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Abstract

This documents describes the activities carried out for fulfilling deliverable 7.13, the second PROMISE summer school. The activity related to the deliverable, originally planned by August 2013, has been anticipated by 6 months to February 2013 and it has been organized as a winter school instead of a summer school. The topic of the winter school was *Bridging between information retrieval and databases* and it was organized in the mountain town of Bressanone in Italy. The winter school has been a success under several aspects: quality of the scientific program, participation, and overall satisfaction of the participants.









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Executive Summary

The PROMISE Consortium has decided to anticipate by 6 months – to February 2013 respect to August 2013, as originally planned – the second PROMISE "summer" school that has been organized as a winter school instead of a summer school. The focus of the winter school has been *Bridging between Information Retrieval and Databases* and it has been organized in the mountain town of Bressanone in Italy. The winter school has been a success under several aspects: quality of the scientific program, participation, and overall satisfaction of the participants.

The school has been well attended by participants who came from the domain of Information Retrieval or the one of Databases and offered them the possibility of starting to acquire cross-disciplinary competencies. Interestingly enough, the school turned out to be a brainstorming and discussion opportunity also for the lecturers, since they had the occasion of meeting colleagues from a quite different field with their own perspectives on a ground of shared topics and challenges, such as how to envision models and design systems that cross the traditional boundaries between databases and information retrieval, using recent trends such as keyword search as pillars to create those bridges.

17 high quality lecturers from academia and industry were invited to speak on a large variety of topics from introductory talks on databases, information retrieval, experimental evaluation, metrics and statistics to advanced topics such as semantic search, keyword search in databases, semi-structured search, and evaluation both in information retrieval and databases. Focused lectures have been devoted to bridging between information retrieval and databases and to the management and sharing of research data via evaluation infrastructures. Finally, hot topics concerned evaluation with respect to usefulness, crowdsourcing, evaluation on social media, and moving from evaluation to applications.

52 participants from 16 countries attended the courses (17% MsC students, 63% PhD students, 10% post-docs, 10% academic) with a background mostly on databases (32%), information retrieval (40%), both (15%), natural language processing (9%), and other topics. 15 scholarships (supported by ELIAS) have been granted to students to attend the school. The multidisciplinarity of the participants and lectures helped to create many lively discussions and a friendly atmosphere with many questions. Also most of the speakers stayed for the entire week and enriched the discussions as well. Interestingly enough, the school turned out to be a brainstorming and discussion opportunity also for the lecturers, since they had the occasion of meeting colleagues from a different field with their own perspectives on a ground of shared topics and issues.

The ELIAS¹ research networking programme of the European Science Foundation supported the organization of the winter school financially.

To favour discussion and reciprocal knowledge, participants were asked to bring a poster describing their own research activities and plans. A committee was setup to review the posters and the three best posters have been awarded with a small prize and inviting the winners to contribute a short paper on their activities to the volume on the school lectures, currently under preparation.

The following students have been awarded:

• Ke Tao, Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands, "Twinder - Enhancing Twitter Search".

¹http://www.elias-network.eu/





- Mihail Minev, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, "Feature Extraction and Representation for Economic Surveys Dimensionality reduction of news texts using composite features".
- Marc Franco Salvador, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, "Cross-language plagiarism detection using a multilingual semantic network".

The proceedings of the lectures of the winter school are currently under preparation and will be published in the Springer Tutorials series.





1 Introduction

The main mission of the PROMISE EU FP7 network of excellence is to advance the evaluation and benchmarking of multimedia and multilingual information access systems. Together with the ELIAS research network, funded by the European Science Foundation, on information access system evaluation, PROMISE has organized a winter school on "Bridging between Information Retrieval and Databases" as a week long event in Bressanone, Italy, from 4th to 8th February 2013.

The aim of the school was to give participants a grounding in the core topics that constitute the multidisciplinary area of information access and retrieval to unstructured, semi-structured, and structured information. The idea of the school stemmed from the observation that, nowadays, databases are more and more getting into techniques that have traditionally been typical of information retrieval and, viceversa, information retrieval is using more and more database-oriented techniques.

