

NLP4ITA 2013

**Proceedings
of the
Second Workshop
of
Natural Language Processing
for
Improving Textual Accessibility**

**Edited by
Luz Rello, Horacio Saggion, Ricardo Baeza-Yates**

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209 N. Eighth Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
USA
Tel: +1-570-476-8006
Fax: +1-570-476-0860
acl@aclweb.org

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Preface

In recent years there has been an increasing interest in accessibility and usability issues. This interest is mainly due to the greater importance of the Web and the need to provide equal access and equal opportunity to people with diverse disabilities. The role of assistive technologies based on language processing has gained importance as it can be observed from the growing number of efforts (United Nations declarations on universal access to information or the WAI guidelines related to content) and research in conferences and workshops (W4A, ICCHP, ASSETS, SLPAT, etc.). However, language resources and tools to develop assistive technologies are still scarce.

This 2nd Workshop of Natural Language Processing for Improving Textual Accessibility (NLP4ITA) aimed to bring together researchers focused on tools and resources for making textual information more accessible to people with special needs including diverse ranges of hearing and sight disabilities, cognitive disabilities, elderly people, low-literacy readers and adults being alphabetized, among others.

NLP4ITA 2013 received 9 contributions from which 6 papers were accepted. We believe the accepted papers are of high quality and present a mixture of interesting topics.

We would like to thank all people who in one way or another helped in making this workshop a success. Our special thanks go to Kathleen F. McCoy for accepting to give the invited presentation, to the members of the program committee who did an excellent job in reviewing the submitted papers, to Sandra Szasz for designing and updating the NLP4ITA website, and to the NAACL organizers. Last but not least, we would like to thank our authors and the participants of the workshop.

Luz Rello, Horacio Saggion, and Ricardo Baeza-Yates
Barcelona, May 2013

Workshop Organization

Organizers:

Luz Rello, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Horacio Saggion, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Yahoo! Labs & Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain

Invited Speaker:

Prof. Kathleen F. McCoy, University of Delaware, USA

Program Committee:

Sandra Aluisio, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil
Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Yahoo! Labs & Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Delphine Bernhard, University of Strassbourg, France
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Constantin Orasan, University of Wolverhampton, UK
Luz Rello, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Horacio Saggion, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Lucia Specia, University of Wolverhampton, UK
Juan Manuel Torres Moreno, University of Avignon, France
Markel Vigo, University of Manchester, UK
Leo Wanner, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Yeliz Yesilada, Middle East Technical University, Northern Cyprus

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Workshop Program

Friday, June 14

- 9:15–9:30 Opening Remarks by Workshop Chairs
- 9:30–10:00 *A User Study: Technology to Increase Teachers' Linguistic Awareness to Improve Instructional Language Support for English Language Learners*
Jill Burstein, John Sabatini, Jane Shore, Brad Moulder and Jennifer Lentini
- 10:00–10:30 *Open Book: a tool for helping ASD users' semantic comprehension*
Eduard Barbu, Maria Teresa Martín-Valdivia and Luis Alfonso Ureña-López
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00–11:30 *Tools for non-native readers: the case for translation and simplification*
Maxine Eskenazi, Yibin Lin and Oscar Saz
- 11:30–12:30 Invited Talk: *Information Accessibility: More than just text deep*
Kathleen F. McCoy, University of Delaware, USA
- 12:30–14:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00–14:30 *Lexical Tightness and Text Complexity*
Michael Flor, Beata Beigman Klebanov and Kathleen M. Sheehan
- 14:30–15:00 *A System for the Simplification of Numerical Expressions at Different Levels of Understandability*
Susana Bautista, Raquel Hervás, Pablo Gervás, Richard Power and Sandra Williams
- 15:00–15:30 *A Two-Stage Approach for Generating Unbiased Estimates of Text Complexity*
Kathleen M. Sheehan, Michael Flor and Diane Napolitano
- 15:30–16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00–17:00 Final Discussion and Closing Remarks

