



ABCDE



Scientific Report

First name / Family name

Alan Said

Nationality

Swedish

Name of the *Host Organisation*

CWI

First Name / family name
of the *Scientific Coordinator*

Arjen de Vries

Period of the fellowship

01/04/2013 to 31/03/2014



I – SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY DURING YOUR FELLOWSHIP

My fellowship was carried out in the Information Access group at CWI, under the supervision of Prof. Arjen P. de Vries.

Throughout the fellowship I had the opportunity to collaborate with researchers in Amsterdam and throughout the Netherlands and surrounding areas working on similar topics, e.g. UvA, TU Delft, UGent.

The focus of my fellowship was on recommender systems, specifically in the context of evaluation. I did however venture into other research topics as well, e.g. news recommendation, user modelling and personalization in a health context, contextual suggestion, etc. In my main research scope, I cooperated to a large extent with another ERCIM fellow in the same research group, Dr. Alejandro Bellogín. Together with Dr. Bellogín we were able to combine our research efforts in the field of recommender system evaluation, benchmarking and replication.

Additionally, I had several opportunities to attend and organize interesting conferences, workshops and meetups in fields relevant to my research allowing me to grow my professional network.

II – PUBLICATION(S) DURING YOUR FELLOWSHIP

During my fellowship I submitted a number of journal, conference and workshop papers, as well as a book chapter and a book proposal.

Published or accepted papers and book chapters

1. A. Bellogín, A. Said, A.P. de Vries. *The Magic Barrier of Recommender Systems – No Magic, Just Ratings*. UMAP 2014
2. A. Said, A. Bellogín, A.P. de Vries. *A Top-N Recommender System Evaluation Protocol Inspired by Deployed Systems*. ACM RecSys 2013, workshop on Large-Scale Recommender Systems.
3. M. Larson, A. Said, Y. Shi, P. Cremonesi, D. Tikk, A. Karatzoglou, L. Baltrunas, J. Geurtz, X. Anguera, F. Hopfgartner. *Activating the Crowd: Exploiting User-Item Reciprocity for Recommendation*. ACM RecSys 2013, workshop on Crowdsourcing and Human Computation for Recommender Systems.
4. A. Said, J. Lin, A. Bellogín, A.P. de Vries. *A Month in the Life of a Production News Recommender System*. ACM CIKM 2013, workshop on Living Labs for Information Retrieval.
5. A. Said, A. Bellogín, J. Lin, A.P. de Vries. *Do Recommendations Matter? – News Recommendation IRL*. ACM CSCW 2014
6. A. Said, A. Bellogín, A.P. de Vries, B. Kille. *Information Retrieval and User-Centric Recommender System Evaluation*. UMAP 2013.
7. A. Bellogín, T. Samar, A.P. de Vries, A. Said. *Challenge on Combining Open Web and Dataset Evaluation Results: The Case of the Contextual Suggestion Track*. ECIR 2014
8. A. Said, A. Bellogín, A.P. de Vries. *News Recommendation in the Wild: CWI's Recommendation Algorithm in the NRS Challenge*. ACM RecSys 2013, workshop



on News Recommendation.

9. A. Said, D. Tikk, P. Cremonesi. *Benchmarking: A Methodology for Ensuring the Relative Quality of a Recommendation System for Software Engineering*. Recommendation Systems in Software Engineering, Springer, 2014.

Papers under review

1. A. Said, A. Bellogín. Comparative Recommender System Evaluation: *Benchmarking Common Frameworks*. Journal
2. A. Said, A. Bellogín. *You are What You Eat! Tracking Health Through Recipes*. Conference paper

III – ATTENDED SEMINARS, WORKHOPS, CONFERENCES

- Recommender Systems in Software Engineering. Book workshop. Hamburg, Germany, 25-26/04/2013
- UMAP 2013, conference. Rome, Italy, 10-16/06/2013
- RecSysNL, meetup. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 19/08/2013
- ACM RecSys 2013, conference. Hong Kong, China, 12-16/10/2013
- ERCIM ABCDE Seminar. Athens, Greece, 31/10-1/11/2013
- Crowd Recommendation, workshop. Berlin, Germany, 5-6/11/2013
- Crowd Recommendation, workshop. Barcelona, Spain, 5-8/2/2014

IV – RESEARCH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (REP)

My first Research Exchange Programme (REP) visit was to CNR, Rome, Italy, 10-14/6/2013. The host was Prof. Aldo Gangemi, senior researcher at ISCT- CNR. I conducted this visit together with another ERCIM fellow, Dr. Alejandro Bellogín. During the visit we met with Prof. Gangemi and Dr. Valentina Presutti and attended a seminar on analysis and modelling of user engagement.

My second Research Exchange Programme (REP) visit was to SICS, Stockholm, Sweden, 10-14/2/2014. My hosts were Dr. Jarmo Laaksolahti and Dr. Petra Sundström. During the visit I was introduced to SICS and the MobileLifeCentre and the projects conducted by SICS. Additionally, I had the opportunity to give a presentation on recommender system evaluation and attend a few events organized by the hosts.