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173 responses

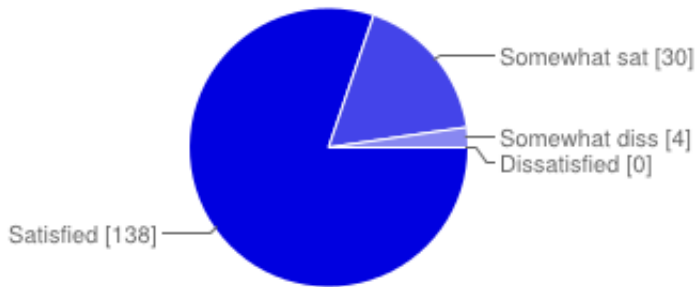
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Summary

General Questions

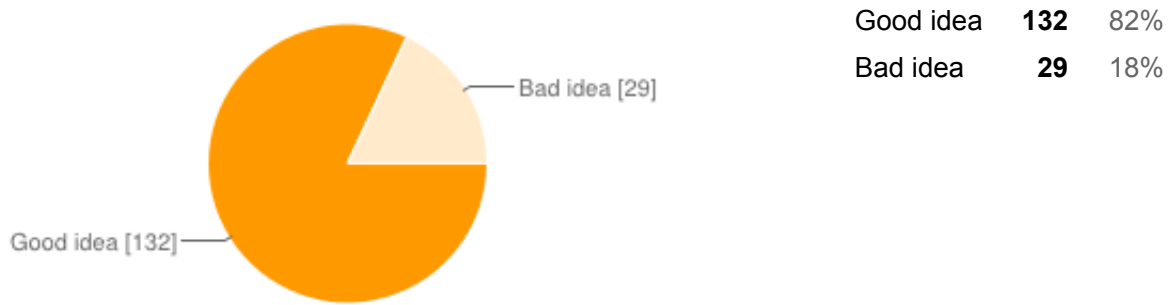
How satisfied are you with the NAACL 2013 conference in Atlanta?



Satisfied	138	80%
Somewhat satisfied	30	17%
Somewhat dissatisfied	4	2%
Dissatisfied	0	0%

Awards

In addition to the standard best paper award, what would you think about having an award for the best paper from 5 years ago?



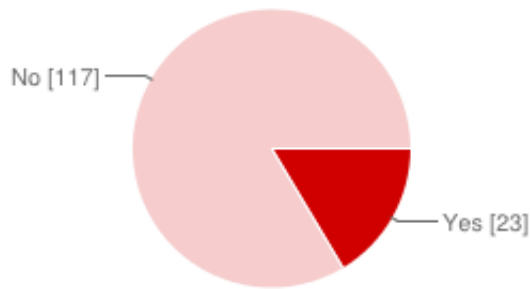
What was your favorite *talk* at the conference? (Please paste a link to the ACL Anthology PDF)

- Unsupervised Learning Summarization Templates from Concise Summaries
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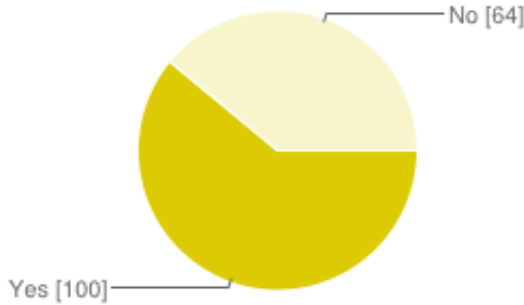
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Are you a co-author on the paper, or is one of its authors from your institution?



Yes	23	16%
No	117	84%

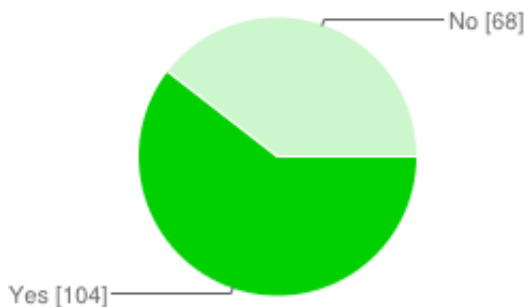
Do you think that it would be a good idea to award a Best Talk prize in addition to a Best Paper, by reviewing the most popular talks after the conference?



Yes	100	61%
No	64	39%

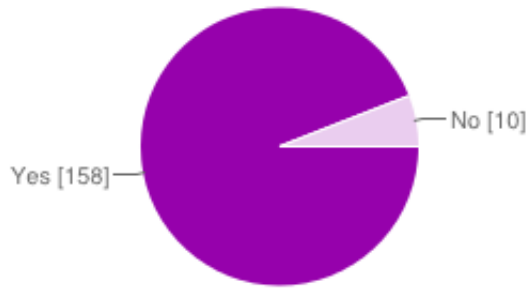
Social Activities

Did you attend the banquet this year?



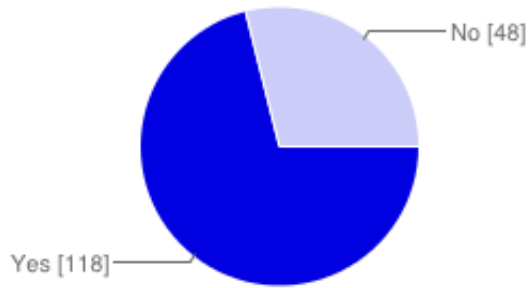
Yes	104	60%
No	68	40%

The goal of the banquet is to provide community and social interaction for NAACL attendees away from the intensity of the conference program. Do you think these goals are important?



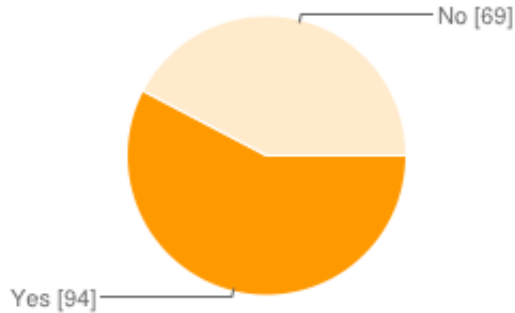
Yes	158	94%
No	10	6%

Do you think the banquet is a good way to accomplish these goals?



