Beyond Personalization: The Next Stage of Recommender Systems Research

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ABSTRACT
This workshop intends to bring recommender systems researchers and practitioners together in order to discuss the current state of recommender systems research, both on existing and emerging research topics, and to determine how research in this area should proceed. We are at a pivotal point in recommender systems research where researchers are both looking inward at what recommender systems are and looking outward at where recommender systems can be applied, and the implications of applying them out 'in the wild.' This creates a unique opportunity to both reassess the current state of research and directions research is taking in the near and long term.

Categories and Subject Descriptors
H.3.3 [Information Storage and Retrieval]: Information Search and Retrieval – Information filtering, Retrieval models, Search process

General Terms
Algorithms, Design, Experimentation, Human Factors

Keywords
Recommender Systems, Personalization

1. BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION
In the early days of recommender systems research, most research focused on recommender algorithms, such as collaborative filtering and case-based reasoning. Since then, research has gone off into various directions. Some researchers continued working on the algorithmic aspects of recommenders, including a move to hybrid and group recommenders; others have been researching the application of recommenders in specific domains; yet others focused on user interface aspects of recommender systems.
This has led to the current state in which recommender systems are mature enough to be applied in various adaptive applications and websites. They have been deployed on several large e-commerce websites, such as Amazon.com; they are being integrated into corporate document warehouses; and they are still the center of focus for several research groups around the world. Moreover, these systems are appearing in products and services used by people around the world, such as personalized television programming and Internet-broadcast radio stations, movie recommenders, and even dating services.
This workshop aims to answer questions raised both by researchers and practitioners in order to improve both recommender quality and use. Issues discussed at the workshop will have an effect on these systems—and more importantly, the users of these systems—worldwide.

2. TOPICS AND GOALS
This workshop will focus on the following four main topics:

- **Understanding and trusting recommender systems.** Do users understand and trust the recommendations they receive from recommender systems, what kinds of information do recommenders need to provide to users to build trust, and how difficult is it to regain trust in a recommender if it is lost?

- **User interfaces for recommender systems.** What are good ways to present recommendations to users, how do you integrate recommenders into the displays of existing information systems, and how can interfaces encourage users to provide ratings in order to 'close the loop' for recommendations, that is, how can you get users to consume the items recommended and then tell the system how good the recommendations are?

- **The future of recommendation algorithms and metrics.** How can we generate better individual and group recommendations, develop new metrics and evaluation criteria for recommendations, and achieve cross-domain recommendations?

- **Social consequences and opportunities of recommenders.** How do individuals and groups of people respond to recommendations, how can recommendations be integrated with online and real world communities, and in what ways do recommendations affect social organizations?

3. INTENDED AUDIENCE
The workshop is intended for both established researchers and practitioners in the domain of recommender systems as well as for new researchers and students with interesting ideas on recommender systems and their future. Participants do not have to come from a specific application domain, as long as their research or ideas are on one of the main topics of the workshop.