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IS&T—The Society for Imaging Science and Technology
7003 Kilworth Lane, Springfield, Virginia, 22151 USA
Telephone +1 703 642 9090 (Eastern Time) · Fax +1 703 642 9094
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Introduction

On behalf of the DRR XX (2013) Program Committee, welcome to the Twentieth Document Recognition and Retrieval conference being held in San Francisco, California, United States. DRR is held annually as part of the IS&T/SPIE Symposium on Electronic Imaging. It is one of the leading international document recognition conferences, with a growing presence for related information retrieval research.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the conference, which was first Co-chaired by Luc Vincent and Theo Pavlidis in 1994. There will be a celebration on the first evening of the conference, where there will be sushi and refreshments to commemorate this important event. We thank Google for making this possible, and Brian Hirashiki for his assistance.

A record number of 59 paper submissions were made this year. The previous record was set in 2011 (DRR XVIII) with 54 submissions. 41 papers were accepted (69%), of which 31 were selected for oral presentation (53%, down from 59% last year), and 10 for poster presentation (17%, identical to last year). Our sincerest thanks to the Program Committee and additional referees for helping us create a strong technical program.

For the Best Student Paper Award, 12 authors have submitted 13 papers. We thank Berrin Yanikoglu (chair) and the selection committee for carrying out the difficult task of choosing the winning paper. The winner will be announced in the EI Symposium-wide award ceremony on Wednesday morning of the conference. Google has provided $500 for the Best Student Paper Award again this year, and we are truly grateful for their continued support of the conference.

We are fortunate to have an excellent pair of keynote talks lined up. Ray Smith of Google Research will provide an account of the evolution of Tesseract: “History of the Tesseract OCR Engine: What Worked and What Didn’t (How to Build a World-Class OCR Engine in Less than 20 Years).” And Marti Hearst (University of California, Berkeley), an expert in the areas of information retrieval and search user interfaces will give a talk entitled, “What Does the Future Hold for Search User Interfaces?”

We wish to thank the professionals at SPIE for their assistance with coordinating paper submissions, conference scheduling and resources, and for preparing the final proceedings, and for help with archiving DRR in the DBLP online paper database. Thanks as well to Diana Gonzalez for helping prepare for our anniversary celebration.

We hope that you have an enjoyable and engaging time at DRR this year. Here’s to another twenty years!

Richard Zanibbi
Bertrand Couasnon