Yes	118	71%
No	48	29%

Fees from selling banquet tickets do not always cover the costs of the banquet. Should the banquet be held even if it can't pay for itself?



Yes	94	58%
No	69	42%

Please make suggestions for other social events.

Conference trip a la Coling or Cycling? It was quite good on the last Cycling, where in Kamakura there were small groups of cca 10 people for the most of the trip. Thus it didn't feel like horrible school event from childhood. (light) sporting activity of some kind? Some kind of cultural event? It may not be necessary to get everybody on just one event. An alternative is to have many of them, very informal (e.g. morning runs/jogs for those, who enjoy running, etc.), or even just a way to register and disseminate "your event", e.g. "I am going for 7 mile run at 6 AM from Westin. SMT conversation welcome". Or "I am going to visit some plantations on Saturday after the conference ..." I don't really know, this is just from the top of my head. One half-day sightseeing event would be fun. longer

coffee breaks (though the ones in atlanta were sufficiently long) The banquet need not be fancy or formal. A casual buffet style dinner makes it easier to catch up with more people. The banquet is vital, but it needn't be at a particularly fancy venue. To me the most important aspect (after decent food) is music and space to walk around. The banquet could have been a lot better. People were scattered, and the food for vegetarians was pretty bad. Even if you cover the entrance to the coca cola place, it was still the most expensive mac and cheese I ever had. We need not have an expensive banquet to meet the above socializing goals. Why not replace the banquet one or even two more "welcome reception" style events which are cheaper? I still have very fond memories of the Rochester banquet (LA was also very nice, because of the outdoor space), but this year's banquet seemed a complete waste of money. The space was not inviting or conducive to social interaction, and the food was not worth anything close to \$100. It seemed people disappeared very quickly. The food at the poster session seemed much better. Banquet was ridiculously expensive and felt like an ad. Banquet is good. But, please do keep in mind that human beings can be vegetarians. Paying 100 USD and then not getting much to eat except for snacks is irritating. This, after specifically mentioning vegetarian in the registration form! Why ask if this is the case?? Something more low-key (and less kitsch, date I say it, although I appreciate the intent to get some "local colour" with the particular choice of venue this time around) and less expensive would be appreciated. The concept of the banquet is nice, but once the cost gets above about \$60 a person it is really questionable in terms of value (regardless of the venue). So, I think it might be time to move past the banquet idea and have other kinds of social activities, or other kinds of programming on the banquet evening. If NAACL loses money on the banquet then it should be dropped. I have found the poster sessions at NAACL really jammed and uncomfortable the last few years, I wonder if it wouldn't be better to have two nights of posters instead of trying to do them all in one night. The poster session is intense I suppose but also builds interaction and community, and I normally have my best social experiences as a result of meetings made during the poster session. Also, this seems more fair to the poster presenters - the difference in size of audience and quality of venue between oral presentations and posters should not be as big as it currently is (oral speakers treated like kings and queens, posters like paupers). The banquet is a great thing, but it has gotten too expensive!!! We should try to scale it down. Are TWO free drinks really necessary? One would be fine. Personally, I think it would also be fine to provide non-alcoholic drinks only and then let people pay themselves if they want alcohol. Music is nice, but not worth a high cost. I think the music at this year's banquet was largely ignored. Maybe find student groups from a local university that would provide music cheap. The food could be more diverse and delicious Banquet venues can be less flashy; the price is getting prohibitive. These events are great the for community as a whole. I'm glad I attended the banquet. Usually banquets are expensive and not very chill environments. A good self-organized event is more fun and engaging! An organized historical or cultural tour of the surrounding city would be a good social mixer. Guided tours Set up evening outings with shuttle service, or at least give more information about what to do when? another cocktail event at the

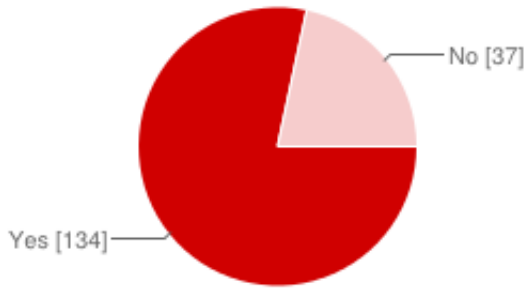
hotel is way better than the tacky CocaCola world. It isn't always necessary to find a fancy and expensive location for the banquet. The most important thing is really that there is enough space and food for attendees to socialize. Receptions at the conference venue are usually less expensive, less problematic, and easier to both organize and attend than banquets. I don't like the banquets because I really don't want to be stuck at a table with people who can talk about nothing but CL :) Informal social interactions are more enjoyable in my view. An excursion The questions above are a bit too binary for my tastes. Especially the welcoming banquet on Sunday was a good way to meet new people. After that, several informal meetings took place. For that, the bar nearby worked perfectly. When the banquet started, 'groups' had already been formed, so it did not add too much to the social interaction anymore. in addition to the welcome reception and the banquet, it would be nice to have a farewell gathering in the end (for those that couldn't make it to the welcome reception in case they arrived later and for those that can't afford the banquet, e.g. students) not completely sure. But if banquet tickets are sold separately (and are not included in the general conference fee), many phd students like me don't go there because the costs are not covered by our institutes. It might be worth exploring more industry-academic interactions, by providing more industry-sponsored events and panels, to facilitate sharing of ideas and mutual understanding Banquets are a lovely idea -- I just found the Coca-Cola location a little off-putting. Arrange with a local tour guide for a guided downtown walk(s) for small groups. Group tickets sales for a professional sporting event. I think there are enough social events and that more would simply add cost without justifying themselves in terms of benefit. I also think that the banquets do not need to be so extravagant. The Coca Cola museum was fun, but it could just as easily been a duplicate of the reception (with the possible addition of music and a dance floor) and people would have been happy. Also, please try to provide more vegetarian food in the future (speaking generally, not just with respect to the banquet). Wine receptions Having the banquet at a kitschy venue is not important at all, and is an unwelcome and expensive distraction. If you will have food, it is very important to have good vegetarian options, since so many in our community are vegetarian. The vegetarian food options this year were atrocious, and made me want to leave the banquet in search of acceptable food. In a social event, it is useful to have students sit down at tables where they can speak with professors, and vice-versa. The free-form setting of this year's banquet caused everyone to socialize mostly with people they already knew, which was a shame. The saving grace of this year's banquet was that there were large breaks during the conference program, so the banquet itself was not as necessary. Otherwise, it was a complete failure. Previous banquet formats were much more successful. - My favorite: a second "reception" like the one on the first evening, but during the conference. This should at least relieve the costs of booking another large venue.. - Maybe a guided tour to one of the city's sights (could have been Coca Cola or Aquarium in Atlanta). This gives people time to mingle and connect for a nice dinner in smaller groups (self-organized) afterwards. It was really good idea to hold the banquet at the World of Coca Cola rather than in a restaurant because there was a lot of activities, and instead of talking with a glass of wine as it usually happens at banquets people could

