacl/Sponsorship.php3>

This year, EACL is offering substantial financial support for ESSLLI 2006, to be held in Edinburgh. EACL is sponsoring up to four students, each for 750 Euros, i.e. 3000 Euros in total. Preference will be given to students of Eastern.

European countries who can make a convincing case, by presenting a paper in a workshop or the student conference, or by presenting a convincing motivation letter. It is up to the organisers of ESSLLI to decide who will be awarded this EACL sponsorship.

4. Erasmus Mundus (LCT)

Gertjan van Noord as president of the EACL has signed a letter of support that declares the computational linguistic communities' interest in and the high quality study plan of the 'European Masters Program in Language and Communication Technologies' (LCT). The LCT program is currently proposed to the EU by a consortium of the following universities:

1. Saarland University (UdS; coordinator)
2. University of Amsterdam (UvA)
3. Free University of Bolzano-Bozen
4. Copenhagen Business School
5. University of Malta
6. University Henri Poincare, Nancy 1
7. University of Nancy 2
8. Roskilde University
9. Charles University in Prague

6. New EACL Student board

The current EACL student board continued to take care of the EACL website. This included a.o. updating the calendar as well as the resource list for computational linguistics students.

However, the end of term approaches for all three students of the current board. Nominations for the new board are on the way, so we hope that starting July we will have constituted anew student board for the next two years.

EUROPEAN TREASURER'S REPORT 2004

ACL assets in Europe are kept in accounts in Switzerland, France and Malta. These are decribed below. Final chart shows all assets expressed in Euro.

* SWISS ACCOUNT SWISS FRANCS 2004

Date		1 EUR = 1.52328 CHF	CHF
01/01/2004			3,628.33
INCOME			
	Dues	745.15	
	Net interest	1.45	
	Total income	746.60	746.60
EXPENSES			
	SIGGEN	-2,522.00	
	Bank charges (all assets)	-329.75	
	total expenses	-2,851.75	-2,851.75
31/12/2004			1,523.18

* SWISS EU CHAPTER SHADOW ACCOUNT 2004 (Held in EUR)

Date			EUR
01/01/2004			15,184.16
INCOME			
	none		
EXPENSES			
	Transfer to Savings	-10,000.00	
	Sponsorship (ESSLLI)	-1,020.00	

	Foundation	-811.58	
	Board Meetings	-87.80	
	Charges	-145.88	
	Total expenses 2004	-12,065.26	-12,065.26
31/12/2004			3,118.90

* SWISS EU CHAPTER SAVINGS ACCOUNT 2004 (Held in EUR)

Date			EUR
14/10/2004			10,000.00
INCOME			
	Interest	21.67	21.67
EXPENSES			
	Charges	-0.85	-0.85
31/12/2004			10,020.82

* FRENCH ACCOUNT 2004 (EUR)

Date			EUR
31/12/2003			24,876.89
INCOME			
	Interest	478.63	
	ACL04 Registration	1,029.00	
	dues	381.49	
	publications	898.06	
	total income	2,787.18	2,787.18
EXPENSES			
	ACL04 Advance	-3,000	
	Bank charges	-12.15	
	Total expenses	-3,012.15	-3,012.15
31/12/2004			24,651.82

* EUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Malta) 2004

Date			EUR
09/03/2004			0.00
INCOME			
	ACL04 CC PAYMENTS	79,937.05	
	Interest	247.43	80,184.48

EXPENSES

REPAYMENT BARCELONA	-31,472.93	-31,472.93
31/12/2004		48,711.55

ACL European Account
Statement of Assets 31.12.2004
ALL EXPRESSED IN EURO

Date	Swiss	EACL	FRENCH	MALTESE	TOTAL
2003	137,040	15,184	24,877		177,101
2004	136,945	13,140	24,652	48,712	223,449

Michael Rosner, 11/06/2005

Report from NAACL, June 2005 Graeme Hirst, Chair <http://www.naacl.org>

1. Elections

The NAACL election was held electronically in the Fall of 2004. Andy Kehler and Eve lyne Tzoukermann were elected to the Board, replacing outgoing members Bob Frederking and Dekang Lin.

2. Executive Committee Meetings

The Board converses regularly by e-mail. In addition, in 2004, the Board met by conference call on 2004-02-21 and in person at the HLT-NAACL conference in Boston on 2004-05-02. The minutes of the meetings are available on the NAACL website. An in-person meeting is scheduled for 2005-06-25 at ACL-2005.

3. Shadow Account Status

See separate report by the NAACL Treasurer, Dragomir Radev.

4. North American conferences in 2004

A detailed report on the HLT-NAACL 2004 conference appeared on the June 2004 NAACL Chair's report.

5. North American conferences in 2005

The international ACL conference will be held in North America in 2005, with NAACL as the host. The site selected is the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, MI, with local arrangements by Dragomir Radev. See separate reports.

As the ACL Exec decided that this will not be a merged meeting with HLT, the NAACL Board, the HLT Advisory Board, and SIGDAT have arranged a joint HLT-EMNLP conference to take place in Vancouver, BC, in October. NAACL is not actually a sponsor of the meeting, however. See separate report by SIGDAT.

6. North American conferences in 2006

NAACL 2006 will join with HLT in New York, 4-9 June 2006. The general chair is Bob Moore (Microsoft); the program co-chairs are Jennifer Chu-Carroll (IBM), Mark Sanderson (Sheffield), and Jeff Bilmes (U Washington); and the local arrangements chair is Satoshi Sekine (NYU).

7. NAACL 2007

A call for bids to host NAACL 2007 will be issued shortly. Eve lyne Tzoukermann and Jan Wiebe will finalize the call and will work to elicit bids.

8. Support for Summer Schools

NAACL provided \$2000 of support to the Linguistic Society of America to subsidize computationally-oriented courses at the 2005 LSA Institute (to be held at MIT, 27 June to 5 August 2005). We also ran our own separate nothing-to-do-with-the-LSA competition for a limited number of 10%-of-LSA-tuition grants. One such grant, for \$200, was awarded (adjudicated by a subcommittee of Lillian Lee, Jan Wiebe, and Eve lyne Tzoukermann).

We are again sponsoring students to attend the summer courses in computational linguistics that held in conjunction with the summer CLSP workshops at the Johns Hopkins University. We received applications from 12 students, of whom 11 were selected by a sub-committee of the Chapter Board (Ellen Riloff, Eve lyne Tzoukermann, and Andy Kehler). The total cost to NAACL will be just under \$8000.

9. Debugging the NAACL Constitution

Along with the 2004 election, a referendum was held on proposals by the NAACL Executive Board to amend the NAACL constitution as detailed below in order to remove a some unclarities and anomalies. All the proposed amendments were approved by the membership. They are listed below.

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Article 5.1

TEXT OF PRESENT ARTICLE AND CHANGES PROPOSED:

The administration of the Chapter shall be conducted by the Chapter Board, which shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, the most recent past Chair (provided he or she completed a term of duty), and four (4) Board members. The [** DELETE: Secretary-] Treasurer of the ACL shall ex-officio be a member of the Chapter Board.

Except for the past Chair they shall be elected by the Chapter Members for a two-year term of office. If vacancies occur, the Chapter Board shall appoint replacements, subject to approval by the Association Executive Committee, to serve until the next election. Except for the Treasurer, no Board member shall serve more than two (2) terms in any single [** ADD: elected] office, [** REPLACE: and no longer than six (6) consecutive years on the Board WITH: and no more than three (3) terms in any elected office]. The Treasurer may serve for a maximum of ten (10) years in that position, subject to the satisfaction of the Board, the Members, and the Association Executive Committee. After the first Chair, every Chair must have served on the Board for at least one year during the past five years.

RATIONALE:

- (1) The ACL has split the position of Secretary-Treasurer into two positions. The Treasurer is the more appropriate to continue ex officio on the Chapter Board because of the very close financial working between NAACL and ACL.
- (2) The present six-year limitation leads to anomalies. The Past Chair is supposed to provide experience and corporate memory, and yet might have to step down early in his or her term if he or she had spent six years, or nearly that as President or Board Member, only to be replaced by an inexperienced appointee. Similarly, the ACL Treasurer might spend more than six years in that office and hence

should be available for more than six years as an ex officio member of the Chapter Board. The new wording tries to capture what is assumed to be the intent of the original wording, a limitation on re-election, while not restricting the terms of unelected members of the Chapter Board.

Article 5.4

TEXT OF PRESENT ARTICLE AND PROPOSED CHANGES:

To oversee the elections, there shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members, who shall each serve a three year term. Retiring members of the Chapter Board who are not re-elected to positions as officers or board members become new members of the Nominating Committee. [** ADD: Any member of the Nominating Committee who is elected to the Chapter Board shall stand down from the Committee.] If the size of the Nominating Committee falls below three, the requisite number of new members shall be elected by the Members as part of the elections of new officers. Nominating Committee members must be Chapter Members in good standing. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be determined by random draw from among the members of the Nominating Committee whose terms are about to expire. The [** REPLACE: outgoing WITH: Past] Chair of the Chapter Board shall meet with the Nominating Committee in an ex officio capacity to provide advice about potential nominees.

RATIONALE:

- (1) Nothing at present prevents the Nominating Committee from nominating its own members if they are eligible. Such a situation might or might not be a Good Thing. At the very least, a member of the committee who is re-elected should stand down from the committee.
- (2) There is only a neutral "outgoing" Chair in years when the Chair's term has expired and the incumbent is ineligible for re-election or doesn't wish to stand for re-election.

Article 5.5

TEXT OF PRESENT ARTICLE AND PROPOSED CHANGES:

Elections shall be conducted annually as follows: the Nominating Committee shall by the first of September preceding the end of a term of office nominate at least one person for each position to be filled, including [** REPLACE: a WITH: any necessary] new [** REPLACE: Nominations WITH Nominating] Committee member.

RATIONALE:

(1) Clarification and correction of typo.

NAACL treasurer report Dragomir R. Radev

As of last year's ACL conference, the balance in the NAACL shadow account was \$11,820.51. Since then, we have finalized the accounting for ACL 2002 and HLT-NAACL 2003 which both brought in surpluses into the account.

This year, the NAACL exec decided to sponsor two events - the LSA summer institute and the JHU summer school. We will be spending a total of \$12k on these two events.

Balance sheet as of June 20, 2005

balance as of 04	11,820.51
+ ACL 02 surplus	+ 4,083.82
- JHU SS 2004	- 9,801.73
- LSA 2005	- 2,200.00
+ HLT-NAACL 03 surplus	+ 49,087.61
	52,930.21

A small number of charges still need to be resolved, mostly associated with the fees that the bank charges and the interest that it pays back. These should be resolved soon.

2005 Special Liaison with Asian Federation

Report from Asian Federation of Natural Language Processing -- Keh-Yih Su

(I) Organization of AFNLP

AFNLP now has 4 International Conference Members and 7 Regional Association Members. International Conference Members include: AIRS, ICCPOL, PACLIC, and PACLING. Regional Association Members include: Australasian Language Technology Association (Australia), NLP Assoc. of India (India), Indonesian Language Technology - Research Community (Indonesia), The Association for Natural Language Processing (Japan), Special Interest Group of Korean Language Computing of Korea Information Science Society (Korea), Singapore Chinese and Oriental Languages Information Processing Society (Singapore), and The Association for Computational Linguistics and Chinese Language Processing (Taiwan).

