

PROMISE

Participative Research labOratory for Multimedia and Multilingual Information Systems Evaluation

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Research exchange report on:

Evaluation of operational information access systems







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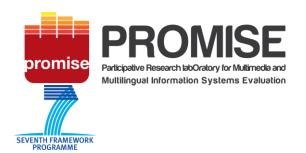


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1 Introduction

Tasks T4.4 of UvA and T4.5 of ZHAW have similar goals and rely on several methodologies for the evaluation of operational systems. Both institutions which carried out the exchange have specific knowledge of methodologies which they had used in previous projects or which are still being used and researched at the moment.

It was thus agreed to perform a research exchange to share expertise and experiences. Stefan Rietberger from ZHAW visited UvA at their site, where he collaborated mainly with Richard Berendsen.

2 Planned Work

Before the visit, we had agreed upon the following actions points to be worked upon during the exchange:

- ZHAW will give a presentation of two evaluation studies of enterprise web search portals and the studies' background. We shall discuss if and how we should adapt the used methodology to PROMISE.
- We are going to discuss holistic evaluation, incorporating both IR systems and their surrounding applications.
- UvA will give an overview and selected examples of the log file approach and methodologies.
- We will discuss current and future corporate partners: cooperation, data, and acquisition.

3 Conducted Work

UvA have been working on an internal document for their task T4.4. We agreed on working jointly on that document, as it can be used as ground work by both partners in the future.

We managed to deal with all the points on the agenda. The presentation of evaluation studies was given as an informal talk to the IR group of UvA. In turn, we have had a session about query log analysis from course slides by



Richard Berendsen. On several occasions we discussed corporate partners and evaluation methodologies. The major insights thereof have been included in the living labs manual.

4 Results and Impact on PROMISE

The partners have shared their knowledge on evaluation methodologies in depth. Work has been done on a living labs manual, which is supposed to guide PROMISE partners when evaluating operational information access systems. This includes acquiring corporate partners for that purpose. The manual is still under development but a draft will soon be made available for all partners on the PROMISE document repository.

The exchange will directly benefit PROMISE tasks T4.4 and T4.5, but eventually also T2.4 and T2.5.