MedIR14: Medical Information Retrieval Workshop

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ABSTRACT

Medical information is accessible from diverse sources including the general web, social media, journal articles, and hospital records; users include patients and their families, researchers, practitioners and clinicians. Challenges in medical information retrieval include: diversity of users and user ability; variations in the format, reliability, and quality of biomedical and medical information; the multimedia nature of data; and the need for accuracy and reliability. The aim of the workshop was to bring together researchers interested in medical information search with the goal of identifying specific challenges that need to be addressed to advance the state-of-the-art.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.3.4 [**Information Storage and Retrieval**]: Systems and Software—*xxxxxxxxxxxxx*

Keywords

Medical information retrieval

1. OVERVIEW

Medical information is now accessible from many sources including the general web, social media, journal articles, and hospital records, and is of interest to a wide variety of users including patients and their families, researchers, practitioners and clinicians. There are many challenges in the medical information search space, including: diversity of users (varying categories of information needs, varying levels of medical knowledge, and varying language skills); variations in the format, reliability, and quality of biomedical and medical information; the multimedia nature of data (e.g. health record with clinical notes and images); the need for retrieval of accurate and reliable information; and means to evaluate medical search tools.

The objective of this workshop was to provide a forum to enable the progression of research in medical information retrieval to provide enhanced search services for all users with interests in medical information search. This workshop brought together researchers interested in medical information search to identify specific research challenges that need to be addressed to advance the state-of-the-art and fostered interdisciplinary collaborations towards the meeting of these challenges. To enable this, we encouraged participation from researchers in all fields related to medical information search including mainstream information retrieval, but also natural language processing, multilingual text processing, and medical image analysis.

The workshop topics included, but were not limited to:

- Users and information needs
- Semantics and NLP for medical IR
- Reliability and trust in medical IR
- Personalised search
- Evaluation of medical IR
- Multilingual issues in medical IR
- Multimedia technologies in medical IR
- The role of social media in medical IR

The workshop called for short papers (4 pages) and short position papers (2 pages) describing approaches or ideas / challenges on the topics of the workshop. The workshop programme included regular paper presentations, an invited talk by xxxx, and discussion sessions. A final discussion where we seek to identify specific actions necessary to advance future research and development in the space closed the event. Our aim was to create a dynamic, interactive workshop structured to encourage discussion and active collaboration among attendees.