17 high quality lecturers from academia and industry were invited to speak on a large variety of topics from introductory talks on databases, information retrieval, experimental evaluation, metrics and statistics to advanced topics such as semantic search, keyword search in databases, semi-structured search, and evaluation both in information retrieval and databases. Focused lectures have been devoted to bridging between information retrieval and databases and to the management and sharing of research data via evaluation infrastructures. Finally, hot topics concerned evaluation with respect to usefulness, crowdsourcing, evaluation on social media, and moving from evaluation to applications.

The document is organized as follows: Section 2 describes in detail the scientific program of the school and the lectures given; Section 3 reports on the poster session, demonstrating the current research activities of the students attending the school, and the best poster award. Section 4 reports on the user satisfaction survey that has been conducted. Section 5 describes the activities carried out for the scientific dissemination and advertising of the school while Section 6 summarizes the different organizations, projects, and institutions that have collaborated to the school. Finally, Section 7 draws some conclusions and gives an outlook for the next school which will be organized by PROMISE. Appendix A describes the organizing committee of the school, while Appendix B lists the participants who have attended the school, and Appendix C details the program of the school.

2 Lectures

A total of 17 lecturers presented a lecture of 90 minutes on a specific topic. The goal was to have every day aspects of information retrieval and databases, so as to mix the topics and interests of the participants as much as possible.

Introduction to Information Retrieval - Fabio Crestani, University of Lugano, Switzerland

Prof. Crestani offered an introductory lecture to Information Retrieval (IR), reviewing some of the main concepts and providing an understanding of the architecture and functional specification on an IR system. The lecture defined what is IR, why it is hard and why it differs from DataBases

²http://www.promise-noe.eu/events/winter-school-2013/







Figure 1: Different moments of the PROMISE Winter School 2013.

(DB). Then, the whole IR process has been introduced, covering the different steps of indexing and querying.

Introduction to Databases - Maurizio Lenzerini, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Prof. Lenzerini introduced the notion of DB and DataBase Management System (DBMS) covering their distinguishing features, among those: the data model, the data language, a mechanism for specifying and checking integrity constraints, a transaction management, concurrency control and recovery mechanisms, and access control. He then went into the details of the relation model, relation algebra, and provided a brief overview of relational calculus.

Influence of Information Retrieval on Structured Data – Surajit Chaudhuri, Microsoft Research, USA

Dr. Chauduri started reviewing the core technologies used in the context of structured data (online transaction processing, online analytical processing, decision support systems, and data mining) in order to set the stage for the different flavors of search over structured data with particular reference to searching data in enterprises, via business objects, and consumer products over the Web. He then moved beyond searching static structured data by discussing several alternatives for middleware-based architectures.





Semantic Search - Kalina Bontcheva, University of Sheffield, UK

Dr. Bontcheva explained what is semantic search and why is it useful in order to be able to search for "thing" and not just tokens. She then provided details about the semantic annotation and semantic search processes, and the use of ontologies for semantic search. Finally, she discussed several examples of applications of semantic search such as faceted entity search and natural language queries.

The Keyword Search on Databases – Sonia Bergamaschi, University of Modena-Reggio Emilia, Italy

Prof. Bergamaschi presented the problem of extending relational databases with the capability of processing keyword queries by modeling a database as a data graph. She provided a general overview of the keyword search process and a conceptual system architecture for it. Then she reviewed the different keyword search techniques comparing them in terms of expressiveness and easiness of use. Then, she covered the alternatives for creating full-text indexes in databases and the schema-based and graph-based approaches to query them.

The Keymantic and Keyry Approaches for Querying Relational Databases – Francesco Guerra, University of Modena-Reggio Emilia, Italy

Dr. Guerra introduced the Keymantic approach for querying relational databases able to move from keywords to database queries by extending the Hungarian algorithm. Then, he presented the evaluation of the proposed approaches using two real datasets and keyword queries provided by real users. Finally, he presented an alternative approach for mapping from keywords to database queries based on hidden Markov models and its evaluation.

