



## Association for Computational Linguistics

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We would like to invite organizations of all kinds to help support the upcoming Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) and Human Language Technology (HLT) conferences in 2008 and 2009.

As noted in the accompanying sponsorship prospectus, ACL is hosting four conferences in 2008 and 2009. These conferences play a vital role in the ongoing research and development of human language technology — machine translation, question answering, information retrieval, speech recognition, text summarization, information extraction, dialogue systems, and others. In 2008, ACL-08:HLT will take place in Columbus, Ohio, USA from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. Bringing together researchers from three distinct research communities (information retrieval, speech processing, and language/text processing), ACL-08:HLT continues the tradition of combining the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL) and the Human Language Technology Conferences (HLT) annual meetings begun in 2003. ACL-08:HLT is the **premier international research conference in the field in 2008**. It is thus the best opportunity this year for you to advertise your institution's interest in and support of language technology. The participation of organizations in sponsoring this conference is important: it shows the students that there is real significance to their work, allows research faculty to learn where they should send their graduating students, and signals to funders like DARPA and the National Science Foundation that the work being done is relevant to society. The conference is described further at <http://www.acl2008.org/>. As usual, we expect between 700 and 1,100 participants, from academia, industry, and government, and we hope to host a vibrant and varied exhibits program as well.

In 2009, ACL will host three conferences: EACL 2009 in Athens, Greece, NAACL HLT 2009 in Boulder, Colorado, USA, and ACL-IJCNLP 2009 in Singapore. For the first time, ACL is also offering a "3Pack" which, for a single, discounted payment, will give access to sponsorship opportunities at all three 2009 conferences.

Organizations that may wish to demonstrate their software, advertise their openings, or in any other way wish to have a clearly defined venue in which to attract participants to contact your organization are encouraged to peruse the accompanying prospectus for the sponsorship opportunities that best fit your needs. Sponsoring these conferences is easy — just contact any of the people listed at the end of the prospectus. In recognition of your generosity, our head conference organizer Priscilla Rasmussen will work personally with the Local Arrangements staff to ensure your needs are met.

In whatever way that makes sense for your organization, the ACL HLT community would be very grateful for your financial support of these conferences. The conferences are essential to maintaining a healthy R&D environment, one that guarantees high-caliber and enthusiastic graduates entering the job market every year. Sponsor support is one of the important mechanisms that make these events possible.

Inderjeet Mani, Josef van Genabith, and Michael White  
ACL-08:HLT Sponsorship Co-Chairs