– Conférence invitée 1 –

Web Search : Social & Collaborative

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- Bio

Prof. Barry Smyth is the Digital Chair of Computer Science in the of Computer Science and Informatics at University College Dublin. He is also the Director of CLARITY, the Centre for Sensor Web Technologies, a Science Foundation Ireland funded research centre that employees 100+ researchers.

Barry's research interests include artificial intelligence and recommender systems. He has published over 350 scientific papers in leading journals and conferences and received numerous awards for his research. Barry is also an experienced entrepreneur, having co-founded ChangingWorlds (acquired by Amdocs Inc, 2008) and a new social search company, HeyStaks, which recently secured 1m in venture capital funding.

- Abstract

The world of web search is usually viewed as a solitary place. Although millions of searchers use services like Google and Yahoo everyday, their individual searches take place in isolation, leaving each searcher to fend for themselves when it comes to finding the right information at the right time. Recently, researchers have begun to question the solitary nature of web search, proposing a more collaborative search model in which groups or users can cooperate to search more effectively.

Indeed, despite the absence of explicit collaboration features from mainstream search engines, there is clear evidence that users implicitly engage in many different forms of collaboration as they search, although, these collaboration "work-arounds" are far from ideal. Naturally, this has motivated researchers to consider how future web search engines might better support different types of collaboration to take advantage of this latent need.

In this talk we focus on some of the ways in which web search may become a more social and collaborative experience. This will include lessons learned from both the theory and practice of a more collaborative approach to web search and we will describe recent attempts to bring collaboration support to mainstream search engines.