Semistructured Data Search – Krisztian Balog, University of Stavanger, Norway

Prof. Balog introduced the problem of searching and querying semi-structured data, such as XML (eXtensible Markup Data), in order to support users who cannot express their need in structured query languages and to deal with heterogeneity. He discussed how to exploit the structure available in the data for retrieval purposes, the different types of structure we can rely on (document, query, context), and how to use language models for semistructured data search.

Bridging Information Retrieval and Databases – Norbert Fuhr, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Prof. Fuhr discussed how logic can be seen as a bridge between information retrieval and databases where databases look for objects that imply a query while information retrieval adopt a probabilistic approach looking for documents with a high probability of implying a query. The lecture introduced the probabilistic relational model and the possibility of expressing vague predicates both in database and information retrieval systems. Finally, he outlooked at the possibility of designing and develop-





ing general-purpose Information Retrieval Management Systems as it has been done in the past decades for databases.

Information Retrieval Evaluation – Ian Soboroff, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), USA

Dr. Soboroff presented the topic of experimental evaluation in the IR field motivating the need for evaluation in order to assess and improve systems and reviewing its long history in the field from its inception with Cranfield experiments. Then, he discussed as this has evolved in the current paradigm based on test collections and large-scale evaluation initiatives, such as the Text REtrieval Conference (TREC) and went into the details of several issues to be considered when apply this methodology, such as robustness of the experimental collections.

Metrics, Statistics, Tests - Tetsuya Sakai, Microsoft Research Asia, China

Dr. Sakai started introducing traditional IR metrics – both set-based and rank-based – and compared them across several dimensions such as underlying user model, capability of using graded relevance, possibility of normalizing them, discriminative power and so on. Then, advanced metrics have been presented, including those targeting diversity, sessions, summarization, and question answering. Finally, correlation among rankings and statistical testing have been discussed.

Semistructured Data Search Evaluation – Ralf Schenkel, Max-Planck-Institut für Informatik (former) and University of Passau (current), Germany

Prof. Schenkel explained the problem of evaluation information search and access to semistructured data using the experience of the Initiative for XML Retrieval (INEX) as a source of concrete cases and example of tasks, metrics, and statistical analyses.

Evaluation of Semantic Technologies – Peter Mika, Yahoo! Research, Spain

Dr. Mika provided motivations pushing the need for semantic search, providing several examples of applications needing it, and introduced a framework for the evaluation of semantic search technologies. He, then, discussed the case of related entity suggestion as an example of the different evaluation alternatives that can be put in place (evaluation based on usage data, evaluation using experts, side-by-side testing, and bucket testing). He finally concluded presenting the semantic search challenge run by Yahoo!

Evaluation with Respect to Usefulness, Some perspectives from industry – Omar Alonso, Microsoft Bing, USA

Dr. Alonso briefly revised the traditional evaluation methodologies in order to introduce the deep discussion on crowd sourcing, its benefits, and it caveats, supported by several examples and concrete cases. Finally, he discussed whether social features are useful and how we can evaluate their utility





and predict the relevance of a social annotation. Finally, he concluded with a demo of an existing infrastructure for human computation, crowd sourcing, and data analysis.

Sharing Scientific and Research Data – Peter Wittenburg, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinquistics, The Netherlands

Dr. Wittenburg presented how sharing data changed over the time and the various initiatives at European level to foster the creating of common infrastructures for data sharing. He then discussed of the various work flows that need to be put in place for sharing data and the different policies needed to adopt a proper data management plan. Finally, he introduced the problem of long term preservation and curation of shared data.

Evaluation Infrastructures – Nicola Ferro, University of Padua, Italy

Dr. Ferro discussed the meaning and motivation behind the development of an evaluation infrastructure for information retrieval experimental data and then presented a high level conceptual model of the different areas that need to be covered in the information space of information retrieval evaluation. He then presented a possible service-based architecture for such an infrastructure and discussed several alternative applications it is possible to build upon it.

