International Association
for Pattern Recognition –
TC 11 (Reading Systems)

Annual Report to the Executive Committee, September 2016

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<http://www.iapr-tc11.org/>

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# Background Information

## TC11 Leadership Team

For the past six years, TC11 has constituted a leadership team, which is in charge of supporting the research community and its activities. The structure of the leadership team comprises the following roles.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Role | Name | Affiliation | Email |
| Chair | Koichi Kise | Osaka Prefecture University, Japan | kise@cs.osakafu-u.ac.jp |
| Vice Chair | Dimosthenis Karatzas | Computer Vision Centre, Spain | dimos@cvc.uab.es |
| Webmaster | Masakazu Iwamura | Osaka Prefecture University, Japan | masa@cs.osakafu-u.ac.jp |
| Dataset Curators | Marcus Liwicki | German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) | liwicki@dfki.uni-kl.de |
|  | Volkmar Frinken | Onu Technology, San Jose, CA, USAUC Davis, Davis, CA, USA | volkmar@onutechnology.com |
| Newsletter Editor, Education Officer | Gernot Fink | TU Dortmund University, Germany | Gernot.Fink@tu-dortmund.de |

The leadership team was renewed at the beginning of the current period (2014-16), and has been updated to reflect the needs of the TC as required.

During 2015, Dr Volkmar Frinken has joined the TC11 leadership team, in order to assist with the collection and archiving of TC11 public resources, one of the key activities of the TC that due to increased demand required more dedication.

During 2016, Prof Gernot Fink, originally acting as a newsletter editor, has also taken on a new responsibility as education chair. The decision was made in the light of two factors: the first is the continuous organization of the doctoral consortium in the context of the ICDAR conference series (TC11’s main activity), the second is the decision, jointly with TC10, to actively promote and the organization of a TC10/TC11 endorsed biennial summer school, starting in 2016, for which TC10 and TC11 would assume an advisory role.

TC11 has a limited number of activities that require financial support. At the time being we consider that a dedicated treasurer position is not required and the vice-chair acts in this responsibility.

## TC website URL

<http://www.iapr-tc11.org/>

## Number of members

As of September 13th, 2016, there are 1,057 subscribers to the TC-11 mailing list.

## Communication Types Used and Frequency

The main communication channel we use is the TC11 email newsletter, that is sent out once a month. See section 2.2.2 for details.

## Listing of Key Events Usually Organised by the TC

The TC11 organises the following events biennially:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Frequency | Topic area |
| ICDAR | International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition | biennial,odd years | all fields on document analysis and recognition |
| ICFHR | International Conference on Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition | biennial,even years | handwriting recognition and its related areas |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Frequency | Topic area |
| DAS | International Workshop on Document Analysis Systems | biennial,even years | document analysis methods and systems |

In addition, TC11 and its members are involved in the following workshops which are held in conjunction with major events such as ICDAR and ACCV:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Frequency | Topic area |
| CBDAR | International Workshop on Camera-Based Document Analysis and Recognition | biennial,odd years | camera-based analysis of documents |
| MOCR | International Workshop on Multilingual OCR | biennial,odd years | methodologies for multilingual document analysis systems with particular focus on OCR |
| HIP | Historical Document Imaging and Processing | Biennial, odd years | imaging, collection, and processing of historical documents |
| AFHA | Workshop on Automated Forensic Handwriting Analysis | Biennial, odd years | Signature and HW verification / identification, intra- and inter- writer variations |
| IWRR | International Workshop on Robust Reading | Biennial, even years | Scene text localisation, segmentation, and recognition, born-digital and video text |

# Activities in the last Six Months

## Website updates

We continuously maintain and update the TC11 website. Latest additions include the opening of a dedicated section for managing datasets (see section 2.1.6), as well as making public new guidelines and the call for the TC10/11 Summer School organisation (see section 2.2.1)



### Educational information

A list of activities related to education is described in length in the sections below.