AFNLP consists of one executive committee and four other subcommittees: Conferences Coordination Committee (CCC), Asian Language Resources Committee (ALRC), Communications and Liaison Committee (CLC), and Nominations and Constitutional Affairs Committee (NCAC).

Currently, Benjamin Tsou (Hong Kong) is the president, Jun'ichi Tsujii (Japan) as the vice president, Keh-Yih Su (Taiwan) as the secretary general, and Kam-Fai Wong (Hong Kong) as the honorary treasurer. Besides, Keh-Yih Su also serves as the chair for Conferences Coordination Committee, Takenobu Tokunaga (Japan) as the chair for Asian Language Resources Committee, Key-sun Choi (Korea) as the chair for Communications and Liaison Committee, and Benjamin Tsou as the chair for Nominations and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

(II) Activity

1. IJCNLP-04

IJCNLP is the flagship conference of AFNLP. As the first IJCNLP, IJCNLP-04 has been held in Sanya, Hainan Island, China, on March 22-24, 2004. 211 submissions

were received from 19 different regions (80% from Asia, 10% from North America, 10% from Europe). 66 Oral presentations and 35 poster presentations were accepted. The number of participants is about 250

2. IJCNLP-05

As the second IJCNLP, IJCNLP-05 will be held at Jeju Island, Korea on October 11-13, 2005. 289 submissions were received from 32 different regions (77% from Asia, 10% from North America, 11% from Europe, and 2% from Africa and Australia). 90 Oral presentations and 62 poster presentations were accepted for 27 parallel sessions. Compared with IJCNLP-04, submission regions are more diversified (from 19 to 32) and the number of submissions increases 37% (from 211 to 289).

The main conference organizers are listed as follows. Conference Chair: Key-sun Choi (Korea), Program Committee Co-chairs: Robert Dale (Australia) and Kam-Fai Wong (Hong Kong), Local Organizing Committee Chair: Jong-Hyoek Lee (Korea).

Note: IJCNLP is held every two years, however IJCNLP-04 was originally planned to be held in 2003, but postponed by the delay of establishing AFNLP. Thus the second conference comes to be IJCNLP-05.

Nominating Committee : John Nerbonne, Mark Johnson, Johanna Moore

June 2005

We are delighted to nominate the following candidates for positions on the ACL Executive. All the nominees have a long history of distinguished technical contributions and reliable professional service to Computational Linguistics worldwide.

In light of ACL's ongoing need for experienced high-level management, we are very pleased to nominate as Vice President Elect

- Prof. Bonnie Dorr, University of Maryland
- Dr. Bob Moore, Microsoft Research

To continue ACL's commitment to internationalization, the nominating committee has nominated the following two outstanding European professionals for the position of secretary:

- Prof. Philippe Blache, Aix-en-Provence
- Dr. John Carroll, Sussex

Finally, in order to succeed the present North American member of the executive committee, we have asked two researchers with a history of scientific contributions and voluntary service to the ACL to stand for election to serve as at-large members of the committee:

- Prof. Claire Cardie, Cornell
- Prof. Jan Wiebe, University of Pittsburgh

2. ACL-2005

General Chair's Report (ACL-05)

I was asked to serve as General Chair for ACL-05 well in advance of the ACL-04 meeting in Barcelona, and the ACL-05 location and Local Arrangements Chair were also in place by that time. At the Barcelona meeting, the Program Chairs for ACL-05 agreed to serve. In early August, 2004, I submitted a list of proposed ACL-05 chairs to the ACL Executive Committee, which were approved.

The conference organization went very smoothly, because of the excellent, resourceful, and responsible chairs. It was very impressive to see the chairs communicating directly with each other to solve the problems that came up.

Dragomir Radev, Local Arrangements Chair, deserves an immense amount of credit for the conference. Dragomir went far beyond his basic responsibilities. He was essential in connecting local issues with the program, the workshops and tutorials, the student lunch, the budget, and so on, and he also played an active role in conference decisions with the General and Program Chairs. I have 642 emails from Dragomir, which I believe is just the tip of the iceberg. He also hosted my site visit to Michigan in January (speaking of icebergs), during which we could look at hotel, banquet, and meeting space issues.

There were a number of innovations on the publications side (chaired by Jason Eisner and Philipp Koehn). Just for example, this was the first time that complete, integrated, page-numbered PDF proceedings could be sent around for commentary well in advance of the conference. Building these innovations should pay off in the

coming years.

I will leave most of the other discussion to the individual Chair reports. Here are a few notes of my own:

- Richard Power once again graciously agreed to oversee the paper mentoring service, and this went smoothly. This service is a small-scale operation, and future ACLs may want to think about whether there are more authors out there who would like to take advantage of it.

- The ACL Exec was prompt with useful suggestions and decisions. For example, electronic copyrights became operational, which was a great relief.

- There were some hiccups getting the web-based paper submission system software going, despite ACL chairs being completely on top of the issue from day one. It may be useful to do some very-far-in-advance negotiations over this next time, and to set up timelines.

- We had some misunderstandings about who should be sending out ACL-05 announcements to the general mailing lists. Once we consolidated all of the news into periodic Newsletters, everything worked smoothly.

- The conference handbook was very helpful. Previous conference reports (e.g., for ACL-04) certainly helped chairs produce their ACL-05 reports, but not everyone got the previous reports early on, which would have helped in planning and dealing with typical problems. Future general chairs can make sure this information is disseminated early.

- There were some early proposals about a more aggressive approach to commercial exhibits, i.e., trying to actively bring in folks with natural language products built by people who may never have attended ACL. This seems like a good thing to think more about, as this kind of novel mixture might spark new ideas.

Please enjoy the rest of the ACL-05 reports.

Kevin Knight, June 15, 2005

ACL 2005 program chairs report

The program chairs met during the ACL 2004 conference right after they were assigned, and plotted a rough timeline. Since this year's conference was a full month ahead of last year's, we decided to get a preliminary call for papers very early in the fall. We worked over the call for papers during August. We also started working on a set of areas. We decided that for the most part, we would like to structure the areas along major topics of research in computational linguistics, as opposed to based on techniques that cut across multiple topics. One exception is the area of Machine Learning for NLP, which is meant for papers introducing innovative machine learning techniques applied to NLP.

At this time, we also came up with a schedule for paper submission and the review process, and coordinated and confirmed this with the conference general chair Kevin Knight. Since the conference was in June, this meant that we had to decide on the final program by the beginning of April, which meant that the deadline for submission would have to be early or mid January. The final schedule that was eventually adopted was as follows:

Paper submission deadline: Jan 14

Paper assignments to area chairs: Jan 17

Paper assignments to reviewers: Jan 20

Review submissions due: Mar 11

Reviewer discussion complete: Mar 18

PC meeting: Mar 23 - 24

Notification of acceptance: Mar 31

Camera ready papers due: May 2

The preliminary call for papers was sent out during the last week of August.

The program chairs then set out to select ten area chairs. The area chairs who were selected along with the general topic areas were as follows:

--Michael Collins (MIT) -- parsing

--Marti Hearst (UC Berkeley) -- information extraction and information retrieval

--Hang Li (Microsoft Research Asia) -- machine learning for NLP

--Chin-Yew Lin (USC/ISI) - summarization and question answering

--Yuji Matsumoto, (Nara Inst.) -- word segmentation, tagging, chunking, morphology, and phonology

--Diana McCarthy (Sussex) -- lexicon, semantics, and language resources

--Hermann Ney (RWTH Aachen) -- machine translation and multilinguality
--Gerald Penn, (Toronto) -- formalisms, logic, syntax, grammars, and generation
--Brian Roark, (OHSU) -- speech, language modeling, and statistical methods
--Michael Strube, (EML Research) -- discourse, dialog, and multimodality

We then asked each area chair to indicate a couple of additional areas that they could take on in cases of conflicts of interest, etc. We also assumed that we could get between 400 and 500 papers (since this was a joint conference). As such, we asked each area chair to recruit about 25 PC members, so that each PC member would review about 5 or 6 papers on average for a reasonable load. A total of 231 PC members were recruited. Of these, 27 PC members agreed to review under more than one area.

The START system also became operational during the middle of November. We quickly configured it and set up the relevant databases for PC members. We also revised the previously available style files and made them available on the conference web site. Final versions of the call for papers were also sent out during December and early January. The paper review form was designed with substantial input from the area chairs. We allowed the submitters to indicate a maximum of three keywords which we could use to categorize them into the areas and we did NOT rely on automatic categorization by START based on keywords.

The submission process went without any problems. We received 438 submissions, which seems to be a record for ACL. Within two days following the submission deadline, we split the pool into two and assigned the papers to areas, based on keywords, abstracts, and occasionally on actual content, where the first two were not adequate. We cross-checked each other's assignments.

The initial assignment produced the following statistics on papers assigned to each of the areas:

Parsing: 33

Information extraction and information retrieval: 46

Machine learning for NLP: 45

Summarization and question answering: 37

Word segmentation, tagging, chunking, morphology, and phonology: 43

Lexicon, semantics, and language resources: 60

Machine Translation and multilinguality: 56

Formalisms, logic, syntax, grammars, and generation: 29

Speech, language modeling, and statistical methods: 49

Discourse, dialog, and multimodality: 40

The area chairs were notified of the assignments on time. Some submissions were found to have unprintable or corrupted PDF files. We tried to get some of these fixed by the authors but some had to be removed when the authors could not get them fixed in time. The area chairs also checked for conflicts of interest in the papers assigned to them that we could not know about during the initial assignment process. Also, 11 papers were found to be blatantly not anonymous (that is, the authors' names were on the first page of the paper).

These papers were also removed from the submission pool. The authors of such papers were quickly notified of this, so that they could submit their papers to other conferences as soon as possible if they so desire. All in all, a total of 15 papers were removed during the review process (including the not anonymous ones), and 423 papers were reviewed. The review process went without any serious problems and almost all reviews (90% or so) were in by the March 11 deadline. Most papers got 3 and some 4 reviews but there were a few instances of papers not getting all the 3 reviews assigned as the reviewers failed to complete their reviews.

While the papers were under review, we and the area chairs compiled and ranked a list of possible invited speakers. Our top candidates were Justine Cassell (Northwestern University) and Michael Jordan (UC Berkeley), and both accepted our invitation.

The co-chairs and area chairs (Brian Roark could not attend due to a prior commitment but was accessible by phone) met at ISI on March 23 and 24 to select the papers to be included on the program. The meeting venue was arranged by General Chair Kevin Knight, and Erika Barragan-Nunez handled the local logistics and arrangements.

Every paper accepted was summarily discussed at the PC meeting. There were extensive discussions on all borderline papers and many such papers were further reviewed on the spot or overnight, by one or two additional area chairs and decided upon. The PC committee was able to recommend 78 of the 423 papers that were reviewed, giving an approximately 18% acceptance rate. The PC Committee also selected 5 papers to be further reviewed and evaluated for the best paper award.

After the accepted papers were available, a crosscheck with the papers accepted to IJCAI-05 revealed that two papers were dually submitted to IJCAI-05 and ACL-05

and these two papers were accepted by both conferences. This violated the IJCAI-05 submission policy which did not allow a paper submitted to IJCAI-05 to be dually submitted elsewhere. Consequently, the IJCAI-05 program chair removed both papers from the IJCAI-05 program.