From Evaluation To Applications, beyond evaluating retrieval effectiveness of IR systems – Martin Braschler, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland

Prof. Braschler presented an approach to evaluation of real applications, seen as black-boxes that can be assessed only from the outside, which represents an alternative to the traditional Cranfield paradigm when it comes to evaluating information retrieval systems deployed into real applications. He explained the different criteria and tests to be adopted to conduct such kind of evaluation and then reported the outcome on an actual study conducted on the Web portals of several profit and no-profit organization in the medical, financial, intellectual property, and cultural heritage domains.

Going social for training, tuning and evaluation – Maarten de Rijke, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Prof. de Rijke discussed how to use naturally occurring side-products of user interactions or user generated content creation for training, tuning, and testing purposes. In particular, he presented how to create pseudo test collections, how to exploit click models in order to try to infer the quality of the search results based on logs of user actions, and how to use interleaving in order to try to infer the relative quality of rankers based on examining interactions with combined result lists.

3 Poster Session

To favour discussion and reciprocal knowledge, participants were asked to bring a poster describing their own research activities and plans. A committee was setup to review the posters and the three





best posters have been awarded with a small prize and inviting the winners to contribute a short paper on their activities to the volume on the school lectures, currently under preparation.

The following students have been awarded:

- Ke Tao, Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands, "Twinder Enhancing Twitter Search".
- Mihail Minev, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, "Feature Extraction and Representation for Economic Surveys Dimensionality reduction of news texts using composite features".
- Marc Franco Salvador, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, "Cross-language plagiarism detection using a multilingual semantic network".

4 Satisfaction Questionnaire

A satisfaction survey was conducted to assess the extent to which the participants enjoyed the winter school under several aspects which range from the scientific content to the logistics and organization.

As shown in the breakdown of Figure 2, an analysis of the evaluation forms compiled after the school highlighted that most students very much enjoyed it (97% of the participants) and the atmosphere among participants and lecturers. Most presentations were liked (95% of the participants with 77% highly appreciating the lectures) and the students were generally interested in the different topics offered by the school (95% of the participants with 76% highly interested). We noted a positive correlation (0.78) between the interest in the topics and the perceived quality of the lectures, even if some lectures were initially not regarded as on especially interesting topics have been considered very high quality.

As far as communication and dissemination is concerned, the satisfaction ranged between 70% and 80% for good to very good and come up to almost 100%, considering also the neutral ones.

Other aspects of the logistics were highly appreciated as well, ranging between 80% and 90%, considering also the neutral ones.

5 Dissemination and Advertising

5.1 Web site

A dedicated Web site³ was prepared and kept updated in order to disseminate information and news about the Winter school as well as making all the material of the Winter school available.

Figure 3 shows a screen shoot of the main page of the Web site. In particular, it provides information about:

- the program of the Winter school;
- the lecturers and their short biography;

³http://www.promise-noe.eu/events/winter-school-2013/





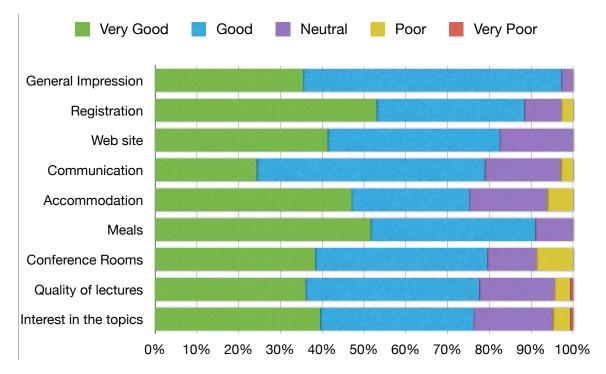


Figure 2: Breakdown of the user satisfaction questionnaire.

- the venue;
- logistics for registration and accommodation;
- the flyer of the winter school;
- the slides of the lectures; and,
- the sponsors.

5.2 Flyer and Poster

Figure 4 shows the flyer that was prepared and used to advertise and disseminate the program of the winter school during various events (conferences, workshops, meetings, . . .) in which PROMISE consortium members participated in the months before the school.

Figure 5 shows the poster that was been sent to all the institutions participating in and organizing the Winter school in order to be displayed at their sites and attract further audience.

