

## The Strix Award and 2018 Annual Memorial Lecture: In Honour of Tony Kent's Life & Achievements

UKeiG has announced that the 4th Tony Kent Strix Annual Memorial Lecture 2018 is to be delivered by Maarten de Rijke, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Amsterdam, and will take place on the afternoon of Friday, 23rd November 2018 at The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. [Book here.](#)

Last year UKeiG, in partnership with the International Society for Knowledge Organisation 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) was delighted to announce that the winner of the prestigious Tony Kent Strix Award for 2017 was Professor de Rijke. The Award was presented to him by Doug Veal (Strix Chair) and David Ball (UKeiG Chair) in London on Friday October 20th 2017 in recognition of his major and sustained contributions to the field of information retrieval and web searching.

Professor de Rijke is a well-known and highly respected member of the international information retrieval community having made considerable and widely recognised contributions to the field. He has an impressive and formidable high impact publications 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, in particular to the fast evolving areas of computational methods for analysing, understanding and enabling effective human interaction with information sources, have been profound.

He leads the Information and Language Processing Systems Group at the Informatics Institute of the University of Amsterdam. It is one of the world's leading academic research groups in information retrieval and intelligent information access, with projects on self-learning search engines, semantic search and the interface between information retrieval and artificial intelligence.

His 2018 Strix Lecture is entitled: 'Retrieval as Interaction.'

Abstract: Information retrieval systems, such as search engines, recommender systems and conversational agents, may well be the prime example of interactive systems to which people are exposed. Their development is best thought of as a two-stage process: off-line development followed by continued online adaptation based on interactions with users.

Off-line development, which involves evaluation and learning from annotated datasets or from logged interactions, is risk free in the sense that the system does not require the ability to make interactive interventions. In contrast, in online development retrieval systems use interactions and interventions for evaluation and for learning.

In the lecture Professor de Rijke will compare the off-line and online development phases. How much can a retrieval system learn off-line from historical interaction data? How much can it gain by being able to make interventions and explore new actions? Can we give bounds on the risks a retrieval system takes when performing online interventions? He will also discuss another set of questions that come up in this space and that have to do with how we should design systems that learn and adapt online and are respectful of their users.

\*\*\* This is a FREE event, open to everyone, BUT advance bookings ARE required \*\*\*

Full programme details:

- 1.30 Registration
- 2.00 Douglas Veal - Chairman's welcome
- 2.10 - Stella Dextre Clarke, 2006 Winner of the Tony Kent Strix Award, reflects on 'Then and Now: Contrasts in the retrieval environment.' 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).
- 2.45 - Questions & Discussion
- 3.00 - Tea & coffee
- 3.45 - The Tony Kent Strix Annual Memorial Lecture
- 4.30 Questions & discussion
- 5.00 Meeting closes

### Call for 2018 Strix Award nominations

The Tony Kent Strix Award was inaugurated in 1998 by the Institute of Information Scientists. UKeiG is now seeking nominations for 2018. The prestigious award is given in recognition of an outstanding practical innovation or achievement in the field of information retrieval in its widest sense, including search and data mining, for example. This could take the form of an application or service, or an overall appreciation of past achievements from which significant advances have emanated. The award is open to individuals or groups from anywhere in the world.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 28th September. Click [here](#) for further information.

The Strix panel hope to announce the winner at the 2018 Strix Annual Memorial Lecture in London on the afternoon of Friday, 23rd November.