

# ***Information Processing & Management***

## **Special Issue on Collaborative Information Seeking**

### **Call for Papers**

**Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Today's digital search technologies are designed for a single user working alone, even though prior studies of students (*e.g.*, [1], [4], [6]) and information workers (*e.g.*, [2], [3], [5]) have demonstrated that information seeking is sometimes a collaborative process. Such collaborations are difficult to achieve with existing digital tools, often resulting in high overhead such as undesired redundancy of effort [5].

*Collaborative information seeking* refers to occasions when pairs or groups of people actively work together to satisfy a shared information need. Such collaborations may be synchronous or asynchronous, co-located or remote. Note that collaborative information seeking refers to *explicit* collaboration among group members; this stands in contrast to techniques such as collaborative filtering, recommender, or personalization systems that use data from large numbers of people in order to enhance a single user's experience; participants in these latter types of systems are not explicitly working together towards a shared goal.

Understanding how digital technologies can improve the process and outcomes of collaborative information seeking is an emerging area of research engaging several communities, including researchers in the fields of information retrieval, library sciences, education, human-computer interaction, and computer-supported cooperative work.

In this special issue, we are seeking articles relating to all aspects of digital support for collaborative information seeking, including:

- Articles describing current practices of user groups who may benefit from increased support for collaborative information seeking, emphasizing what designers of digital tools can learn from such current practices.
- Articles describing novel tools that facilitate collaborative information seeking, such as new user interface designs or algorithmic innovations.
- Articles describing evaluations of collaborative information seeking systems, such as lessons learned from observing a system's use or discussion of new evaluation metrics or methodologies relevant to this emerging field.
- Articles proposing theoretical models of collaborative information seeking that account for system organization and/or user behavior.

## **Submission Guidelines**

The deadline for submissions is May 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. All contributions should be submitted through the electronic submission system of *Information Processing & Management*, following the journal guidelines for authors found at:

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/infoproman>

Please upload your document at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ipm/> and choose 'Special Issue: Collab Info Seeking' as the Article Type.

## **Guest Editors**

[Gene Golovchinsky](#), FX Palo Alto Laboratory, Inc.

[Meredith Ringel Morris](#), Microsoft Research

[Jeremy Pickens](#), FX Palo Alto Laboratory, Inc.

If you have any questions regarding the special issue, such as whether your research would be appropriate for this issue, feel free to contact the guest editors at [ipmcs@fxpal.com](mailto:ipmcs@fxpal.com).

## **References**

1. Amershi, S. and Morris, M.R. (2008). CoSearch: A System for Co-located Collaborative Web Search. *Proceedings of CHI 2008*, 1647-1656.
2. Fidel, R., Bruce, H., Pejtersen, A., Dumais, S., Grudin, J., and Poltrock, S. (2000). Collaborative Information Retrieval. *New Review of Information Behavior Research*, 1(1): 235-247.
3. Hansen, P. and Järvelin, K. (2005). Collaborative Information retrieval in an Information-Intensive Domain. *Information Processing and Management*, 41(5): 1101-1119.
4. Large, A., Beheshti, J., and Rahman, T. (2002). Gender Differences in Collaborative Web Searching Behavior: An Elementary School Study. *Information Processing and Management*, 38: 427-433.
5. Morris, M.R. (2008). A Survey of Collaborative Web Search Practices. *Proceedings of CHI 2008*, 1657-1660.
6. Twidale, M., Nichols, D., and Paice, C. (1997). Browsing is a Collaborative Process. *Information Processing and Management*, 33(6): 761-783.