#### Focus on Student members of the TC

As part of our responsibility to support the international research community, we strive to ensure that students benefit as much as any other member of the community through attendance at our conferences and workshops. Certain efforts are directed specifically at students to contribute to their training and to the successful development of their careers, as well as to encourage their continued involvement in the field.

At our three major conferences – ICDAR, DAS and ICFHR – as well as in most TC11 endorsed satellite workshops, IAPR Best Student Paper Awards are given to encourage student participation. See, for example, the following websites for more details.

* ICDAR: <http://www.icdar2013.org/program/awards>
 <http://2015.icdar.org/program/awards-winners/>
* DAS: <http://das2014.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/27>
* ICFHR: <http://www.icfhr2014.org/>

Support for lower student registration fees at our conferences: students are always allowed to have lower registration fees at all TC11 conferences. In addition, efforts are also made to arrange for lower-cost student accommodations when possible.

### Tutorials

Over the past period, the following tutorials have been organised in relation to TC11 activities:

**Handwritten Text Recognition: Word-Graphs, Keyword Spotting and Computer Assisted Transcription**, M. Pastor, V. Romero, J.A. Sánchez, A.H. Toselli and E. Vidal, 1-day tutorial in the context of ICFHR 2014

**Automatic signature verification: state of the art and recent trends**, A. Marcelli, G. Pirlo, M. Liwicki, M. Blumenstein, half day tutorial in the context of ICFHR 2014

**Statistical Models for Handwriting Recognition and Retrieval**, G.A. Fink, half day tutorial in the context of ICFHR 2014

**Everything you always wanted to know about Tesseract,** R. Smith,half day tutorial in the context of DAS 2014

**Building Scalable Solutions for Document Retrieval and Recognition,** C.V. Jawahar, P. Kompali,half day tutorial in the context of DAS 2014

**Scene-Text Localization, Recognition, and Understandin**g, Albert Gordo (Xerox Research Center Europe) and Lluís Gómez i Bigordà (Computer Vision Center, Universitat Autonòma de Barcelona), half day tutorial in the context of DAS2016

**Tesseract Blends Old and New OCR Technology**, Ray Smith (Google Inc) , half day tutorial in the context of DAS2016

Planned for 2016:

**Forensic Document Examination: state of the art and open issues**, A. Marcelli, M. Liwicki, D. Impedovo, I. Malik, M. Blumenstein, full day tutorial in the context of ICFHR2016

**Deep Representation Learning for Handwriting Recognition**, Tonghua Su, Guoqiang Zhong, full day tutorial in the context of ICFHR2016

### Description of application areas

* Character and symbol recognition
* Printed/Handwritten text recognition
* Language and script recognition
* Graphics analysis and recognition
* Document processing
* Layout Analysis
* Document information extraction (spotting, entity extraction, etc.)
* Forms reading and parsing
* Mathematical, chemical expressions analysis
* Historical documents and digital libraries
* Document retrieval
* Document based forensics
* Writer identification, Forgery detection
* Signature verification
* Camera and video based scene text analysis
* Text-based image retrieval

### Examples of successful projects

There are many examples of successful projects within the research community, but the TC itself does not directly engage in projects beyond those described elsewhere in this report.

### Demos

The TC itself does directly engage in creating or hosting demos, although certain demo software is hosted or indexed in the TC11 Web site (see section 2.1.6)

### Reference resources (datasets, evaluation tools)

A priority of TC-11 is to encourage and actively promote the open access to research material and resources related to our research field. In this regard the following actions have taken place over the past year.

#### Resources Web Portal

We have recently released an improved Web interface for submitting material to TC-11 that allows among others:

* Online submission of material, including direct uploading of related files
* Unique identifiers for submitted datasets for easy referencing
* Easy versioning
* User ranking
* Downloads counts (which provides an indirect measure of relevance / quality)
* User comments

The new Web portal can be found at http://tc11.cvc.uab.es/

The development of the Web portal has been funded through profits from IAPR related activities ($ 1,297 from the RNN/LSTM tutorial in ICDAR 2013) as well as financial support at the level of 2,520 EUR from the IAPR ExCo. It is our intention to continue the development of this platform, and make it available to other IAPR TCs.

