Thursday 16 June 2016  
14h20 – 16h30  
UT3 Paul Sabatier, IRIT, Salle des Thèses  

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Social Information Seeking: Leveraging the Wisdom of the Crowd  

Abstract: While scholars have argued in the past that information seeking is a social activity, most of the information retrieval systems have been developed for individuals, disregarding the social dimension. With the emergence of the Web 2.0 and a widespread use of social media services and social networking sites, the social dimension of information seeking has received a renewed attention. However, most social information seeking (SIS) methods and tools tend to connect search and social aspects of human behavior quite superficially. Examples include getting recommendations based on social connections, and ability to share search and/or retrieved information through social media. In this talk I will argue that SIS behaviors run deeper than just having social media attached to search. I will highlight some of the recent works that address social and crowdsourced information seeking. Specifically, I will discuss community-based Q&A services such as Yahoo! Answers and StackOverflow, as well as social searching through Facebook and Twitter. Using some of our own works and those of other leading scholars, I will discuss what we know, what's missing, and where we could go next.  

Short bio: Chirag Shah is an associate professor in both the School of Communication and Information and the Department of Computer Science at Rutgers University. His research interests include information seeking/retrieval in individual, social, and collaborative contexts. Shah received a PhD in information science from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. He directs the InfoSeeking Lab (http://infoseeking.org/) at Rutgers where he investigates issues related to information seeking, interactive information retrieval, and social media, supported by grants from National Science Foundation (NSF), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Google, and Yahoo!