

UKeiG Celebrates the Winner of the 2018 Tony Kent Strix Award

The Tony Kent Strix Award was inaugurated in 1998 by The Institute of Information Scientists. It is now presented by UKeiG in partnership with the International Society for Knowledge Organization UK ([ISKO UK](#)), the Royal Society of Chemistry Chemical Information and Computer Applications Group (RSC [CICAG](#)) and the British Computer Society Information Retrieval Specialist Group (BCS [IRSG](#)). The Award is given in recognition of Outstanding Practical Innovation or Achievement in the Field of Information Retrieval.

In late 2018, UKeiG was delighted to announce that the winner of the prestigious award for 2018, in recognition of her contributions to the field of information retrieval, was Professor Pia Borlund (Department of Archivistis, Library and Information Science at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway.)

Professor Borlund was nominated for the award by Diane H. Sonnenwald, Emerita Professor of Library & Information Studies at University College Dublin and received unanimous praise and support from the Strix judging panel. “Similar to the memorable Dr Tony Kent, the work by Borlund is original and innovative, and has had a significant impact on information retrieval (IR) research and applications. Her approaches are analytical and practical, and her devotion and dedication to users and interactive information retrieval (IIR) are outstanding. Within the IR community, Borlund is known for her innovative contributions to IR user studies, evaluations and test design, including strong, novel methodological contributions to IIR evaluation. In particular, she is recognised for the development of her IIR evaluation model which uniquely employs simulated work task situations. Borlund developed the IIR evaluation model as a doctoral student by taking up the challenges of the calls put forward by Professor Stephen Robertson (recipient of the first Tony Kent Strix Award in 1998) and Micheline Hancock-Beaulieu, in their iconic 1992 paper on IR systems evaluation.”

The Award was presented by Doug Veal (Strix Chair) and David Ball (UKeiG Chair) and accepted by Dr Andrew MacFarlane on Professor Borlund’s behalf on the afternoon of Friday 23rd November 2018 at the Geological Society, Piccadilly, London. Professor Borlund will present the next Strix Memorial Lecture on Friday 29th November 2019 at the same venue. “I’m very pleased and very, very honoured to receive the Tony Kent Strix Award. It’s an honour to join the past recipients who I have admired and respected since I was a student. I thank Professor Diane Sonnenwald for the nomination.”

For more information about Professor Borlund please refer to the PDF documents listed [here](#).

At the 2018 event, the 2017 Strix award winner, Maarten de Rijke, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Amsterdam, presented on “Retrieval as Interaction.” Professor de Rijke has a formidable high impact publication record in a range of areas including semantic search, semi-structured retrieval and social media. He has produced influential research outputs on the large-scale semantic analysis of online content and on the analysis of subjective aspects of information (sentiment, credibility, memory, reputation and experiences). His contributions to information retrieval, to the fast-evolving areas of computational methods for analysing, understanding and enabling effective human interaction with information sources, have been profound.

The afternoon was streamed live to the 17th Dutch-Belgian Information Retrieval Workshop (DIR2018), at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, so over one hundred and seventy international delegates got to see Professor de Rijke’s lecture.

A recording can be accessed [here](#).

Stella Dextre Clarke, winner of the Tony Kent Strix Award in 2006, also reflected on “Then and Now: Contrasts in the Scope of Information Retrieval.” Now retired from consultancy in information management, she is still active as Vice-Chair of the UK Chapter of ISKO (International Society for Knowledge Organization). Stella has written an overview of the Strix Award and winners over the years, mapping a changing landscape. It will feature in the next issue of eLucidate.

A recording of her presentation can be accessed [here](#).

For more information about the Tony Kent Strix Award [visit](#).

Previous Strix winners are listed [here](#).

A call for nominations for the 2019 award will be issued in April 2019, and don’t forget to put the afternoon of Friday 29th November 2019 in your diary.