While ACL-05 allowed dual submissions, in the ACL-05 paper acceptance notification email, all authors were asked to inform the program chairs right away if they had submitted their ACL-05 papers elsewhere, and if so, the authors were asked to indicate whether they intended to present their papers at ACL-05. For both of these papers, the authors did **not** inform us that their papers had also been accepted at IJCAI-05. In spite of this violation, we eventually decided to still include both papers in ACL-05.

Subsequently, it came to our attention that 4 other ACL-05 accepted papers had also been submitted to AAI-05. Again, this violated the submission policy of AAI-05 which did not allow a paper submitted to AAI-05 to be dually submitted elsewhere. These 4 papers were immediately rejected by AAI-05 for this reason, but they were still included in ACL-05.

Another noteworthy incident came up just before final copies of all the papers were to be submitted. One author informed us that there were some bugs in his program and the results he presented in the submitted version were actually better than what they should have been. This incident generated a series of discussions and the final paper was looked at by the original reviewers and the area chair. Eventually, the co-chairs, the area chair, and the reviewers came to the decision that the paper should not be included in the main program as that would have been unfair, since the author had substantial additional time to get his results right. Hence the number of accepted papers came down to 77.

The ACL Exec accepted that the copyright of published conference papers could be transferred using an interface in the START system so we did away with collecting hardcopies of copyright forms.

The final copies of the papers and the relevant metadata were collected from the START system a few days after the final copy submission deadline, and were passed on to the publication chairs.

The accepted papers were scheduled as a 3 day-3 parallel track program with a total

of 24 sessions for the main conference leaving room for 3 student research workshop sessions. The invited talk by Cassell was scheduled for the opening session, while the talk by Jordan was scheduled for the third day. The second day of the conference has the Lifetime Achievement Award and Talk Session and the ACL Business Meeting while the third day ends with a the Best Paper Award Session.

In retrospect, the whole process went from start to end without any problems and the schedule was met. The time-zone difference between the co-chairs and the general chair actually turned out to be an advantage as we essentially had around the clock response to any issues raised. We had no real problems with the START system and the maintainer of the system promptly responded to requests for certain minor things (changes to the UI, some ACL customizations, etc.) The START maintainer also added extra customizations to handle metadata collection and copyright form handling etc. All in all our experience with START was generally positive. However there are numerous ways START can be improved to make it an even better system and we wrote down all of our proposed changes in detail and sent them to the maintainer. However, it remains to be seen whether they get implemented.

We got one major comment from a senior member of the field saying that the 7 weeks we allotted for reviews were actually longer than necessary and people never used the whole period but just the last couple of weeks. The suggestion was that the review period could be made shorter (say 4-5 weeks) and that the submission deadline could then be pushed to a later point to give people more time after the New Year holidays to write their paper. We think that this suggestion is worthy of consideration by ACL but want to highlight that this year's deadline's relative proximity to New Year timeframe was mainly brought about by the shift of the conference date by one month.

Given that conferences like IJCAI receive many more submissions than ACL and complete their reviews in a shorter period of time, it is conceivable that the review period could be made shorter. This would however necessitate that more area chairs and PC Members be recruited to keep the load to a manageable level within the shortened duration.

ACL submissions may well exceed 500 submissions very soon and an acceptance rate of about 20-25% means that the program will have to accommodate 100 to 125 papers if not more later. This may imply some changes to the format of the conference along a number of dimensions. ACL may have to be a 4-5 parallel track and/or 4 day

conference to accommodate all the papers. Other changes such as shifting more papers to the poster/demo sessions etc could be considered.

We also suggest that ACL institute a much firmer set of policies regarding double submissions. We recommend that a paper submitted to ACL should NOT be submitted or be already under consideration elsewhere at the time of submission. Dealing with such cases takes up enormous amount of time and effort as PC chairs/Area Chairs have to check similar looking papers for overlap percentage, etc.

To give authors additional chances of submitting their papers for consideration to other conferences within the same calendar year, we also suggest that ACL look into the possibility of harmonizing its submission and notification deadlines with other conferences like AAAI and IJCAI, such that it is possible for an author to resubmit a rejected ACL paper to a subsequent conference that has a submission deadline later than the notification deadline of ACL (or vice versa). In this way, it also discourages authors to dually submit their papers to multiple conferences, since the deadlines are such that they can still rightfully submit a rejected paper subsequently to another conference.

Hwee Tou Ng and Kemal Oflazer

ACL 2005 local organization Dragomir R. Radev

The 43rd ACL meeting (jointly organized with NAACL) was held in Ann Arbor, MI, from June 25 to June 30, 2005. Ann Arbor is home to the University of Michigan, one of the top universities in the USA.

Local arrangements were done by Dragomir R. Radev. The local arrangements committee consisted of the following additional people: Steven Abney, Acrisio Pires, San Duanmu, Rich Thomason, Joyce Chai, Jurt Godden, Rick Lewis, Keith van der Linder, and Martha Pollack. We worked with Sara Schwartz of UM's conference services to put everything in place.

We arranged for the meetings to be held on the campus of the University of Michigan, more specifically in the Michigan League and at Rackham Graduate School. Two of the parallel sessions, all tutorials, workshops, breaks are held in the League while the remaining parallel session and the opening reception are in Rackham. Additionally,

the banquet is at the Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI (35 minutes away).

Attendees were housed in two on-campus hotels (plus two small additional on-campus facilities) and at two off-campus hotels. Transportation from/to the remote hotels is provided by the hotels. Students are mostly housed in two on-campus residence halls.

It was essential to work with the university's conference services. I cannot imagine how a conference of this size can be managed otherwise. The conference services people charged \$30 per attendee which is reasonable given the amount of effort they put into making everything work - from A/V to talking to hotels and banquet sites and dorms to printing the tutorials. The amount they charged for A/V seems to be a bit too high though. The people to thank are Bill Vlisides but mostly Sara Schwartz who took over from Bill early in the process. Sara very patiently listened to all our requests, answered hundreds of emails, and met with me on a weekly basis.

James Sweeney did an outstanding job as conference webmaster. He had to make changes to the site on a regular basis and also prepare an 80 page informational brochure for the conference. The brochure appears to be extremely useful but perhaps a bit on the expensive side.

The rest of the local organizational committee did a great job, especially with some of the food selection (Joyce Chai), organizing student volunteers (Rich Thomason), and providing feedback on the local arrangements process (everyone on the committee).

The registration worked out well. We got the number of people that were anticipated. Too many people waited until the last day of early registration so we were unable to make attendance predictions before then. Surprisingly, by the end of the hotel reservations deadline, only about 50-60% of the registered attendees had signed up for hotels. We were able to negotiate with the hotels to extend their lower rate offer by a week. It was essential that we didn't have a contract with the hotels to provide them a minimum number of guests. This let everyone on the local committee sleep better not having to worry about penalties.

We had to provide transportation from some of the remote hotels even though easy public transportation was available (except for Sundays, when the direct bus (#36) doesn't run, though alternative bus routes are available). The costs of the shuttles was borne by the hotels themselves so the budget was not affected.

Some requests for equipment (e.g., VPN access) arrived within 15 days of the conference even though all workshop and other chairs were notified 8 weeks earlier to submit their requests (and they did diligently pass these requests to their constituencies). Most such late requests were (grudgingly) honored.

Being local arrangements chair, even with help from the university conference services turned out to be a very severe drain of time. I clocked in at least 250 hours working on schedules, materials, emails, requests, contracts, etc. This is a warning to future local chairs. Today's ACL meetings are getting qualitatively different from earlier ones. We are comparable in size to AAAI, SIGMOD, and other traditionally larger venues. We have also significantly surpassed SIGIR in size. Future local chairs should be prepared (as I did) to assemble really strong local teams, consisting of people to whom they can delegate a significant part of the work. Some sort of teaching or committee release from the university would definitely be worth asking for.

ACL'05 tutorial chair report Stefan Riezler

1. Report

In response to the CFP, I received 8 tutorial proposals half of which addressed fundamental research topics in NLP, the other half addressed applications of NLP. Proposals consisted of two-page descriptions of the tutorial content together with information about tutorial presenters and previous venues. Each proposal was reviewed by myself and one of my colleagues Tracy King, Richard Crouch, and Lauri Karttunen in a non-blind fashion.

The reviewing process resulted in an acceptance of 4 proposals that promised to result in high-quality, interesting, and relevant tutorials. In addition, I solicited a late submission that strengthened the machine-learning aspect of the tutorial program (T5).

The list of accepted tutorials is as follows:

T1. Advances in Word Sense Disambiguation Rada Mihalcea & Ted Pedersen

T2. Arabic Natural Language Processing Nizar Habash

T3. Empirical Methods for Dialogue System Research Gregory Aist

T4. Recent Developments in Computational Semantics Valia Kordoni & Markus Egg

T5. SVM's and Structured Max-Margin Methods Dan Klein & Ben Taskar

The tutorial web page and tutorial notes were prepared by providing simple html and LaTeX/pdf versions of tutorial descriptions to the webmaster and publications chair who integrated them promptly in the webpage and companion volume.

As of May 31 (the early registration deadline) registrations for tutorials were as follows:

T1 55

T2 28

T3 19

T4 39

T5 75

2. Problems and Suggestions

In accordance with previous conferences, decisions about acceptance/rejection of proposals were based on the submitted two-page abstracts. Full tutorial slides were handed in by the accepted tutorial presenters a month before the conference (May 20). Given the problems I had with a set of tutorial slides that did not quite fulfill the promises of the proposal, it might be considered in the future to review full tutorial slides instead of short abstracts. Aligning the reviewing process for tutorials to the reviewing process for full papers, which is not based on abstracts either, would avoid unpleasant last-minute surprises.

3. Thanks

I would like to thank the ACL'05 chair - Kevin Knight, the local organizers - Dragomir Radev, J. P. Sweeney, Priscilla Rasmussen, and the companion volume

publisher - Philipp Koehn, for their unbureaucratic and smooth cooperation. Many thanks also to my colleagues at PARC - Tracy King, Richard Crouch, Lauri Karttunen for their assistance in reviewing.

I look forward to an exciting set of tutorials on June 25, 2005.

Report of ACL 2005 Publications Co-Chairs Jason Eisner and Philipp Koehn

Assembling ACL's publications has often been overwhelming, not only for publications chairs, but also for the chairs of individual workshops.

We set out this year to streamline the daunting process. It involves about 15 proceedings volumes, each with its own program chair, program, and front matter. The various proceedings must be produced in print, CD-ROM, and ACL Anthology forms, and are jointly indexed by a BibTeX database and an author index. All of the 300+ submitted papers require copyright transfer agreements, and many of the papers present problems with formatting, fonts, or metadata. The metadata include a mix of LaTeX, HTML, and Latin-1 encodings. A serious challenge is managing the many requests for corrections and special handling that flow in throughout.

Our innovations were as follows:

1. Online instructions to authors for how to prepare their camera-ready papers (style files, paper size, font embedding, resolution and color of graphics, testing one's file).
2. Final submission by authors via the START system. Accepted authors were asked to simultaneously submit three things:
 - a. Camera-ready PDF file. This service was easy to add since START already provided it to some other conferences.
 - b. Final metadata. Accepted authors could use START to confirm or revise the paper title, author list, etc.
 - c. Copyright agreement signature. The submitting author electronically signed

ACL's copyright transfer agreement by typing his or her name.