move around the museum and interact in even more casual manner, which was great! I could suggest holding a banquet in other entertaining places as aquariums, museums, and entertainment centers. no Banquet necessary, i think NIPS is doing a great job in this respect. No banquet but more time on posters and more papers should be accepted. Only 89 papers, come on!!! Cancel the banquet. The poster session with food and drinks does this job already. Make this longer and maybe more formal. Serve good food and drinks (this was done well at this NAACL). A lot of people complained about the banquet not being worth 100\$... more food was expected. Vegetarians were kind of shocked... At the banquet, food should be served at stations, with small plates, to encourage multiple trips around the venue to refill. This provides a visible excuse for folks to break out of long-running conversations and remingle with new groups, regularly. Increase the length of the poster session and make it more social. "Birds of a Feather" social gathering, where you can meet people based on topical interest. Space these geographically such that an attendee can move from one gathering to another to intermingle on multiple interests. Expanded reception or additional catered poster sessions. Organized pub crawl or local excursions The banquet seems to be exorbitantly expensive, at least it was this year. Not sure what costs so much (venue or food), but I'd be in favor of dinner on everyone's own (at restaurants around the city) and then a reception somewhere with drinks + desserts, if this could be done for less. One of the dinners or lunches should be a social event in which we randomly assign people to (large) meals. This lets people meet new people. From my experience, at the banquet (which I don't normally attend), you mostly meet people you already know. The "banquet" this year was not really a banquet. It was more a reception. I signed up for it expecting something like what we had in Portland in 2011 (the last time I went to ACL), namely, a sit-down affair. The banquet was a reasonable way to achieve these goals this year - it was one of the better ones - but I think in general that evening poster sessions with drinks, informal pub or cafe get togethers, etc. work better. But it is important to have approachable venues for people not in an in-crowd. Poster sessions are like that. I think the soda-tasting room worked well, getting people to talk to each other and to new people. The rest of the Coca Cola museum was a too much of a sales-pitch though, so overall I don't think the Coca Cola venue worked too well. Having the banquet in a quieter setting helps make the socializing easier. Sports I like how other conferences reserve some afternoon time for a social outing like a bike or walking tour. Or if there is a banquet, it would be nice if everyone can attend. I definitely enjoyed the standup nature of this banquet over seated banquets I've been to in conferences past. This granted me more opportunity to talk with more people. I usually like the banquet but this year's banquet was a waste of money and time. excursion

NAACL Firsts

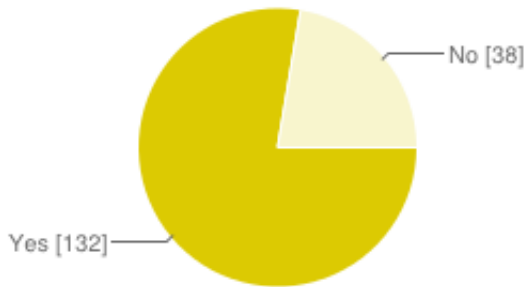
Do you think that it is worth video recording all of the conference talks if it adds

~\$20 to the registration fee?



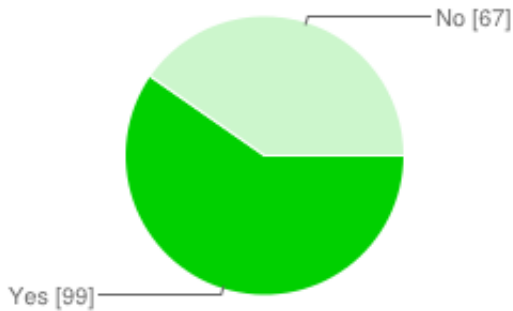
Yes	134	78%
No	37	22%

Do you plan to make use of these videos after the conference?



Yes	132	78%
No	38	22%

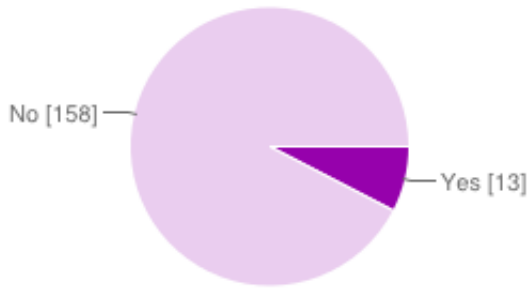
Would you continue to pay for tutorials if they were video recorded and made available for free after the conference?



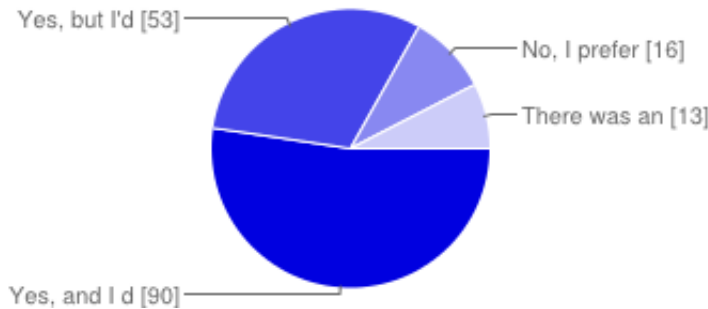
Yes	99	60%
No	67	40%

Do you wish you had received a copy of the proceedings on a USB key (at a cost of \$10/key)?

