

# Call for papers

## Special Issue on Question Answering

### Information Processing & Management

#### Guest Editors

[Patrick Saint-Dizier](#), IRIT, France

[Marie-Francine Moens](#), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

#### Important dates

Submissions of articles: **April 5, 2009**

Notification to authors: **June 15, 2009**

Final version of accepted papers: **September 13, 2009**

#### Introduction

Question answering is a discipline of information retrieval that is concerned with expressing information needs in the form of natural language statements or questions. In contrast to classical information retrieval where complete documents are considered relevant to the information need, specific pieces of information are returned as an answer. Question answering has its roots decades ago when natural language interfaces to data or knowledge bases were researched. Today, such older technologies are blown in a new life, when we witness the growing power of searching multimedia data (e.g., images, video, text, audio) with natural language expressions, and making inferences over content recognized in text or the other media.

In this special issue we would like to compose a collection of state of the art question answering papers which address the problem from different angles, but are united by the recent technologies for automatically recognizing content in the textual sources and the semi-automatic recognition in other media sources, and by the knowledge representation and reasoning paradigms used. Some more practical issues such as presentation of answers, scalability issues and indexing structures for question answering might also be addressed.

We particularly welcome submissions on, but not limited to, the following topics:

Natural language processing and information extraction for question answering:

- Question analysis, semantic role labeling, discourse analysis
- Recognition and resolution of spatial and temporal relationships
- Content recognition in images, video, audio

Speech interfaces and interactive question answering:

- Improved user models through speech interaction
- Dealing with noisy and uncertain question transcripts
- Interaction design

Knowledge representations and reasoning strategies:

- Formal content representations
- Reasoning strategies
- Handling incompleteness and uncertainty
- Probabilistic inferencing
- Data fusion

Text and multimedia answer generation

Data indexing structures and scalability

Applications of multimedia question answering

## **Submissions**

Submissions for the special topic issue should be high-quality manuscripts on the theoretical, empirical and methodological issues surrounding question answering information retrieval. Submissions should describe original research and not be under consideration in any other forum.

All submissions should be formatted according to the [Information Processing & Management guidelines](#) for papers, references, and citations and should be submitted using the [Elsevier Editorial System for Information Processing and Management](#).

To ensure that all manuscripts are correctly identified for inclusion into the special issue, it is important that authors select Special Issue: Question Answering when they reach the "Article Type" step in the submission process.

Submitted articles will be reviewed according to the Information Processing & Management reviewing criteria and appropriateness to the special topic issue.

## **Program Committee** (might be extended)

Pierre Andrews, University of York, UK  
Mohand Boughanem, Université Paul Sabatier, France  
Gosse Bouma, University of Groningen, The Netherlands  
Johan Bos, University of Roma "La Sapienza", Italy  
Harry Bunt, University of Tilburg, The Netherlands  
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Jerry Hobbs, University of Southern California/ISI, USA  
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Maarten de Rijke, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Tinne Tuytelaars, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium  
Sebastian Varges, University of Trento, Italy

## **Contact**

Contact Patrick Saint-Dizier (stdizier at irit.fr) or Marie-Francine Moens (sien.moens at cs.kuleuven.be) for further information on the CFP.