Paper shuffling was greatly reduced by this new facility, which was used by the main conference, poster/demo session, and almost all workshops. Two or three workshop chairs chose to skip START and collect a., b., and c. manually, but they regretted it.

In the case of c., we asked for hard copy only if the electronic signature was missing or appeared invalid. Thanks to the ACL Exec for agreeing to allow this procedure. We argued (not as lawyers) that these electronic signatures were legally pretty safe, thanks to recent legislation and case law, and that the risks to ACL were small in any case.

3. End-to-end PDF production. We found a way to use pdflatex to assemble each proceedings volume as a single large PDF book. Pages are automatically numbered.

This has several advantages:

- a. It greatly reduces paper handling and the risk of error. (In past years, it was up to the printer to concatenate individual papers in the correct order and number the pages.) Crucially, it is possible to make even last-minute changes and inspect the resulting final volume.
- b. Beyond adding page numbers, we also added a small-type "citation stamp" at the bottom of each paper's first page, giving full bibliographic information for that paper and asserting ACL's copyright. This follows the practice of many journals. The citation stamp is convenient for readers who might otherwise lose track of the provenance of a xeroxed or online paper.
- c. We were able to translate and scale individual papers, giving the proceedings a more even look than in past years. Many papers had incorrect margins and needed to be vertically or horizontally shifted.
- d. The resulting single PDF volume is also a convenient way to browse the proceedings onscreen during the conference. Navigation and full-text search are surprisingly fast. We also included hyperlinks and bookmarks. For example, one can jump to a paper by clicking its name in the program or the table of

contents.

- e. Individual PDF papers prepared for the CD-ROM and ACL Anthology are also graced with page numbers, citation stamps, and corrected margins. This wasn't possible in past years, when those things were handled by the printer.
4. Coordination with the ACL Anthology. We package up the papers for immediate submission to the ACL Anthology. The automatically generated BibTeX entries include each paper or book's future URL in the Anthology. We hope that this will make it possible to add papers to the Anthology at the time of the conference.
5. Scripting. Because of 2. and 3. above, the publications pipeline now starts earlier (with START data) and ends later (with a PDF volume, anthology package, and copyright signature database, as well as CD-ROM, BibTeX, etc.). To handle this, we substantially extended the suite of scripts that have been used in past years (by David Yarowsky and others).
6. Makefile. A single makefile, rather than a human, now decides when and how to (re)run the various scripts. It combines data from the authors (via START), the program chair, and the publications chair to produce the various intermediate files and outputs. Using a makefile safely ensures that changes to input files are appropriately propagated to the outputs.
7. Instructions. Except for the main session proceedings, we handed off production responsibilities to the individual program chairs. We wrote step-by-step instructions so that each workshop program chair could easily produce a proceedings to his or her satisfaction. A typical step is to edit some file, type "make such-and-such," and check the result.

We plan to make further improvements to the scripts, makefile, and instructions before handing them off to future publications chairs (starting with HLT-EMNLP 2005). Two in particular are worth mentioning:

8. The publications process is plagued by multiple agents editing the same files. We believe we can improve the makefile to safely merge changes from different agents, a la CVS.

For example, a script regenerates program.tex whenever the metadata are edited,

but a human may also tinker with program.tex to adjust the formatting or content. The scripts themselves may be both edited by the publications chair and customized by individual workshop chairs during the process.

9. We hope to write clear and detailed instructions for future publications chairs, including our suggestions for future improvements. We'll include these instructions and a master makefile as part of our scripts package. We hope they will be maintained in future along with the scripts (and our instructions to authors and workshop chairs).

While most of our suggestions for the future will appear in our instructions for our successors, a few specific issues are of more general interest:

- a. FINANCIAL. Rich Gerber has mentioned to several people that he will want to renegotiate terms for next year. He threw in the workshops, poster/demo session, etc. for no extra cost. But that meant he had to provide tech support for 10-15 different workshop chairs -- almost as much work as hosting many separate conferences. Doing all this for \$400 total made him feel like "a bit of a chump."

In our opinion, it would be reasonable to pay him more. The START system has proved invaluable.

- b. COPYRIGHT. The ACL Exec should consider changing the language of our copyright transfer agreement. Some authors would like a clearer statement that they can post papers to the web. Other authors would like to retain copyright altogether, granting ACL a non-exclusive license to redistribute the original work.

Prof. Christina Bohannon of the U. Iowa Law School characterizes our current agreement as both vague and overly complex, and suggests this possibility (thanks to Marc Light):

"The copyright holder permits ACL, and permits ACL to authorize third parties, to reproduce, distribute, perform, display, and otherwise use the copyrighted work without further permission from the author. The permission granted to ACL shall be construed as a non-exclusive license and shall not otherwise affect the copyright holder's rights under the Copyright Act and other applicable

law."

She adds that a non-exclusive license (such as the above) is legally easier for ACL to acquire than a copyright transfer. In other words, if ACL had to go to court, we would find it easier to prove that we had acquired such a license, e.g. on the basis of a single electronic signature. (In fact, legally it would suffice to get the oral agreement of any one of the copyright holders.)

c. **CENTRALIZED COMPUTING.** ACL should provide a machine (perhaps `aclweb.org`) to host publications activities. This machine should provide three functions:

- * A CVS or Subversion repository that maintains a definitive version of all scripts, templates, and instructions. At present, publications scripts are passed informally from one conference to another. We had to solicit and consolidate fragmentary versions from several sources. It is possible that we missed improvements made, for example, by the last EACL chair, whom we didn't contact.
- * Up-to-date and correctly configured software needed to run the scripts (pdf`latex`, GNU `make`, `bash`, certain Perl modules, and perhaps a version-control system such as Subversion).

Workshop program chairs and publications chairs should have access to this machine (with appropriate permissions) to produce their respective proceedings. `ssh` access is the simplest solution. Alternatively, someone could set up a specialized web interface that allowed them to run the scripts, edit selected text files, and view the PDF results.

The reason for a centralized machine is that some publications chairs or workshop chairs may not have the needed software installed. Obtaining the software can be tricky even with root permissions: we ourselves were unable to configure `tetex-3.0` correctly when building it from source, but the Cygwin distribution of `tetex-3.0` worked out of the box.

(The particular issue in this case was getting `pdflatex` to correctly retain embedded Nimbus fonts when concatenating PDF submissions. Nimbus fonts are open-source replacements for PDF's default fonts; they are used in

camera-ready submissions produced by the most recent versions of pdflatex.)

* After running the scripts, workshop chairs should leave their results on the central machine, where the publications chair can find and modify the latest version. Ideally, all edits should be version-controlled for safety.

d. NUMBER OF CHAIRS. The publications process is now closer to a turnkey system. However, until it stabilizes, we recommend enlisting two publications co-chairs for future conferences, as for ACL'04 and ACL'05. There are still more than enough software, policy, and hand-holding issues to keep two people busy.

The final production numbers for ACL'05 publications were as follows.

Main Proceedings	\$12,980 (\$13.66 each)	950 books	@ 660 pages
Companion Proceedings	\$7,345 (\$7.73 each)	950 books	@ 328 pages
12 Workshop Proceedings	\$12,980 (\$12.07 each)	1075 books	@ avg. 118 pages
CD-ROMS	\$3,425		1000 CD-ROMS
TOTAL	\$36,730		

We thank Rich Gerber for setting up START for our needs; Omnipress for their patience; the ACL Exec for allowing electronic copyright signatures; Drago Radev and Owen Rambow for various suggestions; and David Yarowsky and many other contributors for the publications scripts we inherited.

-Jason Eisner & Philipp Koehn

Student Session Chairs Report for 2005 ACL-05 Student Research Workshop

Chairs: Chris Callison-Burch, Stephen Wan

Faculty Advisor: Regina Barzilay

1. Program Committee

The co-chairs for the ACL-05 Student Research Workshop, Chris Callison-Burch (Edinburgh University) and Stephen Wan (Macquarie University) were nominated by this year's general chair, Kevin Knight. Regina Barzilay was appointed as Faculty Advisor. The program committee was formed by the co-chairs in consultation with the Faculty Advisor. The final program committee consisted of

48 members, of which 18 were students and 30 were non-students. Of the 48 reviews, 20 were from North America, 16 from Europe, 11 from Oceania, and 1 from Asia.

2. Submission and Acceptance

We received 72 submissions to the Student Research Workshop. The number of submissions was far greater than what we had planned for. All papers were assigned to at least two reviewers. The review process was managed using the softconf system.

We accepted 8 submissions as full presentation papers and 18 as poster presentation papers. One poster author was unable to attend.

The following table details acceptance statistics:

Countries:	#Submissions:	#Accepted
Australia	2	1
Canada	4	0
Czech Republic	3	2
Denmark	3	1
Finland	1	0
France	2	1
Germany	7	1
Israel	1	1
Italy	2	0
Japan	4	1
Korea	1	0
Mexico	1	1
Russia	1	0
Spain	3	1
Switzerland	1	0
The Netherlands	2	0
Turkey	3	0

UK	13	5
USA	16	11

3. Presentation Format

The Workshop was organised into a day-long single session, running in parallel with the two other main sessions. Papers were grouped by topic. Each main presentation author was allowed 20 minutes for presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions from the panel.

To provide more opportunity for feedback to students, we introduced a poster session. During the poster session, students discussed their work with a faculty panelist and peer students. To increase the attendance at the poster session, we scheduled it at the same time and place as the student lunch.

We attempted to introduce a second track for students towards the end of their candidature, however we did not receive enough submissions for this track to be viable.

This year, we decided not to choose a single paper as the Best Student Paper as it was difficult to rationally nominate a single submission as better than all the others.

4. Panelists

The co-chairs asked 6 conference attendees to be on the panel for the Student Research Workshop main presentations. A further 10 were asked to be "panelists" for the poster presentations. These panelists were selected for their knowledge of the research area, and for their availability during the Workshop.

5. Funding

We submitted our request to Mary Harper, program director of Human Language and Communication (HLC) at NSF in January and received notice of the award in March. The grant totaled \$17,600.

We were able to provide \$422 in funds to each paper author, and pay \$150 in conference registration fees.

We also distributed \$2000 from the Don and Betty Walker International Student Fund to two student authors in the main conference.

6. Suggestions and Comments

This year there was a dramatic increase in the number of submissions. We believe that the availability of funding is crucial for the popularity of SRW. Therefore, we recommend for applying for funding not only in the US, but also to funding agencies in Europe and Asia. This may require appointing additional faculty advisors from these countries.

A faculty advisor has to make sure that the university does not charge overhead on the SRW grant.

On the whole it was also difficult to decide who should be awarded the funds from the Don and Betty Walker International Student Funds. Most of the applications demonstrated a similar need. We tried to support students with an obvious need for financial support. We recommend clearer guidelines be provided to future organisers to distinguish between applicants.

Report from the ACL 2005 Workshop Chair Mirella Lapata

In response to the call for workshop proposals sent out in November 2004, a total of 14 proposals were received by the deadline on January 21, 2005. The workshop proposals were reviewed over a period of four weeks by the ACL 2004 Workshop committee. The committee members were Mark Dras (Macquarie University), Mary Harper (Purdue University), Dan Klein (University of California at Berkeley), Mirella Lapata (University of Edinburgh), and Shuly Wintner (University of Haifa). Based on the room availability and the quality of the submissions, the committee selected 12 workshops to be collocated with ACL; an additional workshop (BIOLINK) was selected to be collocated with ISMB 2005 in Detroit. Workshop proposals were selected based on the following criteria:

- Does the topic have a broad community of interest?
- Is the workshop one of Research/Application/Technology/Resource and how important is to have a workshop forum for that topic?
- Workshops that were part of a series (e.g., CONLL) were preferred.

