

Strengthening the CHIIR Community: Bridging Interactive IR and HCI at CHI 2026

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Abstract

This meet-up will bring together members of the ACM SIGIR Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR) community and the broader CHI audience to strengthen cross-community dialogue on interactive information retrieval (IIR), search interfaces, and human-centered evaluation methods. Through structured activities, networking opportunities, and collaborative brainstorming, the session aims to identify common challenges, inspire collaborations, and chart a forward-looking research agenda that connects CHI and CHIIR communities.

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CCS Concepts

• **Human-centered computing** → **Human computer interaction (HCI)**; *Collaborative and social computing*; • **Information systems** → **Information retrieval**.

Keywords

Interactive information retrieval, CHIIR, HCI, user interfaces, evaluation, generative AI

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1 Introduction

The ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR) has established itself as the premier venue for

research at the intersection of interactive information retrieval (IR), and human-computer interaction (HCI). While CHIIR primarily serves a focused community of IR and HCI researchers, many of its themes, such as explainability, search user interfaces, conversational agents, and evaluation methodologies, are highly relevant to the broader CHI community. Although CHIIR was founded with the goal of bridging HCI and IR, its engagement has historically been stronger with the IR community. Through structured networking events like this meet-up, we aim to strengthen connections with the HCI community and foster new collaborations, creating opportunities to “create tomorrow together” within CHI. The main goal of this meet-up is to:

- Provide an informal networking platform for CHIIR members and CHI attendees interested in IR, recommender systems, search interface design, user search behavior modelling, and information interaction.
- Foster dialogue on shared challenges such as AI-powered retrieval, user trust and transparency, evaluation methodologies, and multi-modal search experiences.
- Strengthen continuity between CHIIR and CHI by identifying opportunities for future workshops, collaborations, and SIGCHI engagement.

2 Activities and Format

The meet-up will be a 90-minute session structured as follows:

- **Welcome and introduction (10 minutes):** Introduction of organizers, overview of CHIIR, and framing of meet-up goals.
- **Lightning talks (15 minutes):** Three short provocations from participants on key research themes in Interactive IR and HCI will be delivered by the organizers.
- **Breakout group discussion (40 minutes):** Attendees will self-select into small groups around research themes from the lightning talks, such as (1) Search & Generative AI, (2) Evaluation Methods, (3) Ethics & Responsibility, and (4) Novel Interaction Paradigms.
- **Breakout group report back (15 minutes):** Breakout groups share insights based on their discussions and identify overlaps and emerging research directions.
- **Community networking and closing (10 minutes):** Open networking and discussion of continuity, including future workshops, mailing lists, and potential joint initiatives.

3 Organizers

Each organizer is an active member of the CHIIR or IR/HCI community, with experience in community building, conference organization, and leading collaborative discussions. This diverse organizing team represents multiple institutions and regions, ensuring broad inclusivity and perspective.

4 Intended Audience and Community

This meet-up will be of interest to:

- Researchers and practitioners in the HCI and IR communities, including those working on IR, recommender systems, and interactive systems.

- CHI attendees who work on related topics such as human-centered AI, visualization, conversational agents, user modelling, information access technology design, and search interfaces.
- Early career researchers and students seeking to engage with CHIIR and build professional networks.

The session will appeal broadly by connecting IR challenges with CHI’s focus on human-centered computing.

5 Relevance and Contribution

This meet-up directly contributes to CHI 2026 by:

- Providing a dedicated space for networking and collaboration among CHIIR members and CHI attendees.
- Fostering cross-community exchange and identifying joint research opportunities.
- Supporting continuity and visibility of the CHIIR community within SIGCHI, potentially leading to ongoing meet-ups, workshops, and future SIG collaborations.

6 Conclusion

The CHIIR Meet-Up at CHI 2026 will connect two vibrant communities, spark discussion on pressing research challenges, and build stronger ties between interactive information retrieval and human-computer interaction. By combining networking, dialogue, and future planning, the session will advance both CHI and CHIIR communities in meaningful ways.