RecTour 2017
2nd Workshop on Recommenders in Tourism at ACM RecSys 2017
Como, Italy
August 27th, 2017
http://www.ec.tuwien.ac.at/rectour2017/

Submission deadline extended to June 29th, 2017

Call for Papers
The rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICT) and the Web transformed the tourism domain whereby, today, travellers no longer rely on travel agents/agencies. Indeed, recent studies indicate that they are now active in searching for information and composing their vacation packages according to their specific preferences. When onsite, they search for freely available information about the site itself rather than renting a visitor guide that may be available, but considered to be expensive and sometimes outdated. However, like in many other cases, the blessing of the web comes with a curse – the curse of information overload. Recommender systems are a practical tool for overcoming this information overload. However, the tourism domain is substantially more complicated, and as such, creates huge challenges for those designing tourism focused recommender system. Planning a vacation usually involves searching for a set of products that are interconnected (e.g. means of transportation, lodging, attractions etc.), with a rather limited availability, and where contextual aspects may have a major impact (timing, social context, environmental context). In addition, and most importantly, products are emotionally "loaded" and considered "experience goods;" therefore, decision taking is not only based on rational and objective criteria (i.e., system 2 thinking). As such, providing the right information to visitors of a tourism site at the right time about the site itself and various services nearby is challenging. Thus, this environment makes building effective recommendation systems within tourism extremely challenging.

RecTour 2017 will focus on the specific challenges for recommender systems in the tourism domain. Having a workshop focused on tourism will provide an opportunity for RecSys participants working in this area to discuss specific issues of interest. We also hope to attract additional, domain specific professionals that initially might not consider attending RecSys.

The primary goal of this workshop is to bring together researchers and practitioners from different fields, e.g., tourism, recommender systems, user modelling, user interaction, mobile, ubiquitous and ambient technologies, artificial intelligence and web information systems, so as to discuss and illustrate applications of these technologies in tourism recommender systems of the future. During the workshop, we will identify typical user groups, tasks and roles in order to achieve an adequate personalization and recommendation for tourism applications. Important aspects and topics to be discussed evolve around (but are not limited to):

- Specific applications and case studies (evaluation)
- Specific methods and techniques for tourism recommenders
- Novel ICT and its impact on travel and tourism
- Integrating data – exploiting data from various sources, i.e., catalogues, Linked Open Data, and usage logs

- Context and mobility in tourism
- Cold-start problem in the context of tourism recommenders
- Preference elicitation in tourism
- Emotions and tourism recommenders
- Interaction
    - Interaction concepts with personal (mobile or desktop) and group (on-site public or desktop) displays
    - Information needs, information access (incl. visualisation) and search patterns
    - Collaboration, communication and sharing aspects in the process of tourist information consumption
    - Personalized explanations and feedback of recommendation systems
    - Digital storytelling, narratives, smart summaries and recommendation explanations

Important Dates
Submission deadline: ~~June 22nd, 2017~~ **extended to June 29th, 2017**
Notification: July 18th, 2017
Camera-ready deadline: August 4th, 2017
Deadlines refer to 11:59pm (Anywhere on Earth).

Submission Guidelines
Submission types are long research papers reporting on *complete research* (8 pages plus up to 1 page references), *short papers* reporting on work in progress (4 pages plus up to 1 page references), *position papers* reflecting on emerging topics (2-4 pages), *demonstration systems* showcasing novel aspects or providing the opportunity to interact (demo-summaries 2 pages) as well as *project ideas* discussion innovative research proposals and late breaking ideas (2-4 pages). All contributions must be relevant to the Call for Papers of RecTour 2017.

RecTour 2017 submissions should be prepared in PDF format according to the standard double-column ACM SIG proceedings format. The peer review process is double-blind, i.e., all submissions must not include information identifying the authors or their organization. All submissions and reviews will be handled electronically through the EasyChair submission site: https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=rectour2017.

All excepted submissions will be published in the workshop proceedings (CEUR-WS). Authors of selected papers, moreover, will be invited to submit extended versions of their papers to an upcoming special issue on Internet of Things and Smart Tourism of the Journal of Information Technology & Tourism (JITT) published by Springer.

Organizers
- Julia Neidhardt, TU Wien, Austria
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- Tsvi Kuflik, The University of Haifa, Israel
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