- Interdisciplinary workshop proposals were preferred.
- All SIG workshops were accepted.

Two two-day workshops and eleven one-day workshops made up the thirteen workshops. Two of these workshops were Special Interest Group (SIG) sponsored workshops. The 9th CONLL was also treated as a workshop.

The workshop chairs were informed about the acceptance decision on February 22, 2005 and were asked to prepare a call-for-papers as soon as possible for circulation. The workshop chairs were free to set their own schedule for paper submission, review and camera-ready version, although the workshop committee suggested a reasonable set of dates for these deadlines. The only constraint was that the camera-ready papers would have to be submitted to the publication chair by May 20, 2004. The chairs were also required to set up a web-page for their workshop.

With the help of local organizers, an e-mail alias was set up to communicate with all the workshop chairs which proved to be very useful to discuss issues related to workshop organization and publications.

Issues:

- A number of questions regarding workshop organization arose repeatedly from workshop chairs. Most of them concerned financial matters, however the questions came up substantially frequently to warrant updating the current Workshop policies

(<http://www.cis.udel.edu/~carberry/ACL/Workshops/workshop-support-general-policy.html>).

I give examples below:

- o What is the average workshop fee?
 - o Does the ACL cover the invited speakers' expenses?
 - o Do the workshop organizers have to pay the workshop fee?
 - o Do I get to go to the exec dinner? (one person only asked this)
 - o Can I use the START software for my workshop?
 - o Who pays for the coffee?
- It is a bit awkward that the workshop organizers have to pay registration fees to attend their own workshop. Furthermore, the invited speaker for a workshop is

required to pay the registration fees for the workshop that they have been invited to. It might be more appropriate if the registration fees for the organizers and invited speaker is waived and if necessary, the fee for the workshop be set suitably to recover this cost. I believe this issue arose last year as well.

- One workshop organizer asked requested to change the format of his workshop (from two-days to one-day). We were notified too late to be able to effect the change; the budget had already been set and it was not possible to change the workshop fee. Future workshop policies could include a clause warning organizers that changes involving the format of the workshop (and consequently the workshop fee) are generally discouraged and will only be considered at the early stages of the conference organization process.

Sponsorships chair's report for ACL 2005 Mark Johnson

<Mark_Johnson@Brown.edu>

ACL offered several levels of sponsorships for ACL'05 -- Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. As of June 3rd we had two Gold (IBM Research and Yahoo Search), two Silver (Google and Microsoft) and six Bronze (Umich-College of Engineering, UMich-Sch of Information, Umich-Dept of Linguistics, LexisNexis, LanguageWeaver, Xerox Research Centre Europe) sponsors. In addition, the Student Workshop Chair applied for and received an NSF grant to cover some of the costs for the student workshop. Contact information for these organizations is listed below; obviously it makes sense to contact these people for sponsorship of future conferences. The sponsorships chair for future conferences should begin to contact potential sponsors in December of the year preceding the conference, and find out when the organization prefers to be asked for donations (usually just before they do their budgets). I think that a conference should have two sponsorships chairs; one of whom specializes in contacting international organizations in computational linguistics that are likely to sponsor every year, and a second chair who belongs to the local organizing committee and who specializes in contacting local sponsors (usually organizations that may not be closely connected to computational linguistics but are closely related to the conference site).

This year sponsors wanted to be associated with students and student events. Several sponsors were quite pushy about wanting to sponsor a reception or lunch at which they would be able to present a pitch to students. We decided that this is not

appropriate at an ACL event: if a sponsor wants such an event then they can rent an exhibit hall and organize their own reception. However, we did decide that we would let companies direct their sponsorship money toward the reduced student registration fees. At the student lunch we publically thank the companies for their sponsorship and explain to the students that we are able to offer them reduced registration thanks to the donations from these companies.

In summary, my advice to future sponsorships chairs is:

- * start contacting sponsors in December
- * have a local organizer apply for funding from local and regional organizations
- * the student workshop chair should apply for NSF funding

Mark Johnson

Contact information for sponsors and potential sponsors

Google Neetu Sabharwal <neetu@google.com>

Yvonne Agyei <yvonnea@google.com>

BM Research Salim Roukos <roukos@us.ibm.com>

Shimei Pan <shimei@us.ibm.com >

languageWeaver Judie Wolfe <jwolfe@languageweaver.com>

Daniel Marcu <marcu@ISI.EDU>

Kevin Knight <knight@ISI.EDU>

exis-Nexis "Wasson, Mark D. (LNG-HBE)" <Mark.Wasson@lexisnexis.com>

Microsoft Research Bill Dolan <billdol@microsoft.com>

MITRE Mark T. Maybury <maybury@ATCC.MITRE.org>

John C Dr Henderson <jhndrsn@mitre.org>

Christine D Dr Doran <cdoran@mitre.org>

PARC Ron Kaplan <Ronald.Kaplan@parc.com>

Stefan Riezler <riezler@parc.com>

Spoken Translation Dina Moskowitz <7dina7@san.rr.com>

Yahoo Search Jennifer Reynolds <jreynolds@vocecomm.com>

Xerox Research Center Europe "Maxwell, Irene" <Irene.Maxwell@xrce.xerox.com>

Exhibits/Publicity Chair Report for 2005

Richard Wicentowski
richardw@cs.swarthmore.edu

Exhibits:

In 2005, ACL will host exhibits from seven companies:

Cambridge University Press
Oxford University Press
Yahoo! Search
Google
Alias-i
Sakhr Software
Answer Bus

With the exception of Google, each will exhibit for the three days of the main conference. Google has made special arrangements to hold their exhibit concurrent with the student lunch.

I would recommend that the list of previous or potential exhibitors be kept updated

regularly and that the sponsorship chair and the exhibits chair work more closely.

Publicity:

The publicity for the conference was carried out through:

1. Two newsletters with timely information about ACL-05 were created. These newsletters were distributed to the ACL membership, posted to the Corpora and Linguist mailing lists, and made available from the ACL-05 website.
2. A poster was produced (by the local arrangements chair) and distributed electronically.
3. The ACL-05 website and emails to the membership by Priscilla Rasmussen.

Workshops and tutorials have done their own publicity.

I would recommend that the publicity chair should be someone from the local area rather than someone external to the hosting institution.

Report on ACL 2005 Interactive Poster and Demo Session By Ted Pedersen and Masaaki Nagata

The Interactive Posters and Demonstration Session at ACL 2005 was well received, drawing 56 submissions, of which 31 were accepted (acceptance rate = 55%). Each submission was reviewed by 3 members of the Program Committee, which consisted of 47 members, each of whom reviewed 2-4 submissions.

In organizing this event, it appeared to us that there is a lack of clarity regarding the definition and role of Posters at ACL, and that this is something that really needs to be resolved. There are several points of confusion - the fact that they are included with the Demos, and that they are called "Interactive Posters", which suggests that they are not traditional posters, but it isn't clear exactly what they should be either.

In order to clarify these issues, we formulated the following definitions and distinctions between Interactive Poster and Demos in consultation with our Program Committee. This is best explained by taking a few excerpts from the Call for Interactive Posters and Demos:

Our goal is to have a program made up of "implemented systems", where those systems may reflect previously unpublished work (poster) or previously published but somehow modified existing work (demos).

- 1) Interactive Posters should feature work in progress (possibly late breaking) that can be effectively presented via a combination of system demonstration and a more traditional poster. The criteria for acceptance of an interactive poster are the novel scientific contributions and the effectiveness of the proposed presentation in making those points.
- 2) Demos should feature mature systems or prototypes that show how NLP technologies are used to solve practically important problems. The criteria for acceptance of a demo is that it must already be described in the published literature in sufficient detail to allow replication, or the submitted paper should provide this level of detail. In addition, the demo should address an application of broad interest in such a way that it can be appreciated by a diverse audience.

This distinction appeared to be generally understood by both submitters and reviewers. There were 37 Interactive Poster Submissions of which 18 were accepted, and 19 Demo Submissions of which 13 were accepted.

There may in fact be a role for a more traditional Poster Session at ACL, but arranging this would be a big job, and should not be done by the same people who are dealing with the Demos/Interactive Posters (which should be renamed if a traditional poster session were introduced). A traditional Poster Session might require closer coordination with the program committee chairs of the main conference (particularly in the event that long paper submissions are accepted as posters, etc.) and different reviewing standards.

The other important issue regards local arrangements, in particular making arrangements for oversized monitors and networking capability.

Oversized monitors are crucial for presenters, since most run their systems on laptops, which makes for a very difficult viewing situation during the session. As such we requested and received oversized monitors for our session from the local organizers. Rather than renting 31 monitors and having all the presentations in a single session, 11 were rented, and the presentations were made in groups of 10, 11, and 10 during the course of the first day of the main conference.

In addition, it should be assumed that presenters will want network access - nearly all

requested that and it was arranged. It is very important to clarify early on if the access will be wireless or hardwired, and also to find out if presenters have any expectations about what they can do from the host network, such as VPN.

In general our recommendation is that presenters should be able to assume that they will have a network connection that will give them access to typical web browsing facilities, but if any special arrangements are needed (due to security considerations, etc.) then the burden must be on the presenters to specify that early (and precisely).

3. Journal and Publications

Computational Linguistics Editor's Report for 2004-2005 Robert Dale

1 OVERVIEW

There have been a number of changes to the journal over the last year, some of a minor but visible nature, and some of larger import which are mostly invisible.

On the visible changes front, each article we publish now includes as a footnote on the first page the dates on which the paper was initially submitted, submitted in revised form, and finally accepted for publication.

We've also had a couple of new forms of article in the journal. In what we intend as a continuing tradition, we published the text of the talk Karen Sparck Jones gave on receipt of her ACL Lifetime Achievement Award. In what I hope will be a rarely used forum, we also published an obituary for Bill Mann.

Behind the scenes, the biggest change, and biggest headache, has been MIT Press's change of compositor. Things went ghastly over issue 31-1: the typesetters initially reproduced the articles for that issue by OCRing and editing the hard copies we had provided, rather than making use of the electronic copies, which introduced a significant number of errors into the texts. We're still trying to fully understand some of the workflow issues involved here.

Partly as a consequence of the problems with the compositor, our planned big change for 2004-2005, the pre-release of electronic copies of papers as soon as they are in the queue for publication, has been delayed; I hope to be able to report positively on progress here when we meet in Ann Arbor.

Another indirect effect of the problems with the compositor is that we have been taking another look at the CL style guide used by the copy editor; we now make this available to authors as an aid in their final copy preparation, and we are intending to revise the style guide over the next six months.

The other upcoming change of a minor but visible nature is our plan to include a page in the final issue of each year acknowledging the assistance of those reviewers who are not members of the editorial board. This will first appear in 31-4.

We indicated last year our intention to provide fast track processing of the best papers from conferences, by positively soliciting revised versions as possible journal publications. We have made two such approaches to authors in the last year, but no journal submissions have resulted.

