

Preface by the Program Chairs

We are delighted to welcome you to the 8th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM 2015), held in Shanghai, China, from Jan. 31 to Feb. 6, 2015. As in the previous years, WSDM continues to be a leading forum for reporting the latest research developments in the field. We are pleased to present here the proceedings of the conference.

We received a total of 238 submissions, out of which 39 were accepted for publication in the proceedings, thus reaching an acceptance rate of 16.4% (compared to 18% last year). The accepted papers are from 44 institutions in 16 countries, making WSDM a truly international forum. This year, oral presentation slots were allocated to all papers. Yet, in order to maintain the single track model that most attendees prefer, we introduced this year short 10-minute presentations. Out of the 39 accepted papers, 18 were assigned such shorter slots, while 21 were assigned longer 20-minute slots. The type of slot was chosen by the Senior PC members and Program Chairs, based on whether the topic and the content of the paper would appeal to a broad group of conference attendees. In addition to oral presentations, authors of all accepted papers were invited to present their work in an interactive poster session.

We would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of the 28 Senior Program Committee members, 220 Program Committee members, and 41 additional reviewers. The credit for creating a high quality technical program goes to them. To recognize the hard work of the best reviewers, which rarely makes it to the public limelight, this year we created Outstanding Reviewer Awards. 3 members of the Senior Program Committee and 27 members of the Program Committee received these awards.

The technical program this year featured keynotes by prominent researchers from the industry and academia, Lada Adamic (Facebook), Michael Franklin (UC Berkeley), and Thorsten Joachims (Cornell University). We thank the keynote speakers for their illuminating talks and for sharing their insights and wisdom with the conference attendees. The program also featured 5 Practice & Experience talks, which were introduced for the first time at WSDM'14. These were presented by Tushar Chandra (Google), Rong Jin (Baidu), Jure Leskovec (Stanford), Kaihua Zhu (Baidu), and Juchao Zhuo (Tencent). We thank the P&E speakers for taking the time off their busy schedules to attend the conference and share their experience in applying recent research results in industrial settings.

We would also like to thank the general chairs, Xueqi Cheng and Hang Li, who were wonderful partners in putting the conference program together, and provided us insightful guidance and advice all along the way.

Finally, we are grateful to the authors and attendees, who are the ones who make this conference possible, and have allowed WSDM to become a wonderful forum to advance Web research and become the premier ACM conference in the field.

We hope that you will find this program interesting and thought-provoking. Our goal was not only to give you the opportunity to share ideas with other researchers and practitioners from around the world, but also to foster new research and innovation in this fascinating Web era.

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