

ACL-05

**Second Workshop
on
Effective Tools and Methodologies
for
Teaching
Natural Language Processing
and Computational Linguistics**

Proceedings

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Introduction

This is the second workshop on effective tools and methodologies for teaching NLP and Computational Linguistics. Recurring themes are the interdisciplinarity of the subject and the unexpected mismatches between student background and what the instructor initially assumed. Some papers talk about particular tools and assignments: are spelling checkers really as cool as we think? how much can students be persuaded to like error analysis? is it fair to ask students to use research software when they could be learning about more generally applicable tools? Others describe teaching approaches conditioned by particular institutional and educational needs: what is it like teaching in a situation where students typically can't afford to buy even one textbook? can multiple universities co-ordinate a continent-wide curriculum? There is a consistent and welcome effort to discuss not only successes but also decisions that seem, at least in retrospect, to have been mistakes. We hope that all aspects of the sharing of experience begun in the papers will continue during the workshop itself.

We are grateful to all the authors who submitted papers, and the following people, who served on the program committee.

Steven Bird, University of Melbourne, Australia
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We are also grateful to our home institutions for encouragement and support in working on our own teaching.

Chris Brew and Dragomir Radev

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Conference Program

Saturday, June 25, 2005

09:00–09:20 Opening session

Session 1: NLP/CL in the curriculum

09:20–09:40 *Teaching Applied Natural Language Processing: Triumphs and Tribulations*
Marti Hearst

09:40–10:00 *Teaching Dialogue to Interdisciplinary Teams through Toolkits*
Justine Cassell and Matthew Stone

10:00–10:20 *“Language and Computers”: Creating an Introduction for a General Undergraduate Audience*
Chris Brew, Markus Dickinson and W. Detmar Meurers

10:30–11:00 Break

Session 2: Assignments and tools

11:00–11:20 *A Core-Tools Statistical NLP Course*
Dan Klein

11:20–11:40 *Web-based Interfaces for Natural Language Processing Tools*
Marc Light, Robert Arens and Xin Lu

11:40–12:00 *Making Hidden Markov Models More Transparent*
Nashira Lincoln and Marc Light

12:00–12:20 *Concrete Assignments for Teaching NLP in an M.S. Program*
Reva Freedman

12:30–14:00 Lunch

Saturday, June 25, 2005 (continued)

Panel: The NLP/CL curriculum

14:00–16:00 Panel on the NLP/CL curriculum

16:00–16:30 Break

Session 3: Teaching NLP/CL to diverse audiences

- 16:30–16:50 *Language Technology from a European Perspective*
Hans Uszkoreit, Valia Kordoni, Vladislav Kubon, Michael Rosner and Sabine Kirchmeier-Andersen
- 16:50–17:10 *Natural Language Processing at the School of Information Studies for Africa*
Björn Gambäck, Gunnar Eriksson and Athanassia Fourla
- 17:10–17:30 *Teaching Language Technology at the North-West University*
Suléne Pilon, Gerhard B Van Huyssteen and Bertus Van Rooy
- 17:30–17:50 *Hands-On NLP for an Interdisciplinary Audience*
Elizabeth Liddy and Nancy McCracken