Yes	13	8%
No	158	92%



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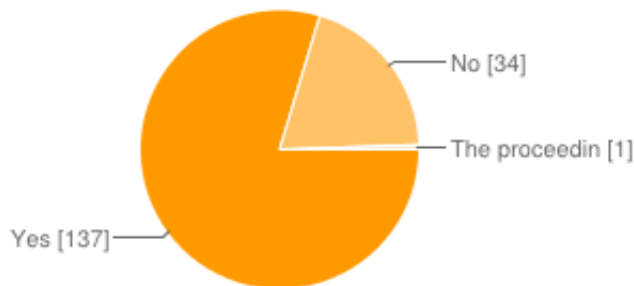
I would love to export my notes after the event. I made quite a few during the talks. What Am I to do with them now? Exporting them as a small website, or Markdown+html website would be neat. it'd be nice to have a view were I can see which *tracks* are happening right now, and which track each paper belong to. upon installation, the app required way too many security/privacy permissions. I liked everything until I went back home and realized I could not export my notes! This was excellent. I used it constantly. The next feature I would most want is a keyword search capability. This is the first conference where I did not feel lost. Amazing. Before I picked up my guide, I used the app, but it provided me the wrong times (they were off by many hours), so I stopped using it. I considered using it again later, but I had the book and I knew that it had the right times and locations (mostly). this needs a time table view. The personal schedule was not that great. I would rather have it in a way like goolge claendar where you see the complete day with highlighted sections. The app was great! It helped me pick better talks because I was better informed. Certainly a good idea, but still has its quirks. Please continue. Its a good idea...only that I don't use a smart phone.

The app was great. It wasn't perfect -- I didn't like not having a conventional "program" page to scroll through. The nested menus by day or by track were fine, but one still needs a better way to compare across days. All criticism aside, it was very useful and convenient, and I especially liked the notes feature for talks I attended. very nice! The app was very nice, and was very useful for helping me figure out where I needed to be at what times. But ultimately, the paper handbook is nicer for taking brief notes and starring things to follow up on. Nice idea and very useful, but I don't think it should be viewed as a replacement for the printed handbook. It would be better if it had the high-level schedule, with themes, and locations. The Android app didn't really work though. First, all the times were for some reason in CET instead of EST (I'm from Europe). Second, when I didn't have wi-fi it got stuck trying to connect to the Twitter feed or something. If the app is fixed and the program is released as a pdf before the conference, printed stuff is only a nuisance. A good start, and very useful. I particularly liked the integrated Twitter stream, although it would have been nice to have a 'refresh' button for it. Some minor interface niggles: the iPad version looked more functional than Android, e.g., showing the schedule in a side panel while viewing details in the main part of the screen in landscape mode. On Android, after clicking on the link to my schedule, I had to scroll down to the current time - would have been nice if it kept track of last location. Generally, lots of clicking back and forward that could perhaps have been avoided. LOVED the app. Particularly loved the way it linked in to taking notes, loading the PDF, or highlighting the hotel map. I do not own a smartphone or a tablet. I hope future conference organizers will continue to print and offer the handbook. The app was very helpful and is clearly the way to go in the future. There are improvements possible, though: better integration between a cached version of the proceedings and the app, a way to mark talks for attending and also for reading later, the name of the session, clarifications on what hardware / OS is needed, better representation of the poster session, etc. Regardless, please keep doing the app, it was far more useful than the handbook. The iPhone app was a great idea. Much better than a printed handbook. I had a much better experience with it compared to a mobile website. I don't have a smartphone, so I couldn't use this app. Loved it, didn't want or need a print handbook. needs social interaction capabilities, like the Bizzabo conference experience app The app was awesome! The one thing that made it confusing was that when you looked at the schedule by day, the talks that were taking place at the same time were presented in maybe a random or alphabetical order rather than in a fixed order according to the session. Other than that it was fantastic. I do still always want a printout of the talk schedule (no abstracts) and the list of posters. The digital handbook app was the BEST THING EVER! I did not use the app, the tarball was useful enough though. this should be the standard from now on The app was useful, but it may be helpful to provide access to the papers when not online (e.g., when on the plane to the conference). App was very helpful!! Quite handy. Links to paper PDF are invaluable. Instead of an online map, I'd prefer an offline version. It was great, but I wish that it was updated to account for errors and changes, including the relocation of *Sem to a different room (many of us ended up confused because of this) and the duplication of one of the Tuesday sessions.

It would also be awesome to have it sync to online conference proceedings and between devices, so that I could choose which talks to bookmark from a larger screen and then go to them based on my phone. Re: videotaping - yes, if the quality of the talks improves (the videotaping itself may be reason enough for people to create better talks, who knows) Re app: try to avoid misunderstandings (people looking for provided lunch) I wanted a view that was basically "the website, where I can see all the talk titles happening at all sessions at a given time, but with locations", and couldn't find it Do you mean this website <http://aclweb.org/anthology/N/N13/> ? I really prefer it on a USB key, it's always a useful device and it's handier to pass on the materials to my co-authors at the lab. No handbook is necessary, we have ACL anthology for that reason. Everything should be online and you did a great job. The app can be improved but it was a good first step. I was able to download the PDF on the Weds after giving up Monday & Tuesday due to network issues. It would have been quite helpful early on. I shied away from the "app" because I only have a Windows laptop, not a smart phone or ipad/ipod. The app was very cool. I never used my paper copy, except to look up the address of the banquet. the app couldnt fulfill all the uses of the paper book -- in particular, being able to see all the talks in a single session, or how papers were organized into sessions and workshops/conferences. and starsem wasn't even in the app was it? well, at least i couldnt figure these things out in the app. still needs some improvement to find schedule more easily It didn't have all the functionalities on Android as it did for iOS. And given that this is just the first year, I am sure that it would improve (also for other OS like Windows phone etc.). Certainly I don't have complaints. Was great! Would have been even nicer if it had updated the room changes It was draining the battery too much. Aside from that, it was helpful. I haven't used it Why not just go with a good mobile homepage instead of a native app? Honestly, if the same amount of time had gone to making the homepage usable it would have been a way better investment than a slow-loading app. No support for my OS unfortunately (although I understand why!). The app was useful, but having a mobile-compatible website could be an alternative investment - I could not see any functionality from the app which could not have been implemented with a website! 1) No ability to provide feedback on the app within the app - this is critical 2) I would have liked a "talks by room" in addition to all the other ways of slicing and dicing. 3) The "My Schedule" view was a good idea, but didn't work in practice: the layout seemed to be broken. It was impossible to see some talks in the view. I used the app during the entire conference. It was great! Although some I could not search some things in the search button. If it is possible to write some comment on PDF files or an abstract of paper or a page of time table directly, I readily use the app. It'd be great if the PDF viewer could feed the PDF to other programs (iOS). It would be nice to see a single schedule outline in one place, like on the website: <http://naacl2013.naacl.org/Schedule.aspx> (This suggestion is true of the handbook as well. I ended up defaulting to the website.) Having the app was much better than not having the app. That said, there were a few issues: * The personal schedule did not show times (only days) * There was no author search on the Android app (only on the iPhone app) * The schedule by date did not sort items by track (so the rooms were always in a different order) *