2 STATISTICS

Time to first decision for new submissions:

For 2001 papers: 110 days

For 2002 papers: 127 days

For 2003 papers: 129 days

For 2004 papers: 131 days

Here's the traditional 'disposition by first decision' table:

Decision	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Submitted	53	65	65	57	64	47
Accept	2	16	23	18	15	13
Reject	22	20	20	12	11	9
Resubmit as Squib	3	2	2	2	1	3
Revise and Resubmit	23	25	18	22	27	12
Withdrawn	1	0	2	3	3	2
No decision	2	2	0	0	7	8

This looks like a drop in the number of submissions for 2004, but this is illusory; we

now factor out resubmissions of papers initially submitted in earlier years (of which there were 14), whereas previously these were counted in the total number of submissions.

This also accounts for the apparently low number of accepted papers in 2004; in fact a total of 11 papers were accepted during 2004.

Here's the breakdown by country of first author for the paper submitted in 2003 and 2004:

		2003	2004
Europe	Bulgaria	1	0
	Finland	1	2
	France	3	1
	Germany	4	2
	Iran	2	1
	Ireland	0	1
	Israel	1	2
	Italy	1	1
	Netherlands	1	1
	Poland	1	1
	Portugal	2	0
	Romania	0	1
	Slovenia	0	1
	Spain	2	5
	Sweden	2	0
	Switzerland	0	1
Turkey	1	0	
United Kingdom	7	8	
North America	Canada	5	4
	Mexico	1	0
	United States	21	12

Asia	China	0	3
	Hong Kong	3	0
	India	1	1
	Japan	2	1
	Korea		1
	Taiwan	2	0
	Thailand	1	0
	Vietnam	0	1
South America	Brazil	1	2
Total		65	53

At the time of writing, for 2005 we have the following:

29 submissions; 19 new, 10 resubmissions Average time to decision for new submissions: 67 days

Breakdown by Country 2005

Canada	1
China (HK)	1
Germany	3
Israel	1
The Netherlands	1
Turkey	1
UK	3
USA	8
TOTAL	19

---End

Computational Linguistics Book Review Editor's report Graeme Hirst June 2005

BOOK REVIEWS PUBLISHED

In 2004, we published an average of three book reviews plus a couple of brief notices in each issue of Computational Linguistics. Most reviews are published in a timely manner -- that is, within 12 months of receipt of the book. This allows six months for the reviewer (some take less) and five months for journal production.

MATERIAL REVIEWED

I am continuing to be fairly strict in deciding if a book is to be reviewed, but try to include all books that are in "core" computational linguistics, as well as a variety of books from adjacent and overlapping disciplines that are likely to be useful in CL. We do not review technical reports, doctoral theses, conference proceedings, or workshop proceedings, except if revised for publication as a book by a recognized publisher.

PRODUCTION MATTERS

I am indebted to Nadia Talent for long hours of reading out loud with me to check the galleys.

--

Graeme Hirst

Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto

Computational Linguistics Squibs and Discussions: report for 2004

At the beginning of year 2004, there were two submissions in the squibs pipeline. In the course of year 2004, 9 additional papers were (re-) submitted. At the end of the year, there were four submissions left in the pipeline. Thus, 7 decisions were made

during year 2004. The results were as follows:

- * 1 papers accepted
- * 6 invitations to rework the (re-)submission

The mean time taken for these decisions was 113 days.

Thus far, 11 papers have been (re-) submitted in 2005.

-- Pierre Isabelle

Squibs editor for Computational Linguistics

14 June 2005

CUP/ACL Book Series "Studies in Natural Language Processing" Steven Bird

The goal of Studies in Natural Language Processing is to identify and publish state-of-the-art work on topics of interest to the CL/NLP community. The series is undergoing a renewal and reprofiling process with the Press, and we welcome proposals for books addressing current research topics in CL/NLP. Breadth of scope and audience is of particular importance.

Books in press:

- * Masterman, M. "Language, Cohesion and Form"
Edited, and with an introduction and commentaries by, Y Wilks
- * Daelemans/Bosch "Memory-Based Language Processing"

ACL ANTHOLOGY Report, 2005 Steven Bird

The ACL Anthology is a digital archive of research papers in computational linguistics, sponsored by the CL community, and freely available to all. It includes the Computational Linguistics journal, and proceedings of many conferences and workshops including: ACL, EACL, NAACL, ANLP, TINLAP, COLING, HLT, MUC, and Tipster. The anthology now contains 9365 papers (up from 8350 this time last year), along with full-text search. Most of the papers are also indexed by Citeseer and scholar.google, helping the citation counts of ACL authors. The ACM Digital Library is creating rich metadata and doing full citation linking for all anthology materials.

PERSISTENT URLs: The ACL website supports persistent URLs for all papers that are resolved to a copy at the selected mirror site. These URLs have the form <http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P99-1012>, and they may be used for citation purposes (e.g. in BibTeX entries).

HLT PROCEEDINGS: Fifteen volumes of DARPA proceedings (6,000pp) donated by Dave Lewis and Beth Sundheim have been digitized and added.

FUTURE MATERIALS: Jason Eisner and Philipp Koehn have modified the ACL publication software to generate conference CD-ROMs using the same directory layout and file-naming conventions as the anthology. From ACL-05 onwards it will be much easier to incorporate new materials into the anthology. We propose that conference proceedings be published in the anthology at the same time as the conference. The journal and any SIG workshops not held in conjunction with an ACL meeting, will continue to require manual processing.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

MICROFICHE SCANNING: In the late 1970s the then "American Journal of Computational Linguistics" was published on microfiche only. (This was thanks to a condition of the ACL's funding from the NSF, who apparently believed that the paperless office of the 1980s would be equipped with microfiche readers.) The ACL is now sponsoring the digitization of these materials, adding a further 7,000 pages to the anthology.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA: Doug Arnold is continuing to create BibTeX data for the existing anthology content. However, the new ACL publication software will automatically generate BibTeX files as part of the normal process of creating the conference proceedings.

DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIERS: These are akin to ISBN numbers, but apply to individual papers. In collaboration with the ACM we hope to assign DOIs to each anthology item in the coming year.

TOPICAL INDEXING: The existence of persistent URLs makes it easy for individuals and special interest groups to set up annotated bibliographies with pointers to papers in the anthology. Moreover, the community's own text categorization

techniques ought to be applied to its own text collection. The anthology site should link to any well-curated, comprehensive categorizations of its content, so that members of the CL community can benefit from them.

--end--

4. Future Conferences

HLT/EMNLP-05 Raymond J. Mooney (mooney@cs.utexas.edu) General Chair
<http://www.hlt-emnlp05.org>

This year, HLT (the Human Language Technology Conference) and EMNLP (the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing) will be a joint conference held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada on October 6-8, 2005. This is the first time that these two conferences are being integrated, jointly sponsored by the Human Language Technology Advisory Board and the ACL SIGDAT.

Vancouver, British Columbia, is the largest city in Canada's western-most province. Vancouver is a dynamic, multicultural city set in a spectacular natural environment. Based on 2001 Census, the population of the City of Vancouver is estimated at 582,045. The conference will be held at the Westin Bayshore Resort and Marina. The hotel is located on the Waterfront between Stanley Park, the Pacific Ocean, downtown Vancouver, and Coal Harbor with spectacular views of the Inner Harbor and Coastal Mountains; only a short walk away from North America's largest urban park and minutes from the heart of downtown, shopping centers and restaurants. The weather in Vancouver in October is still quite mild, with an average high of 58 F (14 C).

HLT/EMNLP-05 follows the HLT tradition of promoting interaction between researchers in speech, information retrieval (IR), and traditional natural-language processing (NLP). The program chairs are Chris Brew (NLP), Lee-Feng Chien (IR) and Kristin Kirchoff (speech). Priscilla Rasmussen of ACL will function as Local Arrangements Chair. A distinguished set of 18 area chairs and 157 program committee members with diverse expertise in NLP, IR, and speech will select the papers to be presented.

In addition to the main technical track consisting of invited talks, technical presentations and posters, the conference will have a demonstration program (chaired by Donna Byron (NLP), Anand Venkataraman (speech), and Dell Zhang (IR)) and

two co-located meetings, the Document Understanding Conference (DUC-2005) and the International Workshop on Parsing Technologies (IWPT-05).

The paper submission deadline for the conference was June 3, and a surprisingly large 403 submissions were received. Authors will be notified of decisions on July 29 and final versions are due on August 12. Demonstration proposals are due June 21. Based on the large number of paper submissions, we look forward to a high-quality, diverse technical program.

Coling/ACL2006 Local Organisers' Report Robert Dale and Cécile Paris 18th June 2006

This report provides an update of the status of the local organisational activities for Coling/ACL 2006, to be held in Sydney, Australia, from 17th-21st July 2006.

SUMMARY

Local organisation is proceeding healthily. We have a professional conference organiser on board; we have progressed plans for conference venue, the banquet, and the excursion; we have put up a placeholder website and produced an advance warning flyer; and we have prepared a sponsorship prospectus.

THE DETAILS

1. Personnel and Local Organisation

The local organisation co-chairs are Robert Dale (Macquarie University) and Cécile Paris (CSIRO). Dominique Estival is local sponsorship chair. We have set up a local organising committee with representation from each of the Sydney universities, whose main role will be to provide assistance, particularly with regard to student volunteers, nearer the conference. The conference organisation is being managed by Judy Potter of WellDone Events Pty Ltd, a professional conference organiser (PCO), with whom the co-chairs have been having regular monthly meetings since March 2005.

2. Location and Venue

The main conference will be held on Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st July 2006 in the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (SCEC) at Darling Harbour, Sydney. Some of our community may already be familiar with this venue, since it was used for both IJCAI91 and ICSLP98. Tutorials will be held on Sunday 16th July, and workshops on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July; these satellite events will be located at the University of Technology, Sydney, which is in walking distance of the main conference venue and associated hotels.

So far, 586 rooms have been held at nearby hotels. There are also a number of cheaper options available where room holding is not at this point possible.

3. Conference Centre Logistics

We have reserved space for four parallel sessions during the four days of the main conference, which gives us space for around 160 presentations, plus a number of plenary sessions. We have allocated physical space for 100 posters; our current plan is that poster sessions be held on the Monday and Tuesday evenings, with drinks vouchers being dispensed by poster presenters to those who engage in conversation.

Although Darling Harbour houses many eateries, the logistics involved in getting 700 people to lunch and back in a reasonable time frame lead us to prefer the option of a box lunch incorporated into the registration cost; this option is being explored.

4. Conference Events

We are planning the following:

- a welcome reception on Sunday 16th July at the SCEC;
- a poster session with drinks on the evening of Monday 17th July;
- an excursion, probably involving a trip on Sydney Harbour, on Wednesday 19th July; a particular option is currently being explored in detail;
- the conference banquet on Thursday 20th July, at a venue yet to be decided; we have narrowed down the options to two main candidates.

5. Web Site

The web site has been set up, and a logo developed. Both www.acl2006.org and

www.coling2006.org point to the same place; currently the web site is very simple and is really no more than a place holder, but it will be substantially extended over the coming months. We have identified a local webmaster, Brett Powley.

6. Publicity

A one page flyer colour advertising the event has been prepared for distribution at ACL2005 in Ann Arbor.

7. Finance, Sponsorship and Budgets

A local bank account has been set up. We are now at the point where a float is required to place deposits on various elements.

