Shared Tasks as Tutorials: A Methodical Approach

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Theresa Elstner¹, Frank Loebe¹, Yamen Ajjour³, Christopher Akiki¹, Alexander Bondarenko², Maik Fröbe², Lukas Gienapp¹, Nikolay Kolyada⁴, Janis Mohr³, Stephan Sandfuchs³, Matti Wiegmann⁴, Jörg Frochte³, Nicola Ferro⁵, Sven Hofmann¹, Benno Stein⁴, Matthias Hagen², Martin Potthast⁴

¹Leipzig University
first.last@uni-leipzig.de

²Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
first.last@informatik.uni-halle.de

³Bochum University of Applied Sciences
first.last@hs-bochum.de

⁴Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
first.last@uni-weimar.de

⁵University of Padua
first.last@dei.unipd.it
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What Is a Shared Task?

Shared Tasks are...

... friendly research competitions in which solutions to a given challenging research problem are developed by independent teams and then comparatively evaluated.
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Motivation

- Linking research and teaching is a major goal for higher education
- Shared Tasks might help to achieve this goal
- We held courses on information retrieval (Bachelor and Master) on two different German universities using shared tasks
Student Participation in the study:

- 256 students participated in total in 10 courses over 5 terms
- Students from different courses of study and two universities
- 26 of 42 student groups submitted their final papers to Touché@CLEF
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Student Feedback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>w/o Sh. Task</th>
<th>w. Sh. Task</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pace</td>
<td>too slow (1) - too fast (5)</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>too narrow (1) - too broad (5)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>too little (1) - too much (5)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>very bad (1) - very good (5)</td>
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<td>4.4</td>
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<td>Consistency</td>
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<td>Transparency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
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Lessons Learned From Teaching With Shared Tasks

- Shared task and term timeline can be out of sync—avoid waiting
- Teach in person or online—provide videos for lectures, communicate via conference tools, Discord, and email
- Students experience scientific practice—they may consider a career in research
THANK YOU!