

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Journal of Information Technology & Tourism (JITT)**

#### **Special Issue on Recommender Systems in Tourism**

**Deadline extended to: May 31st, 2017**

Guest editors: Julia Neidhardt, Daniel Fesenmaier, Tsvi Kuflik, and Wolfgang Wörndl

#### **Background**

The focus of this special issue is on the specific challenges for recommender systems in tourism. In particular, there are considerably more complicated scenarios than finding the best product for a user. Planning a vacation usually involves searching for a reasonably large 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 (spatiotemporal context, social context, environmental context). In addition and most importantly, products are emotionally “loaded” and therefore decision taking is not based only on rational and objective criteria. 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. Additionally and in contrast to many other domains, information providers are normally SMEs and do not have full information about available opportunities. Finally, there is no single, standard format to house this information and with this diversity, building effective recommendation systems within the tourism domain is extremely challenging.

The rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in general and the Web in particular has transformed the tourism domain whereby 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the site itself rather than renting a visitor guide that may be available, but considered to be expensive and sometimes outdated.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 have been suggested as a practical tool for overcoming this information overload.

#### **Topics of specific interest**

Important aspects and topics to be discussed evolve around (but are not limited to):

- Specific applications and case studies (evaluation)
- Specific methods and techniques in the domain
- Novel ICT and its impact on travel and tourism
- Integrating data from various sources, i.e., catalogues, Linked Open Data, and usage logs
- Context and mobility
- Cold-Start problem
- Preference elicitation

- Emotions and recommenders
- Group recommenders / Decision making
- Interaction concepts with personal and group (on-site public or desktop) displays
- Information needs, information access (incl. visualization) and search patterns
- Collaboration, communication and sharing aspects in the tourist information consumption
- Personalized explanations and feedback of recommendation systems
- Digital storytelling, narratives, smart summaries and recommendation explanations

### **Submission**

**Papers are required no later than** ~~April 30th, 2017~~ **May 31st, 2017.**

**Notification of outcome will be provided by** ~~June 15th, 2017~~ **July 15th, 2017.**

**Revised papers should be submitted by** ~~August 1st, 2017~~ **September 1st, 2017.**

Please submit manuscripts through the Springer online system (if you are a new author to the system you will be required to create a system login). <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jitt/>

Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before; that it is not under consideration for publication anywhere else; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institute where the work has been carried out.

The publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

The journal imposes no hard limits on the paper length as long as what authors write is important. Submissions that exceed 40 pages in journal format (including illustrations and references) should, however, be accompanied by a short justification as to why a briefer discussion of their research results.

Full author instructions may be found here:

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