

Report on visit to Japan, July–August 2017  
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My short trip to Japan included visits to two institutions, as well as an international conference. First I went to Hokkaido University in Sapporo, to the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology. I gave a talk to an audience of about 50, entitled *Search: then and now*. I spent some time talking to my host at Hokkaido University, Professor Masaharu Yoshioka, and his students, about their current work. Next I went to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Waseda University, Tokyo, and gave a similar talk there. Again, I talked to my host Professor Tetsuya Sakai (who was my main JSPS host in Japan) and his students about their current work. Finally I attended SIGIR 2017 which took place in Tokyo; I gave the first keynote talk, and took part in several other events, including a panel at one of the associated workshops. Attendance at the conference was over 900, from a large number of countries.

The research theme of the whole visit was information retrieval, also known as 'search', and the history of the development of ideas and methods in search, starting before the internet existed, up to and including the current generation of web search engines. Both institutions visited have active and successful research groups in the area of search.