The hosting of datasets and other resources is currently taken care of through infrastructure provided by members of the TC11 leadership team. We consider that hosting of Web pages, including hosting space for datasets, should eventually be tackled centrally for all TCs at the IAPR level.

#### TC-11 Offered Resources – Evolution and Outlook

We have continued collecting new datasets and software. Our strategy over the past years has been to attempt to host material directly on the TC-11 site to ensure a stable repository, rather than provide unstable external links to resources. The majority of datasets on the TC-11 Web site are indeed increasingly hosted by TC-11. We consider this is a major success of TC-11 and an important contribution to the field.

An overview of the current list of resources made available through the TC11 Web site is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. List of resources made available online through the TC11 Web site (compiled July 2015)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Resource Name | Submission Date | Status |
| Complex Text Containers |  |  |
| A Dataset for Arabic Text Detection, Tracking and Recognition in News Videos (AcTiV) | Mar 2016 | Archived |
| IIIT 5K - Word | Feb 2015 | Archived |
| [LRDE Document Binarization Dataset](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/LRDE_Document_Binarization_Dataset_%28LRDE_DBD%29) | May 2013 | Archived |
| [RETAS OCR Evaluation Dataset](http://ciir.cs.umass.edu/downloads/ocr-evaluation/) | May 2013 | Linked |
| [MSRA Text Detection 500 Database (MSRA-TD500)](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/MSRA_Text_Detection_500_Database_%28MSRA-TD500%29%22%20%5Co%20%22MSRA%20Text%20Detection%20500%20Database%20%28MSRA-TD500%29) | Oct 2012 | Archived |
| [The Street View Text Dataset](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/The_Street_View_Text_Dataset) | Oct 2012 | Archived |
| [The Street View House Numbers (SVHN) Dataset](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/The_Street_View_House_Numbers_%28SVHN%29_Dataset) | Jan 2012 | Archived |
| [NEOCR: Natural Environment OCR Dataset](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/NEOCR%3A_Natural_Environment_OCR_Dataset) | Oct 2011 | Archived |
| [KAIST Scene Text Database](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/KAIST_Scene_Text_Database) | Jan 2011 | Archived |
| [ICDAR 2003 Robust Reading Competitions](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/ICDAR_2003_Robust_Reading_Competitions) | Jun 2011 | Archived |
| [ICDAR 2005 Robust Reading Competitions](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/ICDAR_2005_Robust_Reading_Competitions) | Jun 2011 | Archived |
| Machine-printed Documents |  |  |
| TANGO-DocLab web tables from international statistical sites | Mar 2016 | Archived |
| [DFKI Dewarping Contest Dataset (CBDAR 2007)](http://www.dfki.uni-kl.de/~shafait/downloads.html) | Mar 2011 | Linked |
| [PRImA Layout Analysis Dataset](http://dataset.primaresearch.org/) | Jan 2011 | Linked |
| [Table Ground Truth for the UW3 and UNLV datasets](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/Table_Ground_Truth_for_the_UW3_and_UNLV_datasets) | May 2010 | Archived |
| [The DocLab Dataset for Evaluating Table Interpretation Methods](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/The_DocLab_Dataset_for_Evaluating_Table_Interpretation_Methods) | Aug 2010 | Archived |
| [APTI: Arabic Printed Text Image Database](http://diuf.unifr.ch/diva/APTI/) | Nov 2009 | Linked |
| Graphical Documents |  |  |
| [TradeMarks Image Database](http://www.eurecom.fr/~huet/work.html) | Sep 2012 | Archived |
| [Braille Dataset - Shiraz University](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/Braille_Dataset_-_Shiraz_University) | Jul 2011 | Archived |
| [Chem-Infty Dataset](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/Chem-Infty_Dataset%3A_A_ground-truthed_dataset_of_Chemical_Structure_Images) | Jun 2010 | Archived |
| Mixed Content Documents |  |  |
| [Tobacco800 Document Image Database](http://www.umiacs.umd.edu/~zhugy/Tobacco800.html) | Jan 2011 | Linked |
| Handwritten Documents |  |  |
| Signature Verification (SigWiComp2013) | Feb 2015 | Archived |
| ICFHR 2014 CROME competition, for mathematical symbols  | Feb 2015 | Archived |
| ICFHR 2013 Gender Identification Competition Dataset | Jan 2015 | Archived |
