of Applied Sciences Zh aW

Institute of Applied Information Technology Zurich University of Applied Sciences Information Engineering Group

FROM EVALUATION TO APPLICATIONS (Beyond evaluating retrieval effectiveness of IR systems)

MARTIN BRASCHLER (with work by Melanie Imhof & Stefan Rietberger)

08.02.2013



Content



- Retrieval problem/IR cycle
- IR applications
- Application-centric evaluation
- Guerilla campaign
- Criteria
 - Index
 - Query/Document matching
 - User interaction
 - Search results
- Results
- Conclusion





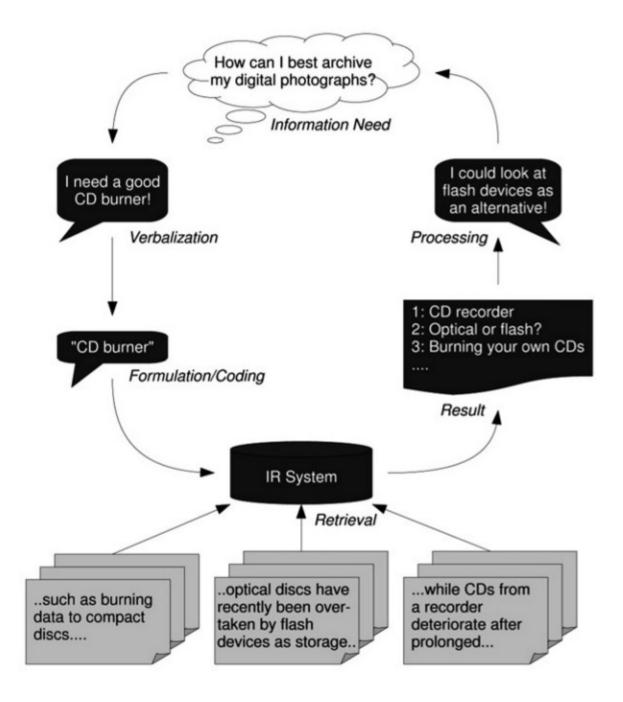
The Retrieval Problem

- Robertson et al. (1982):

 ".... the function of a document retrieval system is to retrieve all and only those documents that the inquiring patron wants (or would want)."
- => this is a difficult problem, due to a number of factors, as will be demonstrated with the following example:

Information Retrieval Cycle

 Example taken from Peters et al. (2012)







Challenges for IR

- Information needs are not verbalised or formulated well enough
- Language is ambiguous: Synonyms, Homonyms, Paraphrasings, Metaphors, Word forms, Typos
- Documents are unstructured and inhomogenous
- Misleading content (spam etc.)
- Authority, source, actuality, copyright.
- Conflicting goals: recall vs. precision
- Relevance is subjective, context dependent, personal preferences, completeness of answer





Cranfield-style evaluations

- "Back-bone" of evaluation campaigns such as TREC, CLEF, NTCIR, ...
- Extensively studied, well understood (including limitations!)
- Needs test collections, needs (costly) relevance assessments
- Is an evaluation of IR *systems*

IR applications

- An information retrieval application covers the whole information retrieval cycle
- IR applications support knowledge-intensive business processes (e.g. recruiting, compliance, search for innovation etc.)
- IR applications often have a communication and integration role
- Consider extranets: communication with the customer (user can abort communication at any time!)
- Consider intranets: integrating multiple data sources at search time
- IR application = IR system + data collection + configuration/application layer

Application-centric evaluation



- Cranfield = evaluation of retrieval effectiveness of IR systems
- How to evaluate IR applications? What to evaluate?

Motivation



- Very few system developers
- Many more IR application deployers, implementors and operators
- The latter are actually interested in how well their IR applications perform (this is not just a system development question!)
- We believe IR evaluation can successfully be conducted from the "front" (application) or the "back" (system)



Why not Cranfield?

- IR applications support a *specific* knowledge-intensive business process.
- The performance on the *actual* underlying data collection is important
- There are different motivations for evaluation:
- Not just tuning, but also monitoring, continuous evaluation etc.
- There are different requirements for evaluation:
- Not comparative evaluation. Absolute performance is important!

