

Preface

The First International Workshop on Exploitation of Social Media for Emergency Relief and Preparedness (SMERP) (website: <http://www.computing.dcu.ie/~dganguly/smerp2017/>) was organized at Aberdeen, Scotland, UK on April 9, 2017 in conjunction with the 39th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR).

We organized two tracks in the workshop this year:

1. **Peer-review track:** In this track, we invited original research papers related to the theme of the workshop.
2. **Data challenge track:** In this track, we organized a TREC-style evaluation platform by sharing a dataset and inviting researchers to submit their results on the same. This track comprised two tasks, namely, *Text Retrieval* and *Text Summarization*, each consisting of two levels of evaluation.

Five (5) papers were accepted for the Peer-review track. Six (6) teams participated in the Data challenge track with a total of 24 runs submitted in the Text Retrieval task and 11 summaries submitted in the Text Summarization task. The authors of the accepted papers of the Peer-review track and the best performing teams in the Data challenge track were invited to present their work at the workshop. The workshop also hosted two keynote talks (by Muhammad Imran and Richard McCreadie) and fruitful discussion sessions.

We are grateful to the ECIR 2017 committee for allowing us to organize this workshop. We also express our heartfelt gratitude to the participants, keynote speakers, Program Committee members and human annotators for their support.

We look forward to continuing this effort in near future. It will be heartening for us if the shared dataset and research findings reported in SMERP 2017 contribute to the dissemination of knowledge in the social media community worldwide.

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