

# A Timeline [Croft 2019]

## Document Retrieval

Time

Answer Passage Retrieval

Sentence Retrieval      Passages as Features  
QA Factoid Retrieval      Snippet Retrieval  
CQA or Non-Factoid QA

## Conversational Answer Retrieval

Answer Passage Retrieval Revisited

Response Retrieval/Generation

Question Answering/Machine Comprehension

Complex Answer Retrieval  
(Passages as Summaries)



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**Argument Retrieval**



# Argument Retrieval

## Argument and Argumentation

### Argument:

- ❑ A conclusion (claim) supported by premises (reasons). [Walton et al. 2008]
- ❑ Conveys a stance on a controversial topic. [Freeley and Steinberg, 2009]

**Conclusion** *Argumentation will be a key element of conversational agents.*

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**Premise 1** *Superficial conversation (“gossip”) is not enough.*

**Premise 2** *Users want to know the “Why” to make informed decisions.*

### Argumentation:

- ❑ Usage of arguments to achieve persuasion, agreement, ...
- ❑ Includes rhetorical and dialectical aspects.

# Argument Retrieval

## Shared Tasks

### Task 1: Supporting argumentative conversations

- ❑ Scenario: Users search for arguments on controversial topics
- ❑ Task: Retrieve “strong” pro/con arguments on the topic
- ❑ Data: 300,000 “arguments” (short text passages)

### Task 2: Answering comparative questions with arguments

- ❑ Scenario: Users face personal decisions from everyday life
  - ❑ Task: Retrieve arguments for “Is X better than Y for Z?”
  - ❑ Data: ClueWeb12 or ChatNoir [[chatnoir.eu](http://chatnoir.eu)]
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- ❑ Run submissions similar to “classical” TREC tracks
  - ❑ Software submissions via TIRA [[tira.io](http://tira.io)]

# Touché @ CLEF 2020

1st Shared Task on Argument Retrieval



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