5.3 Dissemination in the Scientific Community

The PROMISE Winter school 2013 was announced and advertised on several mailing lists and news letters:





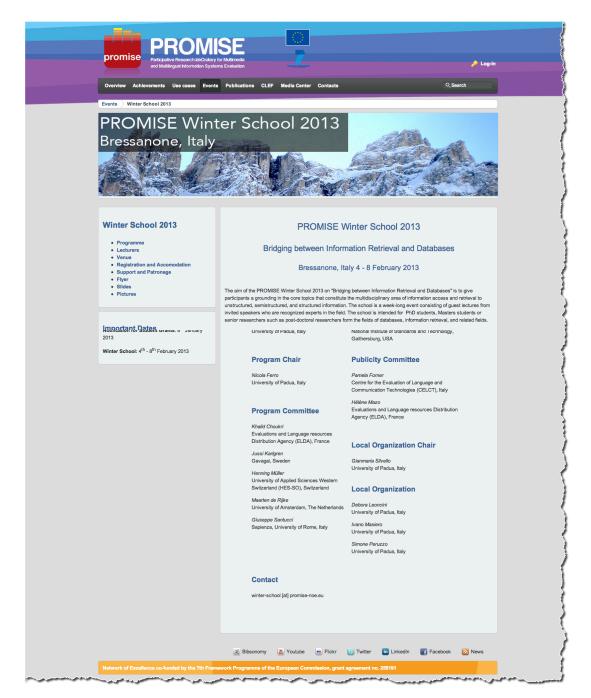


Figure 3: Main page of the PROMISE Winter School 2013 Web site.







Figure 4: Flyer of the PROMISE Winter School 2013.

Evaluation Inivitatives

- CLEF (Conference and Labs of Evaluation Forum, Europe)
- TREC (Text Retrieval Conference, USA)
- TRECvid (TREC Video Retrieval Evaluation, USA)
- NTCIR (NII Test Collection for IR Systems, Japan)
- FIRE (Forum for Information Retrieval Evaluation, India)

· Research field news letters

- SIG-IRList (ACM Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (SIGIR) moderate newsletter)
- DBWorld (ACM Special Interest Group on Management of Data (SIGMOD) moderated newsletter)
- BCS-IRSG list (Information Retrieval Special Interest Group of the BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, UK)
- ASIS-L (American Society for Information Science, General List)
- SIGDL-L (American Society for Information Science, Digital Libraries Interest Group)
- DBItaly (Italian information management systems databases, information retrieval systems, digital libraries moderated newsletter)

European Projects

- Cultura⁴
- Elias⁵
- Europeana⁶

⁴http://www.cultura-strep.eu/

⁵http://www.elias-network.eu/

⁶http://www.europeana.eu/





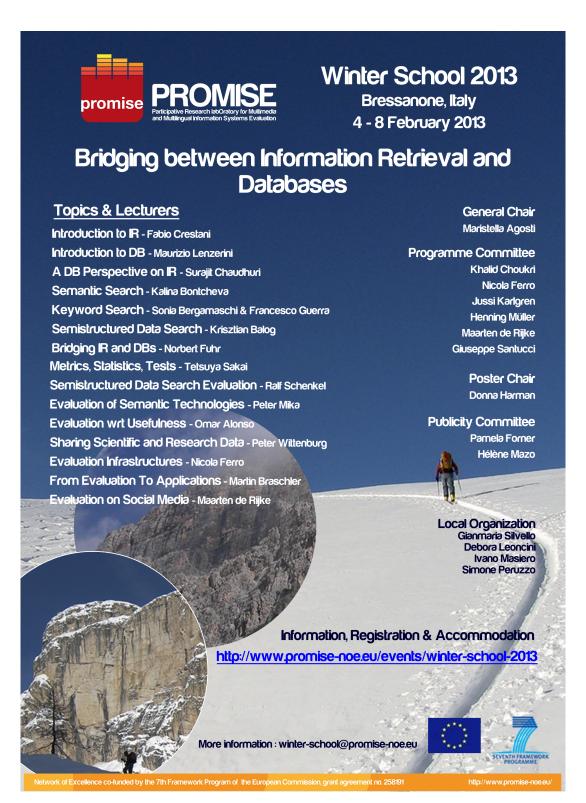


Figure 5: Poster of the PROMISE Winter School 2013.