Interesting problem



- How to measure?
- What to measure?
- Alternative methodologies
- There is some prior work, but there is a lot to do
- Additional, related problems (→ validation, certification, ...)





What to measure?

- Operators of IR applications are typically not interested in retrieval effectiveness per se.
- It is more important that the application is "good enough" than if the retrieval effectiveness is (theoretically or practically) optimal
- What to measure is still a research question
- We attempt to measure some form of "user perception" of the application

Zurich University of Applied Sciences

zh

Evaluation Methodology

- We used a "guerrilla campaign" setup to develop/verify the methodology
- Part of the work in work package 4 of the Promise NoE
- Sites are treated as black box applications
- No ranking of sites

Zurich University of Applied Sciences

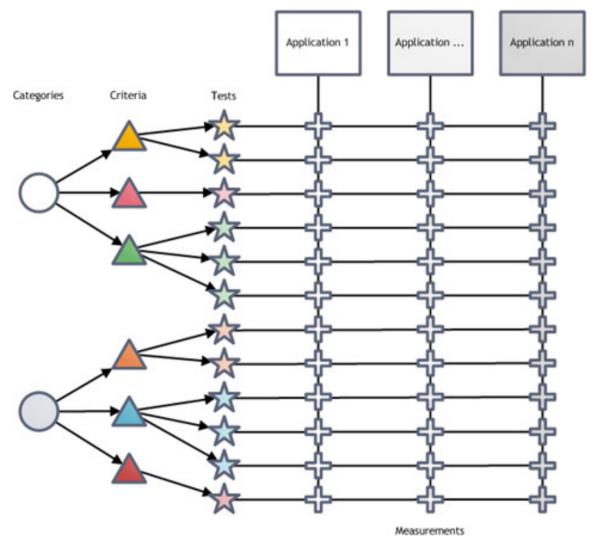
Evaluation Methodology (cont.)



- Measurement is based on a wide range of criteria (large number of tests)
- Scoring of individual tests is simple by design (simple counts etc.)
- Weighting the different tests, and aggregation, is still subject of research
- There is a "script" guiding the testers ("creativeness" of testers needs to be minimized as much as possible!)
- Testers are also asked about their subjective experience

Evaluation Methodology





Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts





Instantiating the grid of tests

- The methodology can be adapted to different use cases by use-case specific pruning
- This is still work in progress





Example of a single test: Completeness

Assumption

Users expect to potentially find all documents that can be publicly accessed in any way on the site (namely, through browsing the site) when using the search functionality.

Irregularity

Publicly accessible documents (known through browsing or obtaining a direct link) cannot be found using the search functionality.

Root causes

The index is incomplete – documents/sets of documents are missing

The index is incomplete – the index is out of date (\rightarrow Freshness)

The index is incomplete – documents of certain types are missing (→ Format support)





Example of a single test: Completeness (cont.)

Test

The content scope of the test is decidedly narrow. No linked resources in the application are expected to be accessible through the search. E.g. if a retailer owns another shopping outlet, the latter's products need not be found.

- Locate 3 documents which match the following criteria:

Takes at least 5 clicks to locate document

Document is at least 3 levels from root as determined by URL (optional if URL-rewriting is used in the application)

URL is at least 100 characters long (optional as above)

- If no documents matching these criteria are found, abort
- For each document

Extract a characteristic phrase (2-4 words) from a central location within the document

Search for the document using that phrase

Score according to the number of documents which can be located within the top 10 search results (0, 1, 2, 3)

Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts





Example of a single test: Completeness (cont.)

Use Case Domain Adaptations

Search for Innovation: the notion of completeness is defined by a user's expectation of the presence of specific content rather than the inclusion of all browsable content. Therefore, there is no way to objectively and easily test this feature.

