

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910144338103321
Titolo	Comparative Evaluation of Multilingual Information Access Systems : 4th Workshop of the Cross-Language Evaluation Forum, CLEF 2003, Trondheim, Norway, August 21-22, 2003, Revised Selected Papers // edited by Julio Gonzalo, Martin Braschler, Michael Kluck
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, Heidelberg : , : Springer Berlin Heidelberg : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2004
ISBN	3-540-30222-0
Edizione	[1st ed. 2004.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XIV, 702 p.)
Collana	Lecture Notes in Computer Science, , 0302-9743 ; ; 3237
Disciplina	025.04
Soggetti	Library science Information storage and retrieval Artificial intelligence Application software Natural language processing (Computer science) Library Science Information Storage and Retrieval Artificial Intelligence Information Systems Applications (incl. Internet) Natural Language Processing (NLP)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

The fourth campaign of the Cross-language Evaluation Forum (CLEF) for European languages was held from January to August 2003. Participation in this campaign showed a slight rise in the number of participants from the previous year, with 42 groups submitting results for one or more of the different tracks (compared with 37 in 2002), but a steep rise in the number of experiments attempted. A distinctive feature of CLEF 2003 was the number of new tracks and tasks that were offered as pilot experiments. The aim was to try out new ideas and to encourage the development of new evaluation methodologies, suited to the emerging requirements of both system developers and users with respect to today's digital collections and to encourage work on many European languages rather than just those most widely used. CLEF is thus gradually pushing its participants towards the ultimate goal: the development of truly multilingual systems capable of processing collections in diverse media. The campaign culminated in a two-day workshop held in Trondheim, Norway, 21–22 August, immediately following the 7th European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL 2003), and attended by more than 70 researchers and system developers. The objective of the workshop was to bring together the groups that had participated in the CLEF 2003 campaign so that they could report on the results of their experiments.
