



Special Track on

Applied Natural Language Processing

The track on applied natural language processing is a forum for researchers working in natural language processing (NLP), computational linguistics (CL), and related areas. The rapid pace of development of online materials, most of them in textual form or text combined with other media, has led to a revived interest for tools capable of understanding, organizing and mining those materials. Novel human-computer interfaces (such as talking heads), can benefit from language understanding and generation techniques. Dialogue-based intelligent tutoring systems require advanced dialogue processing, language understanding and generation components in order to assess students' natural language inputs and provide appropriate feedback. Moreover, language can facilitate human-computer interaction for the handicapped (no typing needed) and elderly leading to an ever increasing user base for computer systems.

The goal of this track is to inform researchers as to current project and studies that identify, investigate, and (begin to) resolve issues that relate to human/computer language interaction. Some of the many areas emphasized by the ANLP track include multilingual processing, learning environments, multimodal communication, bioNLP, spam filtering, language acquisition (first and second), textual assessment, language varieties, materials development, generic classification, educational applications, information retrieval, speech processing, machine learning, knowledge representations, English for specific purposes, textual assessment indices, coreference resolution, word sense disambiguation, dialogue management and systems, language generation, language models, ontologies, and reasoning.

In 2011 there were 35 submissions to this track, making it the largest special track (in terms of submissions) at the FLAIRS 2011 conference. The accepted papers span methods and applications across an array of disciplines, making the track appealing to researchers in AI, cognitive science, and linguistics, to name a few. Amanda Stent (AT&T Research) will deliver the track's keynote speech, "Shared Experiences, Shared Representations, and the Implications for Applied Natural Language Processing."