Tested Sites for Guerilla Campaign



Enterprise Search

www.abb.ch/ www.about.hm.com www.axa-winterthur.ch www.credit-suisse.com/ www.e-coop.it/ www.efginternational.com/ www.generali.it/ www.hm.com/se www.hug-ge.ch www.ikea.com/se/sv/ www.insel.ch/ www.nestle.ch/ www.novartis.ch/ www.poste.it/ www.rai.it/ www.sf.tv/ www.swissre.com/ www.telecomitalia.com/ www.trenitalia.com/ www.ubs.com www.unicreditgroup.eu/

www.vattenfall.de/ www.volkswagen.de

Cultural Heritage

www.beniculturali.it/ www.bundesarchiv.de/ www.culture.fr/collections/ www.dhm.de/ www.europeana.eu/ www.europeana.eu/portal/ www.gallica.bnf.fr/ www.helveticarchives.ch/ www.ige.ch/ www.pinakothek.de/ www.smb.museum/ www.staedelmuseum.de/ www.unesco.org/

Patent

www.boliven.com/patents/ www.epo.org/ www.freepatentsonline.com/ www.google.com/patents/ www.patft.uspto.gov/ www.wipo.int/

Other Domains

www.aphp.fr/ www.archives.elysee.fr/ www.bag.admin.ch/aktuell/ www.bium.univ-paris5.fr/histmed/medica.htm www.bsip.com/ www.centerpartiet.se/ www.elysee.fr/ www.health.ch/ www.hon.ch/ www.hon.ch/HONmedia/index f.html www.hu-berlin.de www.inpi.fr/ www.kth.se/ www.lara.inist.fr/ www.medicalinfo.ch/ www.moderat.se/ www.policlinicogemelli.it/area/ www.santeromande.ch/ www.spotify.com/ www.unilabs.ch/

Zurich University of Applied Sciences

Criteria



Index

How are documents processed and stored for retrieval?

Query/Document Matching

How are queries matched to documents?

User Interaction

What are the presentation options and what is the usability of the search functionality?

Search Results

What is the quality of the search result?



1. INDEX

1/4

Completeness

- Is everything indexed?
- 80% of the tested sites are complete
 - BP: Make sure that all documents are reachable and processable by the indexer

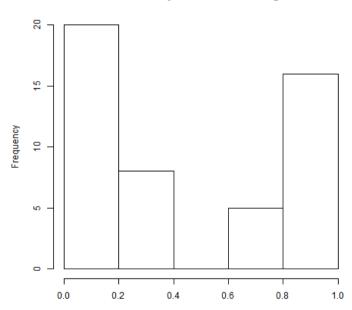
Freshness

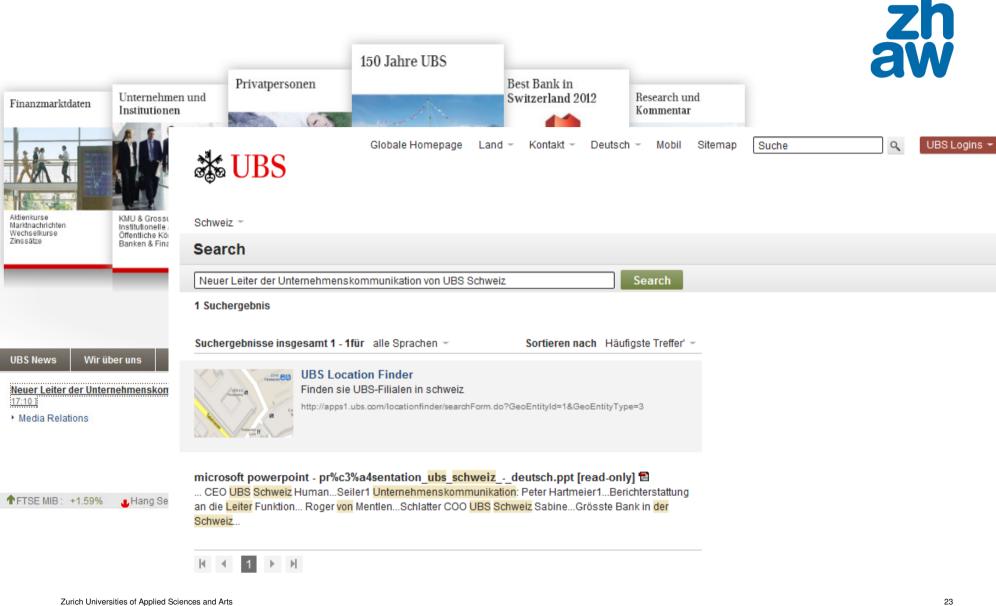
- Are new pages indexed?
- 50% of the tested sites are not fresh
 - BP: Update the index at least daily

Binary Document Handling

- Can binary documents (e.g. PDF, Office documents,...) be found?
- No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.45$, $\sigma = 0.44$)