A brief report on the PROMISE Winter School was published in the ERCIM News, issue of April 2013⁷ [Ferro, 2013]

A more detailed report was submitted to SIGIR Forum⁸ and it appeared in the issue of June 2013 [Agosti et al., 2013].

Finally, a book of the lectures held during the winter school is under preparation and it will be published in the Springer LNCS tutorial series. It will also contain a short paper describing the best student poster evaluated during the poster session.

6 Sponsorships and Patronage

The ELIAS⁹ research networking programme of the European Science Foundation supported grants for students to attend the school.

The school was under the patronage of the Trentino-Alto Adige Region and the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padua.

7 Conclusions

The fact that participants were staying together during all five days of the winter school gave them many possibilities to meet with the other participants and the lecturers. This gave place to many discussions and to a stimulating environment for both the participants and the lecturers.

Altogether the PROMISE winter school can be seen as a great success in connecting two research domains and allowing a large number of participants to get in contact with high quality lecturers. Hopefully an important outcome is that the participants have now a better view of the DB and IR research domains and also on the ways they can evaluated their own research and profit from available tools of visualization. Most participants gave a very positive feedback and hopefully the proceedings of the winter school will also help to keep the main outcomes of the winter school available for the future and persons who could unfortunately not participate.

An analysis of the evaluation forms compiled after the school highlighted that most students very much enjoyed it (97% of the participants) and the atmosphere among participants and lecturers. Most presentations were liked (95% of the participants with 77% highly appreciating the lectures) and the students were generally interested in the different topics offered by the school (95% of the participants with 76% highly interested). We noted a positive correlation (0.78) between the interest in the topics and the perceived quality of the lectures, even if some lectures were initially not regarded as on especially interesting topics have been considered very high quality.

The proceedings of the lectures of the winter school are currently under preparation and will be published in the Springer Tutorials series.

⁷http://ercim-news.ercim.eu/

⁸http://www.sigir.org/forum/

⁹http://www.elias-network.eu/





References

Agosti, M., Ferro, N., and Silvello, G. (2013). PROMISE Winter School 2013: Bridging between Information Retrieval and Databases. *SIGIR Forum*, 47(1):46–52.

Ferro, N. (2013). PROMISE Winter School 2013 on Bridging between Information Retrieval and Databases. *ERCIM News*, 93:56–57.





A Organization

The PROMISE Winter School 2013 was organized by the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padua, Italy.

General Chair

Maristella Agosti, University of Padua, Italy

Program Chair

Nicola Ferro, University of Padua, Italy

Program Committee

Khalid Choukri, Evaluations and Language resources Distribution Agency (ELDA), France Jussi Karlgren, Gavagai, Sweden

Henning Müller, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO), Switzerland Maarten de Rijke, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Giuseppe Santucci, Sapienza, University of Rome, Italy

Poster Chair

Donna Harman, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, USA

Poster Committee

Omar Alonso, Microsoft Bing, USA Sonia Bergamaschi, University of Modena-Reggio Emilia, Italy Fabio Crestani, University of Lugano, Switzerland

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Pamela Forner, Centre for the Evaluation of Language and Communication Technologies (CELCT), Italy

Hèléne Mazo, Evaluations and Language resources Distribution Agency (ELDA), France

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Gianmaria Silvello, University of Padua, Italy





Local Organization

Debora Leoncini, University of Padua, Italy Ivano Masiero, University of Padua, Italy Simone Peruzzo, University of Padua, Italy