| Persian Heritage Image Binarization Dataset (PHIBD 2012) | May 2013 | Archived |
| [The Rimes Database](http://www.rimes-database.fr/wiki/doku.php) | May 2013 | Linked |
| [ICFHR 2012 Signature Verification Competition](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/ICFHR_2012_Signature_Verification_Competition_%284NSigComp2012%29) | Jun 2012 | Archived |
| [ICFHR 2010 Signature Verification Competition](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/ICFHR_2010_Signature_Verification_Competition_%284NSigComp2010%29%22%20%5Co%20%22ICFHR%202010%20Signature%20Verification%20Competition%20%284NSigComp2010%29) | Jun 2012 | Archived |
| [ICDAR 2011 Signature Verification Competition](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/ICDAR_2011_Signature_Verification_Competition_%28SigComp2011%29) | Jan 2012 | Archived |
| [ICDAR 2009 Signature Verification Competition](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/ICDAR_2009_Signature_Verification_Competition_%28SigComp2009%29) | Jan 2012 | Archived |
| [CROHME: Online Handwritten Mathematical Expressions](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/CROHME%3A_Competition_on_Recognition_of_Online_Handwritten_Mathematical_Expressions%22%20%5Co%20%22CROHME%3A%20Competition%20on%20Recognition%20of%20Online%20Handwritten%20Mathematical%20Expressions) | Oct 2012 | Archived |
| [HIT-OR3C](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/Harbin_Institute_of_Technology_Opening_Recognition_Corpus_for_Chinese_Characters_%28HIT-OR3C%29) | Apr 2012 | Archived |
| [CASIA Online and Offline Chinese Handwriting Databases](http://www.nlpr.ia.ac.cn/databases/handwriting/Home.html) | Mar 2011 | Linked |
| [The GERMANA Dataset](http://prhlt.iti.upv.es/page/projects/multimodal/idoc/germana) | Feb 2011 | Linked |
| [The RODRIGO Dataset](http://prhlt.iti.upv.es/page/projects/multimodal/idoc/rodrigo) | Feb 2011 | Linked |
| [Devanagari Character Dataset](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/Devanagari_Character_Dataset) | Nov 2010 | Archived |
| [IAM Online Document Database (IAMonDo-database)](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/IAM_Online_Document_Database_%28IAMonDo-database%29) | Jun 2010 | Archived |
| [IAM On-Line Handwriting Database](http://www.iam.unibe.ch/fki/databases/iam-on-line-handwriting-database) | Mar 2010 | Linked |
| [IBN SINA: Arabic manuscripts images](http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/IBN_SINA%3A_A_database_for_research_on_processing_and_understanding_of_Arabic_manuscripts_images) | May 2010 | Archived |
| [UNIPEN database](http://hwr.nici.kun.nl/unipen/) | Aug 2009 | Linked |
| [Nakagawa Lab Online Handwriting Database](http://www.tuat.ac.jp/~nakagawa/database/) | Aug 2009 | Linked |
| [The Informal Competition of Recognizing On-line Words (ICROW)](http://www.ai.rug.nl/~lambert/unipen/icdar-03-competition/) | Aug 2009 | Linked |
| [CEDAR Off-line Handwriting CDROM1](http://www.cedar.buffalo.edu/Databases/CDROM1/%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.cedar.buffalo.edu/Databases/CDROM1/) | Aug 2009 | Linked |
| [IAM Database](http://www.iam.unibe.ch/fki/databases/iam-handwriting-database) | Aug 2009 | Linked |
| [MARG- Medical Article Records Groundtruth](http://marg.nlm.nih.gov/) | Aug 2009 | Linked |
| [Hindi font samples](http://kornai.com/Hindi/) | Aug 2009 | Linked |
| Software and Tools |  |  |
| [Europeana API](http://labs.europeana.eu/api/) | July 2014 | Linked |
| [Tools from the IMPACT Centre of Competence](http://www.digitisation.eu/tools/) | July 2014 | Linked |
| [PixLabeler](http://www2.parc.com/isl/groups/pda/pixlabeler/index.html) | Jun 2012 | Linked |
| [OCRopus(tm)](http://code.google.com/p/ocropus/) | Jun 2012 | Linked |
| [The Hidden Markov Model Toolkit (HTK)](http://htk.eng.cam.ac.uk/) | Jun 2012 | Linked |
| [Bidirectional Long-Short Term Memory Networks](https://github.com/meierue/RNNLIB) | Jun 2012 | Linked |
| [SRILM - The SRI Language Modeling Toolkit](http://www.speech.sri.com/projects/srilm/) | Jun 2012 | Linked |
| [Torch 5](http://torch5.sourceforge.net/) | Jun 2012 | Linked |
| [PRTools](http://www.prtools.org/) | Jun 2012 | Linked |
| [GEDI: Groundtruthing Environment for Document Images](http://lampsrv02.umiacs.umd.edu/projdb/project.php?id=53) | Feb 2011 | Linked |
| Ground Truths |
| Ground Truth for tables in dataset UNLV | Jun 2014 | Archived |
| Ground Truth for tables in dataset UNLV | Jun 2014 | Archived |