There should have been a combined date/track view (like the paper schedule) * Notes should be visible on the same page, not a click away and in a different app (at least on Android, it was in the "Catch" app; I heard it was in the same app on iPhone) The app was good, but could be improved. The schedule by day (the most useful part of the app for me) didn't indicate which talks were in which sessions. Pretty good (I tried the Android version). Complete offline download a big plus (overseas data cost for Europeans is enormous - please never make it in need of data connection, or only an optional one for truly last minute updates etc.). However, a "static" PDF of the printed version ("large" format) will be useful, too. need one for windows phone The app was great, but not good enough to drop the book. Partially because there's no way to export the data The app needs a way to search for keywords, and the author index needs to be more navigable. It's useful for finding 'A' names but someone farther down in the alphabet is hard to find. I wish there was a Windows Phone App! Could not install it. On android. The app was great for scheduling purposes. I'd like to see the abstracts listed there easier to see. I still love to take notes all through the book though -- could never replace it with an app for me!

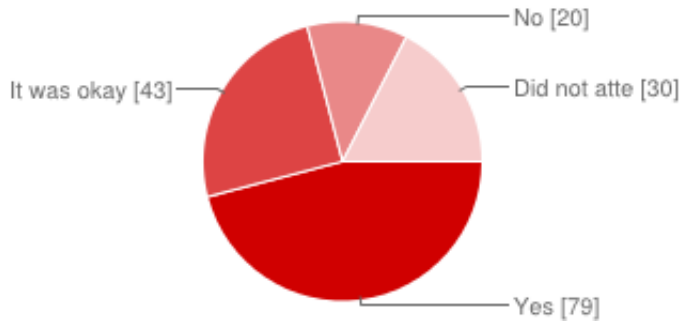
Did you download the proceedings before coming to the conference?



Yes	137	80%
No	34	20%
The proceedings were available before the conference?	1	1%

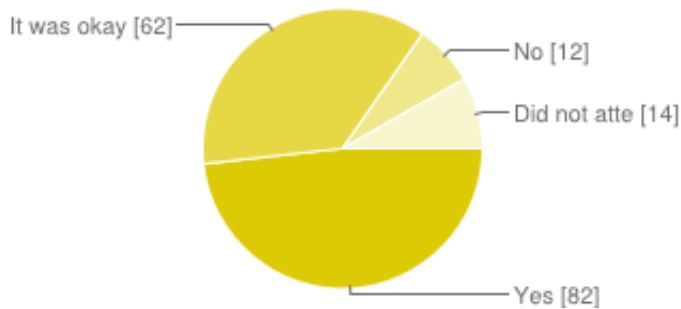
Poster Session

Did you like the One Minute Madness format for advertising poster and SRW presentations?



Yes	79	46%
It was okay	43	25%
No	20	12%
Did not attend	30	17%

Did you like the format of the poster session?



Yes	82	48%
It was okay	62	36%
No	12	7%
Did not attend	14	8%

Please use this space if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the poster session.

In my opinion, the poster session should be better organize. Because each task should be together to can compare the different proposal. The fact that the poster session was divided into two parts made it a bit more confusing to find all the posters I was interested in. Somehow, it didn't seem too organized. And the vegetarian food at the poster session was pretty bad too. Please make sure that posters are listed in the same order everywhere. There was a list of posters given at the one minute madness session that was different than the one minute madness presentation order! This made it hard to note which posters would be interesting to look at more. The room was a little noisy if there was a large crowd in it. It's better to separate the posters of long papers and short papers since there are not so much differences between long posters and long oral papers. There was a lot of confusion regarding the "two session" nature of the poster presentations. the hall where the poster session happened was too packed and crowded, especially with people eating everywhere. The poster session was entirely too crowded. It was impossible to see all the posters I wanted to see. I think the posters should be spread out over two nights, where one night replaces the banquet. Sorry if that sounds a little too harsh but I think poster presenters really are not getting a good venue over the last few years. One minute madness is ok, but it seems like a pretty expensive use of available time. I think there could have been about 9? talks during the time it took for one minute madness...so, I don't know. I think we need more time for the posters in general. I think the 1 minute madness for posters is a total waste of time. There's plenty of opportunity to see the posters