B List of Participants

Suranme	Name	Affiliation	Country
Aggarwal	Nitish	Digital Enterprise Research Institute, NUI Galway	Ireland
Akasereh	Mitra	university of Neuchâtel	Switzerland
Akbarova	Gunay	Baku State University	Azerbaijan
Alarfaj	Fawaz	University of Essex	United Kingdom
Andritsos	Periklis	University of Toronto	Canada
Angelini	Marco	University of Rome, "La Sapienza"	Italy
Basalamah	Saleh	Umm Al-Qura University	Saudi Arabia
Bordin	Roberto	Università degli Studi di Trento	Italy
Botkina	Kristina	Saint Petersburg State University of Arts and Culture, faculty of library and information science	Russia
Braunhofer	Matthias	Free University of Bozen - Bolzano	Italy
Collis	Nick	University of Bedford- shire	United Kingdom
Difallah	Djellel Eddine	University of Fribourg	Switzerland
Djafari Naini	Kaweh	Leibniz Universität Han- nover	Germany
Dlugolinsky	Stefan	Institute of Informatics, Slovak Academy of Sci- ences	Slovakia
Elahi	Mehdi	Free University of Bozen - Bolzano	Italy
Flekova	Lucie	Ubiquitous Knowledge Processing Lab (UKP- DIPF), German Institute for Educational Re- search and Educational Information	Germany
Franco Salvador	Marc	Universitat Politècnica de València	Spain





Suranme	Name	Affiliation	Country
Freitas	Andre	DERI, National Univer-	Ireland
		sity of Ireland, Galway	
Friberg-Heppin	Karin	University of Gothen-	Sweden
		bourg	
Graus	David	University of Amsterdam	the Netherlands
Guchev	Vladimir	University of Rome, "La	Italy
		Sapienza"	
Hammad	Heba	British University in	Egypt
		Egypt	
Joseph	Aurélie	LDI / ITESOFT	France
Leoncini	Debora	University of Padua	Italy
Levi	Asher	Tel Aviv Yaffo College	Israel
Luo	Cheng	Tsinghua University	China
Marencheva	Dragica	AECY Puzzle	Macedonia
Mauri	Andrea	Politecnico di Milano	Italia
Minev	Mihail	University of Luxem-	Luxembourg
		bourg	
Mokryn	Osnat	Tel Aviv Yaffo College	Israel
Montesi	Danilo	Univ. of Bologna	Italy
O'Connor-Read	Patrick	Middlesex University	UK
Oosterman	Jasper	Delft University of Tech-	Netherlands
		nology	
Persia	Fabio	Universita' di Napoli Fed-	Italy
		erico II	
Peruzzo	Simone	University of Padua	Italy
Petraki	Eleni	CWI (Centrum Wiskunde	The Netherlands
		Informatica)	
Pham Hoai	Vu	University of Piemonte	Italy
		Orientale "Amedeo Avo-	
		gadro"	
Prokofyev	Roman	University of Fribourg	Switzerland
Reinanda	Ridho	University of Amsterdam	Netherlands
Ren	Zhaochun	University of Amsterdam	the Netherlands
Rietberger	Stefan	Zürich University of Ap-	Switzerland
		plied Sciences (ZHAW)	
Rosiyadi	Dldi	National Taiwan Univer-	Taiwan
		sity of Science and Tech-	
		nology	
sabetghadam	serwah	TU Vlenna	Austria





Suranme	Name	Affiliation	Country
Safarov	Igbal	The University of	United Kingdom
		Sheffield	
Santucci	Giuseppe	University of Rome, "La	Italy
		Sapienza"	
Sartori	Claudio	University of Bologna	Italy
Seleng	Martin	Institute of Informatics,	Slovakia
		Slovak Academy of Sci-	
		ences	
Silvello	Gianmaria	University of Padua	Italy
Tallerås	Kim	Oslo and Akershus Uni-	Norway
		versity College of Ap-	
		plied Sciences	
Tao	Ke	TU Delft	Netherlands
Tonon	Alberto	University of Fribourg	Switzerland
Wylot	Marcin	University of Fribourg	Switzerland

Table 1: List of participants at the PROMISE Winter School 2013.





C Program









Notes	08:30	Lecture 3
	10:00	A Database Perspective on Information Retrieval Surajit Chaudhuri, Microsoft Research, USA
	10:00 10:30	Coffee Break
	10:30	Lecture 4
	12:00	Semantic Search Kalina Bontcheva, University of Sheffield, UK
	12:00 16:30	Free time - Skiing
		Notes