A sponsorship prospectus has been prepared and is being sent to appropriate organisations in Australia; an international sponsorship effort awaits the appointment of an appropriate individual.

We have explored a number of provisional budgets, but many details remain to be finalised. Much depends on the amount of sponsorship we can raise, which should become clearer over the next six months. Our goal is to keep the registration cost comparable with this year's ACL, but bearing in mind that the event is one day longer.

---End

Future Conference : Site Selection for 2007

Call for proposal to host ACL07 was circulated in our mail list and posted on the website (June 8). The important date is as attached.

I had made informal enquiries to several potential candidates and two potential candidates. One is from the Prague group which expressed a strong interest. The other is from Donia Scott but she later withdrew her intention due to lack of enthusiasm of partners. After distribution of CFP, I have received another enquiry from Heidelberg, Germany (June 19). Professor Peter Hellwig told me in his mail that he would like to make a bid together with EML if there were possibility for their bid to be accepted.

He meant, I think, that he would not waste the effort to prepare a complete bid if other stronger candidates existed. I would like to have comments on the two candidates (Prague and Heidelberg) from the members of the exec and decide whether I would encourage them to prepare their complete bids or not.

Important Dates

- September 23, 2005 Draft proposals due
- October 14, 2005 Conference advisory board evaluates proposals and contacts promising bidders.
- November 11, 2005 Promising bidders provide any requested information.
- December 9, 2005 Bid selected

5. Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups: General

Approval of a new SIG: SIG on Computational Approaches to Semitic Languages

After deliberation of the first proposal by Shuly Wintner, we asked him to revise their constitution in order to guarantee balanced representations from different regions and languages. They added three information officers to the initial two officers of the SIG, Chair and Secretary. The Chair and Secretary are also required to represent different language families. We satisfied with their revisions and I informed him that his proposal was approved.

SIG will be inaugurated at the WS at ACL 2005 and the officers are to be elected in late August.

SIGDAT - 2005 Summer Report (Ken Church, David Yarowsky)

SIGDAT is ACL's special interest group for linguistic data and corpus-based approaches to NLP.

In 2005, SIGDAT will be co-organizing the HLT/EMNLP 2005 joint Conference on Human Language Technology and Empirical Methods in Natural Language

Processing, October 6-8 2005 in Vancouver, Canada. Ray Mooney is General Chair, and Chris Brew, Lee-Feng Chien and Katrin Kirchoff are co-program chairs. The conference received an unexpectedly high 403 full paper submissions, of which fewer than 90 will be accepted, yielding an acceptance rate below 22% and possibly below 20% according a co-program chair. Submissions appear to be of generally high quality, spanning the broader HLT areas of IR, speech and a full spectrum of NLP.

The joint meeting of HLT and EMNLP is a new experiment this year, following on the recent model of HLT/NAACL joint meeting. Because NAACL is co-sponsoring the primary ACL meeting this year, the HLT organizing committee sought other partners with which to organize its annual North American meeting. Also, SIGDAT, which has had a recent pattern of hosting EMNLP in conjunction with the primary ACL meeting, decided to defer to SigNLL which had expressed an interest in hosting CoNLL with ACL-05 and wished to avoid the potentially unproductive overlap of the somewhat similar CoNLL and EMNLP meetings at the same time. SIGDAT considered other stand alone options, but decided that its broader interests in empirical methods matched well with the expansive HLT vision, and decided to experiment with a joint meeting model which could potentially be used again in when future conference organization schedules warrant. In general, SIGDAT is committed to cycling through world regions as is ACL, and in fact had established a pattern of doing so before ACL did. But it does not necessarily wish to hold EMNLP every year directly after the main ACL meeting.

The HLT/EMNLP 2005 joint experiment demonstrates clearly that there is demand for a 2nd major NLP meeting every year (its 403 paper submissions are close to the record number of 438 submissions received by ACL-05 and more than the 348 submissions to ACL-04), and HLT/EMNLP will be a full 3-day parallel-session meeting of roughly the same number of presentations as ACL-05. Another possible conclusion is that there is demand for a non-summer major NLP meeting; HLT/EMNLP's June submission deadline provided a publication forum for broad spring semester NLP research which would otherwise have to wait for summer 2006 for presentation.

In addition to HLT/EMNLP 2005, in 2004 SIGDAT organized a 2-day Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP-2004), held immediately after ACL-04 in Barcelona. Dekang Lin was program chair and Dekai Wu was co-chair. The conference appeared to be quite successful: 257 submissions were received -- substantially more than the 168 submissions to HLT-NAACL 2004 --

and 58 papers accepted (a 22% acceptance rate). The proceedings exceeded 450 pages (much larger than pre-1997 full ACL's), and essentially the entire conference was held in parallel sessions, except for a poster session, plenary lecture and panel session. Thus in terms of scale on several dimensions, EMNLP in recent years is at a similar size to recent HLT-NAACL, NAACL or EACL meetings, and when held as an off-season stand-alone HLT-EMNLP meeting, apparently approaches recent ACL's in size. Thus SIGDAT is pleased to observe the substantial growth of interest in statistical/corpus-based NLP in the past decade.

REPORT ON SIGDIAL ACTIVITIES: July 2004 to June 2005

David Traum, SIGdial President

SIGdial is the ACL and ISCA Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue which was formed in November 1997. More information about SIGdial can be found on the webpages: <http://www.sigdial.org> including an actively updated calendar of upcoming events, resources, and previous reports. Members can join from the webpage, which includes participation in a low-volume, moderated mailing list (mainly conference and job announcements). SIGdial currently has 395 members from 38 countries (up 45 and 10 from last year).

SIGdial is currently led by officers David Traum (President), Wolfgang Minker (Vice President), and Kristiina Jokinen (Secretary), and Science Advisory Committee members Jan Alexandersson, Susan McRoy, Michael McTear, Alexander Rudnicky, Jan van Kuppevelt, and Ronnie Smith. Additional positions are President Emeritus: Laila Dybkjaer, Information officer: Karen Ward, SIG SLUD/JSAI liaison: Syun Tutiya, ISCA Liaison: Rolf Carlson, Mailing List Maintainer: Laurent Romary, Student Liaisons: Holmer Hemsén (Europe), Dan Bohus (America), and Kotaro Funakoshi (Asia), and Stephen Choularton (S Pacific).

SIGdial has held an annual workshop on discourse and dialogue since 2000. The last workshop was held in May 2004, at MIT, just before the HLT/NAACL conference (chairs Candace Sidner and Michael Strube). The next workshop will be in Sept 2005, just before the Interspeech conference in Lisbon, Spain (chairs Wolfgang Minker and Laila Dybkjaer). The 2005 workshop promises to be another great event, with the highest submission rate to date (80 long and short papers). More information on SIGdial workshops can be found here: <http://www.sigdial.org/workshops/>

Just before the 2005 SIGdial workshop, SIGdial has endorsed a new initiative, the Young Researcher's Roundtable on Spoken Dialogue systems. This initiative was started by the student led "Dialogs on Dialogs" reading group at CMU and SIGdial student liaisons. It will allow students and other junior researchers to meet others with similar interests and have small group discussions just prior to the SIGdial workshop and Interspeech conference. Submissions are open until July 1st, or until spaces are filled. More information can be found at <http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/~dod/YRR/index.html>

In addition to the Young Reseseachers Roundtable, SIGdial has also endorsed the following events in the last year:

June 14-16 2004: Affective Dialogue Systems (Kloster Irsee, Germany)

July 19-21: CATALOG '04: 8th Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue (Barcelona, Spain)

Oct 22-24 2004: 2004 AAAI Fall Symposium on Dialogue Systems for Health Communication. (Washington, DC).

March 21-23 AAAI Spring Symposium on Dialogical Robots:

Verbal Interaction with Embodied Agents and Situated Devices (Stanford, CA)

June 3-5: Workshop on Constraints in Discourse (Dortmund, Germany)

July 7: Symposium on Dialogue Modelling and Generation, part of the annual meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

SIGGEN annual report for the period July 2004 to June 2005

SIGGEN, the special interest group in Natural Language Generation has started a number of activities this year. Charles Callaway, David McDonald and Irene Geary were elected as new regular members, David Reitter was elected as the student member and Tilman Becker is staying on the board for another year.

The SIGGEN website is now located at <http://www.siggen.org>

and it is hosted at DFKI. The content has been completely revised, including the who-is-who. At the same time, the mailing-list which doubles as the membership register has been validated and currently has 209 entries.

Also, a regular newsletter has been re-instated, the first issue May/June 2005 has just been published.

SIGGEN is currently preparing for its main event, the bi-annual conference INLG. A call for bids for INLG 2006 has been posted. In the last year, four events have been officially sponsored by SIGGEN:

- EWNLG 2005, the 10th European Workshop on Natural Language Generation
8-10 August 2005, in Aberdeen, Scotland (following IJCAI-2005 in Edinburgh)
<http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/~gwilcock/ENLG-05/>

- 5th Workshop on Computational Models of Natural Argument
30th July 2005, Edinburgh, Scotland (as part of IJCAI-2005)
<http://www.csc.liv.ac.uk/~floriana/CMNA5/>

- Using Corpora for Natural Language Generation
July 14, in Birmingham, England (preceding Corpus Linguistics 2005)
<http://www.itri.brighton.ac.uk/ucnlg/>

- Symposium on Dialogue Modelling and Generation
at the Annual meeting of the Society for Text & Discourse
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
July 7, 2005
<http://lubitsch.lili.uni-bielefeld.de/DMG/>

Tilman Becker,
June 2005

SIGHAN

In 2005 SIGHAN is sponsoring the 4th SIGHAN Workshop on Chinese Language Processing to be held in conjunction with IJCNLP-05 on Jeju Island, Korea, October 14-15, 2005. The CFP and description of the workshop can be viewed at <http://www.sighan.org/swclp4/>

The chairs of this workshop are Gina Levow and Chu-Ren Huang. In conjunction with this workshop SIGHAN is also sponsoring the Second Chinese Word Segmentation Bakeoff. Details and registration information can be found at: <http://www.sighan.org/bakeoff2005/>

There are 105 members on the SIGHAN announcement mailing list, broken down by domain as follows:

Commercial 24

China 23

Education (USA) 22

Hong Kong 6

Taiwan 5

Network 5

Singapore 4

Organization (USA) 4

Japan 3

United Kingdom 2

Canada 2

Sweden 1

Korea 1

France 1

Germany 1

Australia 1

Richard Sproat

Chair, SIGHAN

The main SIGLEX event for 2004-2005 was the election of a new board.

The following members were elected to serve as SIGLEX officers:

President: Rada Mihalcea, University of North Texas

Secretary: Ted Pedersen, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Executive Board:

Stefan Evert, Universitat Stuttgart

Katrin Erk, Saarland University

Claudia Soria, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale (ILC-CNR) Francesca Bertagna,

Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale (ILC-CNR) Diana McCarthy, University of

Sussex Jimmy Lin, University of Maryland

Board Member with Special Portfolio/Webmaster: Ken Litkowski, CL Research

A new Senseval committee was also elected, with Richard Wicentowski (Swarthmore College), Lluís Marquez (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya), and Grace Ngai (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) elected as co-chairs. Preparations for Senseval-4 are underway.