#### Policies and Dataset Sourcing Activities

One of the priorities defined at the start of our term was to maintain an active attitude in soliciting datasets and increase the visibility of the TC-11 Web site as the prime place to host datasets and other resources relevant to the field. One way to increase visibility has been to announce new material archived through the TC-11 newsletter, giving thus further incentives for authors to submit resources to the TC-11.

On the other hand, we actively invite authors who present new datasets or other relevant material at TC-11 conferences to provide such materials to TC-11 for archiving. This seems to work, by creating good responses especially after TC-11 conferences. As an indication, following this practice over the past years we have archived on the TC-11 site relevant material originally published in the conferences listed below. It can be appreciated that while only TC-11 events were covered until 2009, over the past years the reach of TC-11 has expanded over and above our own events, sourcing relevant resources to the field from an increasing number of leading conferences.

## Research Initiatives

### Events Organised

#### Conferences and Workshops During the Reporting Period

During the period covered by the report, the following events were organized by TC11 or are planned to take place in the near future. All events are active as shown in the statistics of the number of presented papers as well as participants.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Dates | Venue | Stats & URL |
| DAS 2016 | April 11-14, 2016 | Santorini, Greece | # submitted papers: 162# accepted papers: 78 (32 oral, 46 poster)# participants: 126<http://www.primaresearch.org/das2016/>  |
| ICDAR2015 | August 23-26, 2015 | Nancy, France | # submitted papers: 401# accepted papers: 230 (89 oral, 141 poster)<http://2015.icdar.org/>  |
| ICFHR2014 | September18-20,2012 | Bari, Italy | # submitted papers: 158# accepted papers: 132# participants: over 150<http://www.icfhr2012.uniba.it/>  |
| DAS 2014 | April 7-10, 2014 | Tours, Loire Valley, France | # submitted papers: 138# accepted papers: 73 (27 oral, 46 poster)# participants: 145<http://das2014.sciencesconf.org/>  |

