



RecTour 2018 - Workshop on Recommenders in Tourism at ACM RecSys 2018

Vancouver, Canada

October 7th, 2018

<http://www.ec.tuwien.ac.at/rectour2018/>

Submission deadline: July 16th, 2018

Call for Papers

The rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICT) and the web transformed the tourism domain. Today, 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 buying a visitor guide, renting a mobile guide or hiring even a tour guide that may be available, but is considered to be expensive and sometimes outdated.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 are a practical tool for overcoming this information overload. However, the tourism domain is substantially more complicated, and as such, creates huge challenges for those designing tourism focused recommender systems. Planning a vacation usually involves searching for a set of products that are interconnected (e.g., means of transportation, lodging, attractions), with a rather limited availability, and where contextual aspects may have a major impact (e.g., time, location, social context, environmental context). In addition and most importantly, products are emotionally “loaded” and considered “experience goods;” therefore, decision taking is not only based on rational and objective criteria (i.e., system 2 thinking). 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.

RecTour 2018 will focus on the specific challenges for recommender systems in the tourism domain. Having a workshop focused on tourism will provide an opportunity for RecSys participants working in this area to discuss specific issues of interest. We also hope to attract additional, domain specific professionals that initially might not consider attending RecSys.

The primary goal of this workshop is to bring together researchers and practitioners from different fields, e.g., tourism, recommender systems, user modelling, user interaction, mobile, ubiquitous and ambient technologies, artificial intelligence and web information systems, so as to discuss and illustrate challenges and applications of these technologies in tourism recommender systems of the future. Important aspects and topics to be discussed evolve around (but are not limited to):

- Specific applications and case studies (evaluation);
- Specific methods and techniques for tourism recommenders;
- Novel ICT and its impact on travel and tourism;
- Integrating data from various sources (e.g., catalogues, Linked Open Data, usage logs);

- Context and mobility in tourism;
- Tourist trip recommendation and route planning;
- Cold-start problem in the context of tourism recommenders;
- Preference elicitation in tourism;
- Emotions and tourism recommenders;
- Interaction
 - Interaction concepts with personal (mobile or desktop) and group (on-site public or desktop) displays;
 - Information needs, information access (incl. visualisation) and search patterns;
 - Collaboration, communication and sharing aspects in the process of tourist information consumption;
 - Personalized explanations and feedback of recommendation systems;
 - Digital storytelling, narratives, smart summaries and recommendation explanations.

Important Dates

Submission deadline: July 16th, 2018

Notification: August 13th, 2018

Camera-ready deadline: August 27th, 2018

Deadlines refer to 11:59pm (Anywhere on Earth).

Submission Guidelines

Submission types are **long research papers** reporting on complete research (8 pages plus up to one page references), **short papers** reporting on work in progress (4 pages plus up to one page references), **position papers** reflecting on emerging topics (2-4 pages), **demonstration systems** showcasing novel aspects or providing the opportunity to interact (demo papers: 2 pages) as well as **project ideas** discussing innovative research proposals and late breaking ideas (2-4 pages). Moreover, we specifically invite industry to submit relevant showcases as position or demo papers to the workshop.

RecTour 2018 submissions should be prepared in PDF format according to the standard double-column [ACM SIG proceedings format](#). The peer review process is single-blind, i.e., all submissions should include information identifying the authors and their organizations. All submissions and reviews will be handled electronically through the EasyChair submission site: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=rectour2018>.

All contributions must be relevant to the Call for Papers of RecTour 2018. Accepted papers will be included in the RecTour 2018 proceedings and published by [CEUR Workshop Proceedings](#). However, at least one author of each accepted contribution must attend the workshop (otherwise this contribution will not appear in the proceedings of the workshop). After acceptance, no additional authors can be added.

Organizers

- Julia Neidhardt, TU Wien, Austria
- Wolfgang Wörndl, TU München, Germany
- Tsvi Kuflik, The University of Haifa, Israel
- Markus Zanker, Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy

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