Shared Tasks as Tutorials: A Methodical Approach

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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

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A Process Model for Teaching With 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

Item	Scale	w/o Sh. Task	w. Sh. Task
Pace	too slow (1) - too fast (5)	3.2	**3.1**
Scope	too narrow (1) - too broad (5)	3.4	**3.2**
Effort	too little (1) - too much (5)	**3.3**	**3.3**
Structure	very bad (1) - very good (5)	4.3	**4.4**
Consistency	very bad (1) - very good (5)	**4.4**	4.2
Transparency	very bad (1) - very good (5)	**4.5**	4.3
Satisfaction	low (1) - high (5)	4.27	**4.33**

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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!