During 2004-2005, SIGLEX has endorsed the following events:

- * Fourth Workshop on RDF/RDFS and OWL in Language Technology: 4th Workshop on NLP and XML (NLPXML-2004), Barcelona, Spain, 25 July 2004, ACL 2004
- * Third International Workshop on DICTIONARY WRITING SYSTEMS (DWS 2004): Brno, Czech Republic, 6-7 September 2004, TSD 2004 (Text, Speech and Dialogue)
- * Workshop on Lexical Resources and the Web for Word Sense Disambiguation: IBERAMIA 2004, Tonantzintla - Puebla, Mexico, 22 November 2004
- * Second workshop on "Applications of GermanNet", Bonn, Germany, 30 March - 1 April, 2005
- * Third International Workshop on Generative Approaches to the Lexicon, Geneva, Switzerland, May 19-21, 2005
- * Workshop on Deep Lexical Acquisition, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 30 June 2005, ACL

2005

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE
PROCESSING (SIGMEDIA) June 10th 2005**

CHAIR: Elisabeth André (University of Augsburg, Germany,
andre@informatik.uni-augsburg.de)

MAILING ADDRESS: andre@informatik.uni-augsburg.de

URL: <http://mm-werkstatt.informatik.uni-augsburg.de/sigmedia/>

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS:

Following the tradition of the successful ISCA Tutorial and Research Workshop on Multi-Modal Dialogue in Mobile Environments (IDS02) in 2002, SIGMEDIA organized another Tutorial and Research workshop on Affective Dialogue Systems (ADS04) in collaboration with the ACL Special Interest Group SIGDial. The workshop took place at Kloster Irsee, Germany from June 14-16, 2004. The organizing committee consisted of: Elisabeth André, University of Augsburg, Germany, Laila Dybkjaer, University of Southern Denmark, Paul Heisterkamp, DaimlerChrysler AG, Germany, and Wolfgang Minker, University of Ulm, Germany. The proceedings have been published in the Springer LNCS series, see <http://www.springeronline.com/3-540-22143-3>

Furthermore, SIGMEDIA has started with the preparation of another Tutorial and Research Workshop on PERCEPTION AND INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES to be held in Kloster Irsee from June 19 to June 21, 2006. The organizing committee consists of: Elisabeth André, University of Augsburg, Germany, Laila Dybkjaer, University of Southern Denmark, Wolfgang Minker, Heiko Neumann and Michael Weber, all three from University of Ulm, Germany. As the previous workshops, this workshop will be organized in collaboration with SIGDial.

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<http://mm-werkstatt.informatik.uni-augsburg.de>

Report for SIGMoL, Mathematics of Language, June 2005 Jim Rogers

We have elected a new Vice-President/President elect, Gerald Penn of U. Toronto. He will take over as President at this year's business meeting.

This year's meeting, MoL9, is being co-located with Formal Grammars as FG/MoL05, Edinburgh, 5--7 August. Forty-one papers were submitted of which 20 have been selected for the program. There will be invited talks by Nicholas Asher, Mark Steedman and one or two more not yet confirmed.

ACL SIGNLL - President's Report 2004-2005

The goals of the SIG are to promote and inform about research on learning in natural language. These are served by (i) the maintenance of an informative and up-to-date website and associated mailing list, and (ii) the organization of an annual event -- The Conference on Natural Language Learning (CoNLL) -- and support of other related activities.

In 2004-2005 SIGNLL has grown to 395 registered members. The officers are: Dan Roth (University of Illinois , Urbana/Champaign), President, and Antal van den Bosch (Tilburg University , The Netherlands), secretary. Erik Tjong Kim Sang (University of Amsterdam , The Netherlands) is the Information officer.

The web-pages, located at URL <http://www.aclweb.org/signll/> and maintained by Erik Tjong Kim Sang, remain an important source of information, complemented by an email list for conference announcements. On the web-site, links can be found to relevant associations, networks, research cooperations, research departments, groups, institutes, individuals, mailing lists, archives, journals, bulletins, conference reports, online papers (including all papers of all CoNLL proceedings), online courses and slides, bibliographies, software, corpora, companies, meta-information sources etc. The main events in 2004-2005 were the eighth and ninth CoNLL meetings (SIGNLL Conference on Natural Language Learning). More information about these events can be obtained from their

web-pages:

<http://www.cnts.ua.ac.be/conll2005/>

<http://www.cnts.ua.ac.be/conll/programme.html>

The eighth CoNLL was organized with HLT-NAACL in May 2004 in Boston , and we reported on it last year in Barcelona . Briefly, it was chaired by Hwee Tou Ng and Ellen Riloff. The shared task was on Semantic Role Labeling, using the PropBank data, organized again by Lluís Màrquez and Xavier Carreras.

The ninth CoNLL was organized with ACL in 2005 in Ann Arbor , by Ido Dagan and Daniel Gildea. The shared task is on Semantic Role Labeling (for the second year in a row), using the PropBank data, organized by Lluís Màrquez and Xavier Carreras.

Invited talks are given by Mark Steedman and Mark Johnson, and there will also be a joint session with the workshop on Psycho-computational Models of Human Language Acquisition.

CoNLL 2005 broke all the records of previous meetings. A record of 70 full papers were submitted, of which 19 were accepted for a full presentation (27.1% acceptance rate) This year marks also a record number of registrants, over 110 at early registration time.

As usual, the shared task is one of the focal points of CoNLL, and drew large participation. A record 22 teams declared that they would participate, and a record 19 teams submitted systems. The shared task continues to have a large impact on research in this area.

We think SIGNLL remains unique in its focus and has had significant impact, partly due to the shared tasks, which have been broadly referenced and have contributed both benchmark data sets that are commonly used outside the CoNLL context and good data point for comparing multiple approaches to problems of interest. We keep striving for complementarity with related SIGDAT events such as EMNLP, and have contributed to this communication by our conference co-location policy.

Dan Roth
SIGNLL President
Urbana , IL
June 15, 2005

SIGPARSE Annual Report, June 2005

The main aim of SIGPARSE is to ensure the continuity of the biennial `International Workshop on Parsing Technologies' (IWPT) series. The last workshop in this series was the one with number 8, which was held in April 2003 in Nancy , France . The 9th International Workshop on Parsing Technologies will be held in conjunction with the

2005 Human Language Technology Conference and the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (HLT/EMNLP) in Vancouver on 9 and 10 October 2005 . Rob Malouf is Programme Chair, Alon Lavie is Logistic Arrangements Chair, and Harry Bunt is General Chair.

On the basis of IWPT 2000, which took place in Trento , Italy , and IWPT 2001, which was held in Beijing , a book has been put together containing revised and edited versions of the best papers from these workshops, edited by Harry Bunt, John Carroll and Giorgio Satta. This book, published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in their Text, Speech and Language Technology series, has appeared under the title "New developments in par sin g technology" in the Fall of 2004.

To facilitate its operation and the communication in the par sin g community, a SIGPARSE website is maintained at the University of Twente by Hendri Hondorp, and a mailing list is operated at CMU by Kenji Sagae.

Harry Bunt, June 2005.

SIGPHON

Report on SIGSEM, June 2005 Patrick Blackburn and Harry Bunt

The major event in which SIGSEM was involved in 2005 was IWCS-6, the Sixth International Workshop on Computational Semantics, which was held on 12 - 14 January 2005 in Tilburg, the Netherlands. The program consisted of 24 submitted talks, 12 short paper poster sessions, and invited talks by:

Dafydd Gibbon (U. Bielefeld)
Alexander Koller (U. Saarbruecken)
Daniel Marcu (ISI, Marina del Rey)
Maarten de Rijke (Amsterdam)

For full details, see the IWCS-6 website
<http://let.uvt.nl/research/TI/sigsem/iwcs/iwcs6>

The workshop had an attendance of 65. Without exception, the paper presentations were of excellent quality; the program committee has had no regrets about their decisions to accept.

Immediately preceding IWCS-6, on 10-11 January 2005, the working group on the Representation of Multimodal Semantic Information held its fourth meeting at Tilburg University. This meeting took the form of a joint workshop with the ISO Task Domain Group TC37/SC4/TDG3 on Semantic Content Representation, and was open to IWCS-6 participants. 34 people participated in the workshop, which featured 6 invited presentations on the work items of the ISO group, by:

Koiti Hasida (AIST, Tokyo)
Harry Bunt (Tilburg U.)
Laurent Romary and Susanne Alt (LORIA, Nancy)
Scott Farrar (U. of Hamburg)
Thierry Declerck (DFKI, Saarbruecken)
Kiyong Lee (Korea U. Seoul)

The presentations were followed by comments from invited experts and extensive discussion. Invited commentators were:

Daniel Marcu
Staffan Larsson
Kees van Deemter
Massimo Poesio
Katrin Erk
Leonoor Oversteegen

For more information see the Working Group's website at
<http://let.uvt.nl/research/TI/sigsem/wg>

Since the last ACL-report was written (June 2004) SIGSEM has endorsed the following events:

--Ninth Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue DIALOR Nancy,

France, June 9-11, 2005

--Workshop on Constraints in Discourse Dortmund, Germany, June 3-5, 2005

--Second Workshop on the Linguistic Dimensions of Prepositions and their Use in Computational Linguistics Formalisms and Applications April 19-21, 2005 (Colchester, UK)

--Catalog '04: Eighth Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue July 19-21, 2004 (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

The next major event organised by SIGSEM will be ICoS-5, the fifth International Workshop on Inference in Computational Semantics. The local organisers will be Ian Pratt-Hartmann and Allan Ramsay of the University of Manchester, and it will be held in Manchester in Easter 2006. The program committee for ICoS-5 is currently being selected.

6. Organizations / Initiatives

ACL Webmaster report Dragomir R. Radev

I started the ACL web site at Columbia 11 years ago. After I left Columbia in 1999, the site remained behind. With time, it became increasingly difficult to maintain the site remotely. Every time something went wrong, I had to go through the Columbia system administrators, who for obvious reasons, did not have the bandwidth to resolve problems of external people efficiently.

It was then great news that in 2004, the entire site (except for the ACL mailing lists which were moved to the University of Michigan) was moved to a commercial provider, 1and1.com. This move was performed by James Sweeney, a U. Michigan MS student who was hired to perform maintenance of the Web site.

Since the site moved to 1and1, we haven't had any significant trouble. It is still important to keep an eye on the accounts and make sure that problems are troubleshooted promptly. Another important thing to worry about is for the contract with 1and1 not to expire.

I would like to commend Sandee Carberry and James Sweeney for all their assistance over the year.

7. Other Reports

Report on the activities of the ACL Natural Language Software Registry, hosted at DFKI in Saarbrücken.

In the last reporting period, main work has been dedicated in adapting the list of descriptors included in the ACL Registry for supporting interoperability of information between various types of repositories, like for example repositories for language data and resources. This work was done within the context of an European eContent Project "INTERA". The automatic communication between the repositories is based on the LREP protocol that has been developed within the INTERA project. Repositories involved were the ACL registry for tools, and the IMDI repository for multimodal language resources. A paper on this has been published at LREC 2004. The second main activity was dedicated into extending the background taxonomy of the ACL Registry towards an ontology and to fully integrate the information delivered by the ACL registry into the more general portal on language technology, also hosted at DFKI (<http://www.lt-world.org/>). For the time being we just copy the ACL Registry information into the LT Portal. We hope to deliver the new version of the ACL registry in the next months, also in the context of an European Project, the IST World project.

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