In addition to the above key events, TC members are also involved in the organization of several other events, some of which are endorsed by IAPR.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Dates | Venue | URL, etc. |
| IWRR 2016 | Oct. 9, 2016 | Amsterdam, The Netherlands | <http://www.cvc.uab.es/iwrr2016>in conjunction with ECCV 2016 |
| MOCR2015 | August 22,2015 | Nancy, France | <http://www.cubs.buffalo.edu/MOCR2015/> in conjunction with ICDAR2015 |
| HIP2015 | August22,2015 | Nancy, France | <http://hip2015.irisa.fr/> in conjunction with ICDAR2015 |
| CBDAR2015 | August 222015 | Nancy, France | <http://www.cvc.uab.es/cbdar2015/> in conjunction with ICDAR2015 |
| AFHA2015 | August 22, 2015 | Nancy, France | <http://www.dfki.uni-kl.de/afha2015/index.html> in conjunction with ICDAR 2015 |
| IWRR 2014 | Nov. 2, 2014 | Singapore | <http://imlab.jp/iwrr2014/>in conjunction with ACCV 2014 |

#### 3rd Int. Document Image Processing School

Apart from conferences and workshops, TC11 has endorsed the organisation of the 3rd Int. School on Document Image Processing, which took place in Kefalonia, Greece, in 24-27 June 2015. It was attended by seven students, and comprised 10 two-hour lectures, four case study presentations, and a poster session. Student feedback has been overly positive, with suggestions for including hands-on sessions in possible future editions. The Web site of the event is: <http://samosweb.aegean.gr/idips2015/>

#### 1st TC10/TC11 Summer School on Document Analysis: Document Informatics

In an effort to create an umbrella around the TC11 educational activities, and to create the mechanisms to ensure sustained quality of the activities and equal opportunities for participation by the whole TC11 membership, the TC11 leadership committee decided to put forth a call for organizing a biennial summer school on document analysis. We coordinated with TC10 in order to unify efforts in this sense, and prepared guidelines for organizing and bidding to host the TC10/TC11 Summer School which can be found on the TC11 Web site[[1]](#footnote-1).

A Summer School evaluation board was set up to evaluate submitted bids, with the participation of 6 ex-officio members (TC10 and TC11 chairs, vice-chairs and education officers) and two external members. The intention is for the committee to evolve into a 3-member Steering Committee as explained in the guidelines after the first edition of the summer school takes place. For evaluating proposals for the 2016 call, the Summer School evaluation board was composed by:

- Gernot Fink (TC11 educational officer, Europe)

- Alicia Fornes (TC10 educational officer, Europe)

- Koichi Kise (TC11 Chair, Asia)

- Rafael Lins (TC10 Chair, America)

- Dimosthenis Karatzas (TC11 Vice-chair, Europe)

- Bart Lamiroy (TC10 Vice-chair, Europe)

- Cheng-Lin Liu (IAPR Educational Committee, Asia)

- Srirangaraj Setlur (IAPR Conferences and Meetings Committee, America)

The call for receiving biddings was published in the May 2015 newsletters of TC10 and TC11, with a deadline set for August 2015, later extended to October 2015. Two bids were received, out of which one was withdrawn shortly after. The one remaining bid was evaluated and finally endorsed by TC10 and TC11 after two rounds of improvements. The details of the accepted activity are as follows.

Dates: Jan 23 to Jan 28, 2017

Location: Jaipur, India

Web: <http://cvit.iiit.ac.in/SSDA/>

Organizers: Santanu Chaudhuri (CEERI/IITD), Venu Govindaraju (SUNY Buffalo), C. V. Jawajhar (IIIT Hyderabad)

#### 3rd ICDAR Doctoral Consortium

TC11, in collaboration with TC10, organized once more the ICDAR Doctoral Consortium, in the context of the 2015 edition of the conference.

The ICDAR Doctoral Consortium is considered a core activity of the ICDAR conference series. The goal of the Doctoral Consortium is to create an opportunity for Ph.D. students to test their research ideas, present their current progress and future plans, and receive constructive criticism and insights related to their future work and career perspectives. A mentor (a senior researcher who is active in the field) is assigned to each student to provide individual feedback. In addition, students have the opportunity to present an overview of their research plan during a special poster session.

