

Agreement Concerning Dissemination of DUC Results

The annual Document Understanding Conference (DUC) is an event in which organizations with an interest in automatic document summarization take part in a coordinated series of experiments using the same experimental data. The results of these individual experiments are then presented at a workshop where tentative comparisons may be made. In order to preserve the desired, pre-competitive nature of these conferences, the organizers have developed a set of guidelines constraining the dissemination and publication of DUC evaluation results. These guidelines are meant to preclude the publication of incomplete or inaccurate information that could damage the reputation of the conference or its participants and could discourage participation in future conferences. The guidelines apply to all DUC participants, regardless of the type of organization or institution involved.

A signed agreement is required of each organization participating in the DUC evaluations. Any organization that is found to have violated the terms or spirit of the agreement may be denied participation in future DUCs.

GUIDELINES:

1. **SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS:** Scientific or technical publications, including newsletters from universities or research laboratories, should adhere to community standards for fairness and objectivity and should accurately and clearly state the limitations of the testing conditions and other factors which might influence scores. The experimental nature of the tasks, data and evaluation procedures should also be stated. The full conference proceedings should always be referenced.
2. **ADVERTISEMENTS:** No advertisements using the DUC evaluation results can be placed in magazines, journals, newspapers, or other publications.
3. **PRESS RELEASES:** Press releases about DUC results to organizations with national/international coverage are also prohibited.
4. **MARKETING LITERATURE, LOCAL NEWSLETTERS:** Although it is recognized that extensive evaluation discussions are not appropriate in this type of literature, it is expected that any claims made on the basis of evaluation results are accurate, that the evaluation measures used to substantiate these claims are stated, and that a reference is made to the full conference proceedings. Where promotional material is subject to prepublication revision by the media, the author should make every effort to see that the revision does not cause a violation of the guidelines.

5. Cross-system comparisons may not be made with other named teams for individual tests, and may only be made when they are supported by accepted methods of statistical significance testing. Comparisons must be accompanied by the results of those tests and should reference the publication of those tests in the conference proceedings or related literature. Informal, qualitative comparisons with recognized baselines or benchmarks, and with general levels or trends in performance, must be clearly stated to be such and thus open to statistical reassessment.
6. A copy of any publications that quotes or contains references to the DUC evaluations results must be provided to the DUC program chair.

ENDORSEMENT (Please type):

I, _____ (name), acting on behalf of _____ organization acknowledge my understanding of the above guidelines and accept this agreement. As a condition of our participation in the DUC evaluation, my organization and its employees and representatives agree to abide by these guidelines. I am qualified to make this commitment.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete and email a PDF file of this form to:

angela.ellis@nist.gov

In your email message include:

- 1. your name**
- 2. your organization**
- 3. what data you are requesting**

NIST will respond to your request for data within seven business days.