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Bellogin, A., Boratto, L., Cena, F., Cossatin, A. G., Huibers, T., Kleanthous, S., Lex, E., Landoni, M., Pera, M. S., & More Authors (2026). Preface. In *Advances in Bias, Fairness, and Understudied Users in Information Retrieval: 6th International Workshop, BIAS 2025, and 2nd International Workshop, IR4U2 2025, Padua, Italy, July 17, 2025, Revised Selected Papers* (Vol. 2786 CCIS, pp. v-vi). (Communications in Computer and Information Science).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-12717-4>

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Communications in Computer and Information Science

2786

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Editors


Advances in Bias, Fairness, and Understudied Users in Information Retrieval

6th International Workshop, BIAS 2025
and 2nd International Workshop, IR4U2 2025
Padua, Italy, July 17, 2025
Revised Selected Papers

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ISSN 1865-0929 ISSN 1865-0937 (electronic)
Communications in Computer and Information Science
ISBN 978-3-032-12716-7 ISBN 978-3-032-12717-4 (eBook)
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-12717-4>

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Preface

This volume of Springer's Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS) series contains the accepted papers presented at the Sixth International Workshop on Algorithmic Bias in Search and Recommendation (BIAS 2025) and the Second International Workshop on Information Retrieval for Understudied Users (IR4U2 2025), held as part of the 48th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR 2025) on July 17, 2025 in Padua, Italy. The decision to present their proceedings together in this joint volume was motivated by their shared focus on responsible and inclusive information access. This choice not only reflects their complementary scopes but also provides a unified resource for readers, fostering visibility, coherence, and cross-fertilization of ideas across the two research communities.

The BIAS 2025 workshop was organized by Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain), University of Cagliari (Italy), Open University of Cyprus (Cyprus), and Graz University of Technology (Austria). This edition received a total of 7 submissions. Each submission underwent a rigorous double-blind review process, with evaluations conducted by a minimum of three members of the program committee. As a result of this selection process, 3 full papers were accepted in the final program. The workshop day opened with welcome remarks, followed by a keynote talk by Erasmo Purificato (European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Italy), which examined the intersection of fairness-aware model development and emerging regulatory frameworks, such as the EU Digital Services Act and AI Act. An open discussion invited participants to reflect on how these regulatory shifts may influence their research or practice. After a short break, the paper session began with three presentations addressing different strategies for mitigating bias in information access systems, including methods for improving fairness in retrieval-augmented generation, exploring the impact of sampling techniques, and reducing position bias in ranking models. The session was concluded with an open discussion on key takeaways. In the afternoon, Shlomo Berkovsky (Macquarie University, Australia) delivered the second keynote, which investigated challenges unique to medical artificial intelligence from a recommendation perspective and emphasized the importance of user education in understanding system bias and reliability. A subsequent discussion focused on how to better inform non-technical users about these issues. The workshop concluded with a wrap-up session, where participants reflected on future research directions.

The IR4U2 2025 workshop was the result of a joint effort among TU Delft (The Netherlands), Università della Svizzera Italiana (Switzerland), University of Genoa (Italy), University of Turin (Italy), and University of Twente (The Netherlands). In this edition, the workshop received 6 submissions, each subjected to a double-blind peer review by at least three programme committee members. All the 6 submitted full papers were accepted for inclusion in the program. The workshop day opened with welcome

remarks, followed by a keynote by Stephane Chaudron, a freelance consultant with extensive experience in project management, research, education, and communication. Her talk examined the impact of intelligent systems - such as recommendation algorithms and content moderation - on children's rights, particularly those of underserved and vulnerable populations. An open discussion session followed, fostering reflections on the responsibilities of digital platforms in mitigating risks. The first paper session, after a short break, featured three presentations, covering adaptive search interfaces for children with mild intellectual disabilities, personalized recommendations for adults with autism spectrum disorder, and sign language-based conversational product search. This was followed by short pitches on innovative ideas and a participatory activity involving the audience. The second paper session, which ran in the afternoon, addressed children's engagement with digital content through studies on music recommendations, emotional profiling of large language models in response to children's queries, and a serious game designed to raise awareness about information pollution. A second interactive activity, followed by a general discussion and wrap-up session, concluded the workshop.

Both workshops continue to build on the success of their previous editions, marked by growing engagement from the community. This ongoing success motivates the organizers to plan a future edition for next year. We sincerely thank the authors and reviewers for their contributions in shaping a rich and engaging program, and we are grateful to the attendees for their active participation.

July 2025

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