



ACM Transactions on Recommender Systems

Special Issue on User Interaction Design for Human-Centered Recommender Systems

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Human-centered recommender systems (HCRS) are designed with a focus on the human user, taking into account human needs, values, behavior, and experiences throughout the design process of the system. The goal is to create systems that are not just technically proficient at generating accurate recommendations but are also engaging, transparent, trustworthy, and aligned with user preferences and societal norms. To achieve this goal, the need for effective user interactions in recommender systems is more critical than ever.

Research in user interaction for recommender systems focuses on how users engage with recommender systems and how the interaction with the systems can be improved to provide more relevant, personalized, and engaging content. This research area is crucial because the effectiveness of a recommender system is not just about the accuracy of the predictions but also about how users perceive, interact with, and respond to the recommendations. For instance, effective UIs could support transparency and user control of recommender systems. Aligning the vision of human-centered AI, HCRS should preserve human control in a way that ensures the automation part of recommender systems could amplify human capabilities in decision-making.

Moreover, in recent years, the growing capabilities of large language models (LLM) have influenced not only the substance of recommendations but also the way users can interact with them. The surge in natural language processing capabilities has opened new avenues for how recommender systems are developed and interacted with by the end-users, and the conversational user interface has been increasingly popular for various AI systems. More research on novel UIs beyond the GUI could be the key to designing more transparent, explainable, and interactive recommender systems.

Topics

In this special issue, contributors have the opportunity to research a variety of themes within the realm of user interaction design for recommender systems (RS). We encourage submissions that push the boundaries of traditional interaction design, exploring new methods to enhance user interaction and satisfaction. The main themes and topics of the special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding Users of RS
- User Interfaces and Visualizations for RS
- Conversational User Interfaces for RS
- User Interaction with LLM-based RS
- AR/VR Interface Design for RS
- User Interface for Explainability, Transparency, and Trust
- User Interface for User Control and Customization
- User-Adaptive Interaction and Personalization
- User Evaluation for the Interaction with RS
- Datasets for User Interaction Behavior in RS

- Platforms and Questionnaires for RS User Studies

Important Dates

- Submission deadline: December 15, 2024
- First-round review decisions: March 15, 2025
- Deadline for revision submissions: May 15, 2025
- Notification of final decisions: July 15, 2025

Submissions that are received before the first deadline will be directly sent out for review; papers will be immediately published online after acceptance.

Submission Information:

The special edition is open to submissions across a variety of formats including technical research, design research, user studies, surveys, and reflective or opinion pieces. Submissions should be relevant to one or more topics within the scope of the special edition. We are particularly interested in contributions that explore interaction design within recommender systems, leveraging cutting-edge technologies like generative AI and augmented/virtual/mixed reality. Additionally, this edition is open to extended versions of published papers from related recommender system conferences such as RecSys, SIGIR, KDD, CIKM, IUI, UMAP, CHI, WSDM, and WWW. These submissions must include at least 30% new material, which may consist of novel intellectual insights, experimental work, or research findings. If you are unsure about whether your work fits this special issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Submissions must be prepared according to the TORS submission guidelines (<https://dl.acm.org/journal/tors/author-guidelines>) and must be submitted via Manuscript Central (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tors>).

For questions and further information, please contact the guest editors at uid4rec@acm.org.