at the poster session. That time could be better spent with regular talks or a panel or another invited speaker. One Minute Madness is pretty pointless IMO. It might be better if the One Minute Madness can be ordered/grouped based on topics I expected One Minute Madness to be more fun - only one speaker really did something interesting this time. I appreciate linear arrangement of posters rather than scattered clusters. Suggest posters around the edge of the room to reduce crowding around posters. Food in the middle avoids conflict of poster-watchers and food-getters. Splitting the session in two simply didn't work. You setup your poster and then people come by, so if you are in the second session, there is no way you wouldn't start presenting right after you setup. I would replace the one minute madness with an additional poster session. It felt random to hear so many posters presented so quickly. Also, many one-minute madness presenters did not prepare to present something in 60 seconds. It was fun to look at this poster madness but I hardly had time to understand which poster could be interesting for me. And I definitely don't want to do it myself. Poster session was a bit too short, and dinner+posters means that presenters (esp. demo folks) don't eat. Having just one hour for each half of the posters was not enough time. Also, it was difficult to find a specific paper's poster location, because the posters were not arranged in the order on the overview sheet provided or the order of the madness talks. The room for the poster session this year was both cramped and too loud. It was really difficult to hear what the presenters were saying unless you got up really close, and that was difficult because the posters were so cramped together. I think it is a bad idea to provide food for the poster session. Drinks are fine, but balancing plates and trying to use silverware while walking around is just a nuisance. I think poster presenters should receive a 10 minute break each hour so they can eat/drink something; some of them were pretty exhausted toward the end. It was too hard to find specific posters. The poster layout and the key needed to be available during the poster session and easy to find. not entirely sure we should keep having posters :) The poster session was very nice! It would have been better if there were some more available beverages -- I think the only easily accessible water was in bottles, for purchase. Poster session was great. Again, good vegetarian options at the buffet would have made it easier to stay there longer and talk to more people. This wasn't as bad as the banquet, but the selection was still pretty limited. The division into two slots did not really work, many presenters of the first session continued presenting during the two slots. Also, it would have been nice, if the posters themselves were marked with respect to which slot they belong to. It was not clear whether some posters were just abandoned or belonged to the second slot. you should follow NIPS format. Poster session was great. Students should be first during the poster madness. The student posters should be more highlighted during the poster session. Too short. Although a kettle of noise, I really appreciated and benefited from the poster session! It provided an opportunity to mingle with those who had similar interests as I, and dig deeper into concepts that I didn't pick up from the papers. one minute madness seems like a waste of time to me -- why not spend the hour just looking at posters? the big problem with the posters is they didnt give free water!!! WTF??!!?!?! More space around the each poster please. The popular ones practically crowd out the neighbouring

ones. Split in two separate sessions rather than back to back. Nice with the dinner, though. I did not find One Minute Madness useful -- too much information is thrown at the audience to retain anything. It was entertaining at times, though. More space would, probably, help: it was somewhat too loud and crowded. OMM was AWESOME. Please do that for every conference every year. The "changeover" part of the poster session (where there were two rounds of presenters) was not effectively implemented. The session A / session B was a good idea. Unfortunately posters were clustered (all As and all Bs). It would make more sense to interleave A and B so that there is more space for posters in each session. Downside of this format is that the session was too short. I'd favour having 2 separate sessions. the "One Minute Madness" was a waste - that time should have been used for the poster session itself. The poster session itself was a bit cramped. Also, they charged \$4 for a teeny-tiny bottle of water!! (also at the Coca-Cola museum) This was a bit ridiculous considering the food was free. There were no free beverages at the poster session, (not even soft drinks or water) which was a tremendous inconvenience. I believe the One Minute Madness was a great idea! Although, some students did not receive an email for the conference saying them the need to have a poster in addition to the oral presentation and 1 slide for OMM. It is important to have the rules clearly. The posterboard is too small! I don't think the 'one minute' presentations are useful. A longer session would be better, I didn't have the time to visit all the posters I was planning to visit. Also, I don't think it was a good idea to mix the poster session with dinner: many of poster presenters didn't have time to eat. It was good to have more space than usual (my impression), but still would be better to have more for the people looking at the poster. Too little space allocated for posters. I think there should be an award for best poster. Attendees can either use an app or online form to vote for their favorites. This along with best talk can be announced in the final session of the main conference in some sort of plenary venue. The venue for the poster session was too small. Too cramped. I was sort of disappointed in the quality of the posters here, and in discussing it with others we agreed. I don't think this is normal for NAACL, but I did see a bunch of posters that I felt were just thrown together at the last minute, or basically were copy pasted paragraphs from the paper in really small font (or in one case, it really just WAS the poster). At least one didn't have a poster at all but just stood by a blank white board... While I don't expect posters to be reviewed and accepted in the same way that papers are, I'm starting to feel maybe there should be some guidelines about font size, etc.

Other

What was your favorite part of the conference?

No favourite, it was just good. Workshops The poster session. Meeting the people
 tutorials Poster session. student accommodation arranged in the same hotel where conference

was held tutorial: Deep Learning for NLP (without Magic) Great talks! the Gina Kuperberg invited talk The quality of the papers and workshops was generally pretty good, and so I think the content was very satisfying. Overall the venue was pretty nice - there was plenty of space available except for a few of the rooms used for workshops. So, the nuts and bolts of the conference worked well for me - useful content in a comfortable setting. I know some people complained about the air conditioning but I think that was fine - much better than if the rooms were hot! I really like Gina Kuperberg's invited talk. I think that was an inspired choice of speaker and topic. The keynote (McKeown), the poster session and the banquet. Invited talks. Meeting my peers, attending talks. Meeting others working in this area and talking during the breaks. One Minute Madness and Poster session Opportunities to connect with other researchers outside of talks. Dancing at the banquet. Atlanta is a genuine American city with city problems worth discussion. We were in it. It's nice to be in the real world instead of cushioned. Also: I like Coke. I attended two tutorials: Deep Belief Nets, and the one on CCA. I initially thought they were expensive (ICML does not charge for tutorials, for example), but they were definitely worth the money. One minute poster madness. The talks were great The tutorials are always a favorite because they provide the chance to learn something state-of-the-art that is otherwise very difficult to get. Talks and posters Great food and refreshments between good talks. the panel and the workshops Keynotes. The talks. Glad that talks were filmed since my colleagues were unable to attend this year due to sequestration. Lecture by McKeown poster session: as always some of the best discussion going on there lot's of great talks The poster and buffet section. papers and seeing friends I think video recording is a great idea. I very strongly hope that this continues. The hallway track! Also the associated workshops and StarSem afterwards were lovely. The whole thing was a great time, though. I liked the venue a lot. Poster session invited talks and tutorials Cognitive/Psycholinguistic Track and Gina Kuperberg's talk. I also really liked the TAACL talks. Poster session Keynote and best paper talks were great. Long breaks were also very useful. best paper talks How frequent and lengthy the breaks between talks were Main venue Breakfasts and Coffee Breaks reception and posters The scientific program. The app! I liked the breakfast arrangement very much; one less thing to think about in the morning, please continue to do this. Talks. The Buffet & Poster session. Kathy McKeown's talk, and best paper presentation M1a / T1a / W1a (machine translation sessions) + the SSST workshop Invited speaker and best paper sessions Meeting everyone again. Would be nice to have more dedicated time for interaction, rather than compete with the talks tutorials & workshops One-minute madness The workshops. Discussing with former colleagues and meeting other attendants. Tutorials and the coffee breaks. Provide breakfast!!!! It's very nice. I thought it went really well Same as any conference. Seeing people I hadn't seen in ages. Reconnecting with colleagues. Not quite sure. But all went smoothly... maybe that's the best part (no real "glitch," at least not a visible one). Uni-clap The tutorials were very high quality. Banquet Tutorials The interaction and catching up with people in the ACL community. opening reception Poster Madness!