Through an open call for participation, 18 Ph.D. students registered for the third edition of the ICDAR Doctoral Consortium. For every PhD student a dedicated mentor was assigned who were called upon among mentors from previous DCs and senior members of the research community. There were no registration fees for the Ph.D. students or their assigned mentors. The event took place the day before the main ICDAR conference, on the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 23. The schedule was as follows:

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm: Welcome and short talk: “A Traveller's Guide to the PhD” (see: <http://patrec.cs.tu-dortmund.de/pubs/papers/Fink2015-ATG.pdf>)

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Brief oral introductions to student research plans (poster teasers)

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm: Coffee break

3:20 pm – 5:00 pm: Student poster session with discussion and feedback

Further details regarding the 2015 ICDAR Doctoral Consortium can be found on the conference website: <http://2015.icdar.org/doctoral-consortium/>

### Publicity / Dissemination Activities

Over the past years, we continued to employ two types of communication: our Web site and a monthly email newsletter.

The TC11 newsletter, which is published every month, distributes the following information to its readership:

* regular content:
	+ overview of most important conference-related dates (especially paper submission deadlines)
	+ overview of new and recently published Datasets (introduced 10/2012), which is intended to increase the general awareness of publicly available datasets and to promote their use for benchmarking in future research efforts and related publications
* on-demand content:
	+ new/updated calls-for-papers for TC-11 related conferences and workshops as well as journal special issues and books
	+ detailed announcements of new datasets available via the TC-11 website (in addition to the new overview section on "New and Recently Published Datasets")
	+ job opportunities
	+ event reports (conferences, workshops)

The TC-11 Web site provides visitors an up-to-date calendar of upcoming and past events of TC11 interests, newsletter archives, and related datasets. With the support of IAPR we have created a Web portal that facilitates the collection and archiving of new resources (see section 2.1.6)

Past newsletters are archived online on our website: <http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/Newsletter_Archive>.

# Plans (timeline Until ICPR 2016 and Beyond)

We have the following plan for the period 2015-2016.

### Social media

In addition to the monthly newsletter, we will investigate the option of using social media such as twitter and LinkedIn for supporting TC11 members. The introduction of an assistant from the TC11 community would be planned to support the management of such platforms.

### Improving the Quality of the ICDAR conference

The ICDAR 2017 organizing team in close cooperation with the ICDAR advisory board is currently debating a number of changes for making ICDAR, our main conference series, more attractive to the research community. This follows a line of continuous improvements that we have started implementing since 2013.

In ICDAR2013, we introduced the “rebuttal process” to make the reviewing process more reasonable and transparent to authors. In ICDAR2015, we introduced “area chairs” to evaluate reviews and rebuttals at a higher detail. We expect that with a reasonable control of the acceptance rate along with the above new trials, the conference will be more attractive and meaningful for many researchers.

# Recommendation to ExCo for TC leadership team for 2016-2018 term

The recommendation for the period 2016-18 is that the current vice-chair, Dr Dimosthenis Karatzas, assumes the role of the chair. The exact composition of the new leadership team should be decided by the new chair when appointed. A number of observations made by the current leadership team, that might be helpful in this process, are listed below.

Most of the members of the current leadership team have been serving in their posts for 4 terms already. It is therefore recommended that there is a healthy amount of renewal, with the aim to involve new members of the community in leadership roles.

Historically, the TC11 chair and vice-chair come from different continents in order to respect the wide geographic distribution of the TC11 membership. The composition of the leadership team, to the extent possible, should reflect the same principle. It is highly recommended that appropriate effort is taken to preserve the above principle in the composition of the new leadership team.

In terms of roles, during the current term we have identified the need to place more emphasis on communication, over and above the email-based newsletter, ensuring some presence in social media. At the same time, educational activities are becoming quite important and demanding, and might require more dedication. It is recommended that these findings are taken into account when constituting the new leadership team.

1. <http://www.iapr-tc11.org/mediawiki/index.php/Guidelines_for_Organising_and_Bidding_to_Host_the_TC10_/_TC11_Summer_School> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)