INLG 2014

Proceedings of the Eighth International Natural Language Generation Conference

Including

Proceedings of the INLG and SIGDIAL 2014 Joint Session

Organizers:
Margaret Mitchell, Kathleen McCoy, David McDonald, Aoife Cahill

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Philadelphia, PA, USA

The biennial meeting of the ACL Special Interest Group on
Natural Language Generation (SIGGEN)

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Introduction

Welcome to the Eighth International Natural Language Generation Conference (INLG 2014)! INLG is the biennial meeting of the ACL Special Interest Group on Natural Language Generation (SIGGEN). The INLG conference provides the premier forum for the discussion, dissemination, and archiving of research and results in the field of Natural Language Generation (NLG). Previous INLG conferences have been held in Ireland, the USA, Australia, the UK, and Israel. Prior to 2000, INLG meetings were held as international workshops with a history stretching back to 1983. In 2014, INLG is co-located with the 15th Annual SIGDIAL Meeting on Discourse and Dialogue (SIGDIAL 2014), in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

The INLG 2014 program includes presentations of substantial, original, and previously unpublished results on all topics related to natural language generation. This year, INLG received 35 submissions (20 full papers, 12 short papers and 3 demo proposals) from 12 different countries. 10 submissions were accepted as full papers (8 presented orally, 2 as posters), 15 as short papers (4 presented orally, and 11 as posters), and 3 demos. 3 papers (2 long, 1 short) were accepted for a special joint session on generation and dialogue, included in this document. This marks the first year where researchers in SIGDIAL and SIGGEN will come together to discuss issues relevant to both communities. In addition, INLG 2014 includes a keynote address by Marilyn Walker (UCSC), who will talk about generating stories and answers to questions from narrative representations; and Chris Callison-Burch (UPenn), who will talk about large-scale paraphrasing for natural language generation.

The organizing committee would like to offer their thanks to our invited speakers for agreeing to join us and to the authors of all submitted papers. A conference like INLG would not happen without much help from many quarters: the organizers of the last two INLG conferences for sharing their wisdom, specifically, Barbara Di Eugenio (University of Illinois Chicago) for INLG 2012 and Ielka van der Sluis (Groningen) for INLG 2010; the SIGGEN board for allowing us to host the conference and for their assistance; Heather Blackman for administrative support and Denise Maurer for event planning; Verena Rieser, the sponsorship chair; Amanda Stent, for assistance with submissions and registration; Keelan Evanini, for help with local arrangements; and Priscilla Rasmussen at ACL for her enormous help, always extremely prompt and offered with cheerfulness. We have also received sponsorship from Arria, Amazon, Microsoft Research, and ETS, for which we are extremely grateful. Finally, we would like to welcome you to Philadelphia and hope that you have an enjoyable and inspiring visit!

Margaret Mitchell, Kathleen McCoy, David McDonald, and Aoife Cahill
INLG 2014 Co-Chairs

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Margaret Mitchell, Microsoft Research (MSR)
Kathleen McCoy, University of Delaware
David McDonald, Smart Information Flow Technologies (SIFT)
Aoife Cahill, Educational Testing Service (ETS)

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Sandra Williams, The Open University, UK
Luke Zettlemoyer, University of Washington, US

Invited Speakers:

Marilyn Walker, University of California, Santa Cruz
Chris Callison-Burch, University of Pennsylvania

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