What was your least favorite part?

If I start really nitpicking, then too few electricity outlets (as always), and bad sound (and vibration!?) insulation in the workshop rooms. Poster Session The temperature. The AC in all the rooms was way too high and it froze my brain! Food Most tuesday presentations (not all). No microphone in the plaza hall for people who asked questions. banquet Air conditioning was way too cold!!! banquet * Atlanta * Provided food was not that great. The vegetarian options were abysmal through and through. Collard greens (with bacon) Peanut butter (with marshmallow) Vegetables (few and limited) "Vegetarian" consisted of cheese ravioli, mac and cheese, bread and butter, potatoes, ... by far the worst food for years The separation between the plaza ballroom and the two downstairs meeting rooms The breakfasts were weird The failure to have a best paper award and to then not explain why that was the case was really really bad. There ought to have been a best paper award. Kathy McKeown's invited talk was a little bit of a let down. I think it's better if invited speakers are from outside our community, otherwise it just all feels a little too familiar, unless the speaker really works on presenting things in a new way (which didn't really happen). I thought the first invited speaker was great though. It was freezing. The banquet (this year, although I usually enjoy it). Atlanta Sitting through talks where the speaker talked to the screen instead of the audience (sometimes thereby missing the mic so they were actually inaudible as well). Some of the presentation rooms were very cold, especially on the first day. machine translation session Food. This was an atypical ACL conference in that the breakfast food was unsatisfactory and there was no food at all during the morning break (???!!!!!!). No times on the tear out pages in the handbook. But if that's the worst thing, you did pretty good! Kuperberg's invited talk. Could have compressed the core message in 15 minutes. I do not think she handled well the questions from the audience. The banquet. Effective networking is hard. Venue and city Non-banquet Evenings. Nothing was open in the area. Banquet. The bizarre lack of free tap water at every meal and coffee break. What's up with that? Word of Coca Cola as a banquet location - although it was nice it was nearby the hotel. nothing specific, the conference was pretty good overall (my least favorite part was the elevator madness when 20+ people tried to get to their rooms during breaks ;) I enjoyed most parts. Nothing leaps out as bad. The food was unhealthy and was problematically limited in terms of vegetarian options. The location of the banquet was also a poor choice. I think providing a social setting for people to talk is important, but paying to go to a place where no one wants to be is not good. A simple location is just as good if not better. banquet was a bit lame, and expensive Expensive banquet tickets N/A Atlanta Kathleen McKeown's talk Banquet, hands down Too many interesting talks in parallel during the workshop/starsem/semeval days It was very COOOOLD. I want to sit with my t-shirt and shorts on in the summer, i don;t want to wear a sweater. I swear i would wear gloves and scarf in the hotel. The first invited talk. Why do we always invite psycholinguists? I find this terribly boring. You should rather get people from industry and fields which are methodologically related such as networks. Even though I like the idea of a banquet, I didn't think the venue was suitable for it. People were too far spread out. Poster session.

This was my first NAACL conference. Although I looked through the tutorials provided, I did not see and could have really used a "broad brush" tutorial to understand common concepts, glossary terms, application, etc. so that the talks & abstracts could be better understood. (The "initiated" attendees probably already have this background, at least to some extent.) - Vegetarian/vegan food choices in Welcome reception/ poster session The hotel. Breakfast was bad, and I'm not sure why they always had to take the coffee away at the end of each break. The location was kinda sketchy. paper presentations Banquet food was not good for vegetarians, generally it was "finger food" in a non-sit down environment, in kind of a glitzy and (probably overpriced) venue. For \$100/person, we really should be able to do better. (Example: ACL Portland was an exceptional banquet for much less.) The app. The location was so-so and the hotel was very expensive (but very nice!). Why not revert to a format where the conference takes place at a university? The location - even if it was convenient for travel from the US, Atlanta and especially its center was very boring. The banquet was disappointing. The first invited talk. The 10th floor room was a bit too far from the rest of the conference, but still OK. It's better to have all the rooms nearby. And yes, the power plugs (outlets too far from seats :-) - not everyone has a tablet yet. Maybe 2014 will be different...). Posters Talks that were indecipherable. waking up in the morning. :P The banquet was a lot of fun, but i thought the food was underwhelming for the cost.

Other comments (suggestions? anything missing?)

Room sound quality should be improved. I had a very hard time hearing many of the presenters, not to mention the questions from the audience that were completely inaudible. How about regular breakfasts that could be used for better socialising? I remember some great long NLP talks over (sumptuous) breakfasts at some other conferences. Some workshops have a panel discussion and it would be nice to have one as part of the main conference. Despite some glitches, it was a good conference. Thanks for organizing. I am happy to pay for tutorials and videotaping of the tutorials but I'm wondering if tutorial attendees should be paying exorbitant fees while those not attending can watch it for free. Sure there is value in asking questions during the tutorial but one can ask the same questions to the authors over email while watching tutorials online. This somehow doesn't appear equitable to me. Note I'm not suggesting a paywall for the tutorial recordings. I wish all academic/scholarly information to be freely available but just asking the board to consider the fee structure. The coca cola museum was not a great venue. It was not beautiful or impressive (except for the sodas-of-the-world room, which I really liked), nor was the food of normal banquet quality (the poster session had better food). All of the museum attractions were painfully advertising-heavy. Overall, I still enjoyed the evening, but it was mostly despite the venue. Everything worked well. It was one of the better conferences in recent years! great idea to do a survey I think there's a lot of tutorial and workshop crashing, and NAACL really ought to decide to enforce "attend only what you pay for" or move more towards a single priced conference that includes tutorials and workshops. Since I don't think student volunteers can be expected to enforce things like that, a simpler pricing

model would make sense. I didn't stay at the conference hotel - it was pretty expensive and so I had to look around for a cheaper place. I found the lack of info about other housing options a little inconvenient, and felt like I was being pushed a little bit too hard towards the Westin. More than one best paper award. I think a best paper award for TEN years ago would be good. 5 years is too short a time frame to appreciate what has had long-lasting impact. And I did like the idea of making the proceedings available before the conference even though I didn't take advantage of it this year. Might want to add the best poster and/or the most favored one minute show? I have made this suggestion before: There should be financial support for more than just graduate students attending the conference. Faculty from small teaching colleges do not have grants or expense accounts and often are not fully funded at conferences, despite an expectation to participate every year. This is a small portion of the overall attendants but ACL could really help foster the professional development of those in that category by making participation accessible for junior faculty who can demonstrate that their expenses are out of pocket. Good job! I am not a tweeter user, yet I found the tweets on the main web page useful -- for example, I used the tweets to learn about where the NAACL/ML symposium was supposed to take place. Video recording could have been done in a better way. Most of the time, there was no one behind the camera to track the speaker. In addition, I don't think having the videos without the slides would be at all useful. Are you going to ask the authors to provide their slides too? (to be uploaded along with the videos) The tutorials have so much information that it is difficult to absorb it during the tutorial; video would allow us more time - even if only made available to attendees who paid extra for it. Give a bit more information about nearby restaurants that might actually be open. It was disappointing that dietary restrictions were asked about during registration, but didn't seem to be taken into consideration during the conference. The welcome reception, banquet, and poster session had very little for vegetarians, vegans, and gluten-free attendees. Asking about it ahead of time made it seem like options would be made available, so it was disappointing -- especially with the poster session, which was late, at the end of a long day, and something I really wanted to attend. The screen is too small in the conference room. Good job trying new things, and special kudos to publications chairs in making the START maze less painful for workshops. nope, thumbs up, good work! I didn't like the hotel - was too big and elevators were slow. Downtown Atlanta is also not a great place for a conference, and the coca cola center is the last place I'd host the banquet... Overall I felt papers quality was below average. the conference rooms were too cold. why were there no best regular papers this time? Well organized. Minor quibbles: lighting in (the upstairs, level 10?) Plaza ballroom wasn't great - it was sometimes hard to see the speaker's face. Session chairs sometimes had to fumble to find mics to take questions from the floor. If the Best Paper committee cannot come to a consensus on which paper should be Best Paper, they should award a tie. Skirting the issue by not having a Best Paper raised a lot of confusion regarding the status of the Best Student Paper. Further, it gave the impression that the committee felt that none of the papers was worthwhile. Thanks for the large breaks -- they are great time to meet people and discuss ideas and projects. Lunch and session

breaks were perfectly timed. Keep doing that! Please award a best paper next time. It's a poor reflection on the community that one was not selected this year. Thanks to the organizers :-)

I'd prefer more common meals for conference attendants because this is when the most communication is going on.

- cold to the point where i felt i was freezing - food was ok but what do you expect - the hotel is good but next time why don;t you do it in a university environment. Much better and there won't be extreme AC condition in a school.

The hotel's AC was terrible. Why do we have to suffer from a cold in the midst of the summer? In particular during STARSEM, people got sick and couldn't stay in the room any more. Organizers should take care that lapel mikes are provided for the speaker. Each room should have two student volunteers with handheld mikes for questions after the presentation.

After several days of drinking from the proverbial fire hose, I need several months of rehashing to make sense of what I missed in the presentations. The sessions were recorded?? (Yay!) Where and when are they available? I did not see anything to that effect in the handbook.

Sessions on statistical machine translation also in the afternoon would have been nice.

There should have been a best long paper award. We should do a best talk award too, now that all of the presentations are recorded.

The AV setting in peachtree rooms were very poor and people sitting farthest in the room could not really see the slides clearly. It would be nice if the AV setting is tested at each room prior to the conference and adjustments (like adding one more screen halfway in the room) are made accordingly.

There were a lot of bad presentations. It would be nice to have a Best Talk award partially because it might encourage people to do better. Also, why not have some format requirements for talks? Nothing too restrictive, just basics like no font size smaller than 30, not more than 20 words per slide. We put a lot of effort into formatting papers, why not the slides?

There should be a plenary closing session to recapitulate, show us some statistics and so forth. I felt like it was really missing as people were just wandering around not knowing what do.

I like the idea of a stand-the-test-of-time paper award. However, 5 years are a bit too short to judge the impact. Other fields often award 10-years paper awards. Also, some fields (HCI being an extreme example) consciously give out (many) best paper awards to promote their fields and job candidacy. In that sense, it's counter-productive for our fields to withhold from awards.

We should give out multiple best paper awards, like CHI does: <http://chi2013.acm.org/program/best-of-chi/> Contact me if you want to talk about it (Mark Dredze)

The conference fees seemed a bit excessive - my registration came to \$1200. Not completely out of line with the way comp sci conferences are going, but wouldn't it be nice to buck the trend?

The conference was fantastic and I enjoyed the presentations, tutorials, and posters. The app was a great idea. I really believe that a participation's certificate should be delivered during the conference. I asked it in the registration table and they said me that they were exhausted and they won't do it in that time, only by email.

The yes/no questions are too absolute. It might discourage me attending a tutorial live. But I might still do it....

The conference rooms were extremely cold on the first day, though it was much better for the rest of the conference, so I assume someone talked to the hotel about it. The breakfast generally ended way too early - 7:30am breakfast doesn't make much sense for a 9:00am session. 8:00am or even 8:30am would have been better.

Enough coffee stations with short queues & continuous availability was a plus :-). No (sweet) food in breaks was a minus... ;-). The two screens in the plenary sessions were too close to each other (distracting). I would like to see a hashtag assigned for each paper, so that I could see what people are tweeting along the way. Also, if each talk had a hashtag, there might be a way to do question voting (delivered by a moderator), so that more vocal people do not monopolize the q/a portion of talks. Some other kind of session would be interesting. A creative panel, or a repeat of last years "vote for a paper from the past". By the third day the steady march of sessions was a bit much. It seems like student research workshop got lost by pushing it to the workshop day.. it works, don't fix it Why no snacks during the morning break?

Number of daily responses