1.3 Binary Document Handling





Suche

UBS Logins ▼

Zurich University of Applied Sciences

All screenshots are © by their respective owners

Globale Homepage

Kontakt -

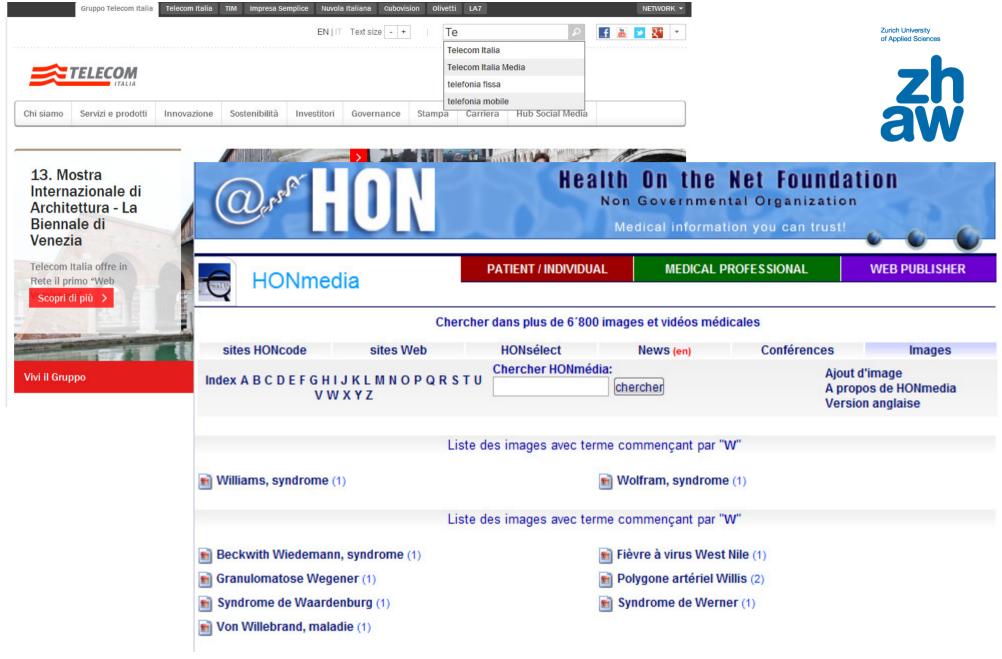
Deutsch - Mobil



1. INDEX

2/4

- Separation of Actual Content and Representation
 - Have structural elements (header, footer, etc.) been indexed?
 - No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.56$, $\sigma = 0.5$)
 - BP: Detect and remove structural document parts (e.g. header, footer)
- Special Characters
 - Are diacritics (e.g. ö, ä, é, ...) processed?
 - No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.42$, $\sigma = 0.49$)
- Synonyms or Domain Specific Terminology
 - Is there functionality to help users select technical terms?
 - Nearly no domain specific terminology (μ = 0.11)



All screenshots are © by their respective owners

Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts



3/4

1. INDEX

Duplicate Documents

- Are duplicates shown in the result list?
- No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.61$, $\sigma = 0.49$)
 - BP: Detect and remove duplicates documents using checksum or full vector comparison

Meta-Data Quality

- Is searching in meta-data fields available?
- No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.47$, $\sigma = 0.46$)

Tokenization

- Is domain specific tokenization (e.g. F/A-18, Hans-Peter O'Brian) implemented?
- No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.61$, $\sigma = 0.43$)
 - BP: Treat domain specific terms with tokenization characters (-, /, .) separately

Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

26



1. INDEX 4/4

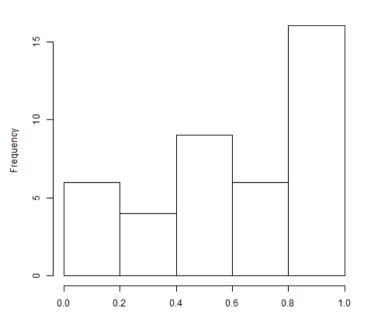
Core Business Entities

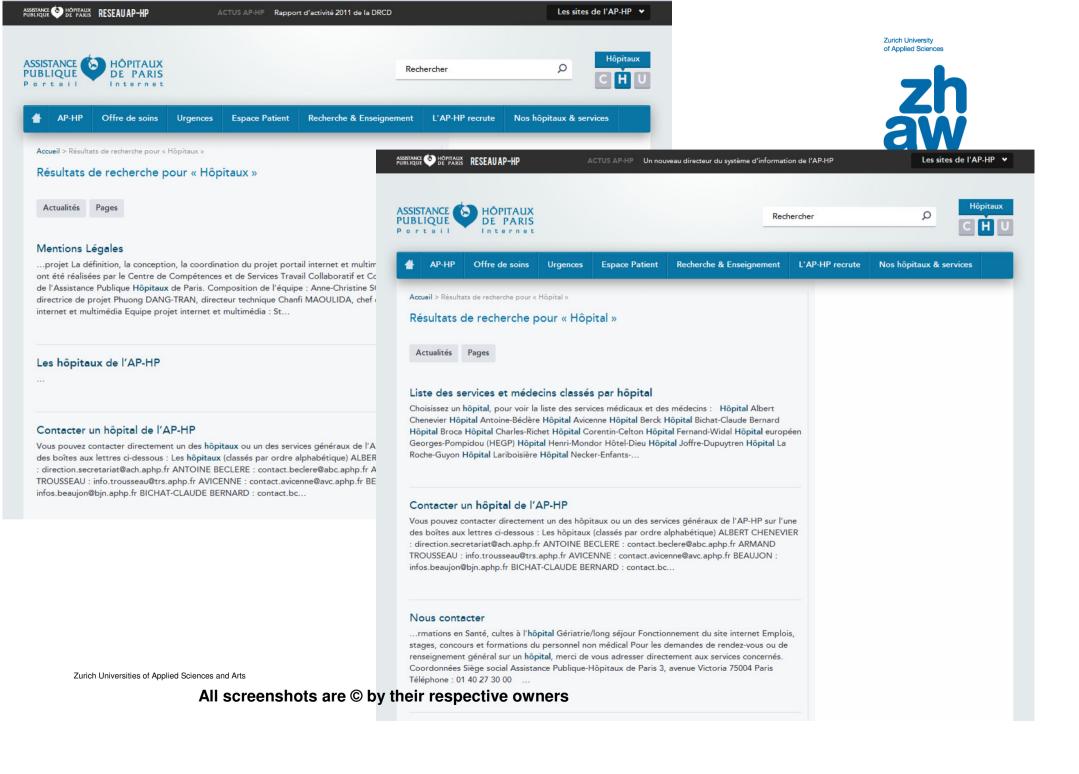
- Can clearly defined entities (persons, products) be found?
- No clear tendency
 - BP: Index business entities as single features

Stemming

- Can different word forms (plurals, verbal forms) be found?
- 63% of the tested sites don't support stemming
 - BP: Use stemming to overcome mismatches between word forms

1.10 Core Business Entities



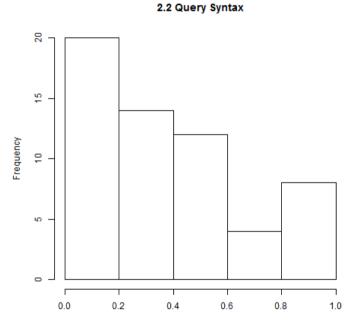




2. QUERY/DOCUMENT MATCHING

1/3

- Phrasal Queries
 - Are phrasal queries ("man bites dog") supported?
 - 67% support Phrasal Queries
- Query Syntax
 - Are Boolean queries supported? (AND, OR, NOT)
 - No clear tendency
- Over- and Under-Specified Queries
 - Are there results if we over-specify queries?
 - Are there suggestions if we under-specify queries?
 - Sites with a good overall score can deal with over- and under-specified queries



Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

29



2. QUERY/DOCUMENT MATCHING

2/3

- Feedback
 - Can user give feedback about search results?
 - Most of the sites do not allow users to give feedback about the results $(\mu = 0.22)$
- Multimedia
 - Is it possible to retrieve multimedia (e.g. images, videos, music)?
 - Multimedia retrieval is rarely supported ($\mu = 0.26$)
 - BP: Use text-based multimedia retrieval (i.e. captions, filenames, subtitles)

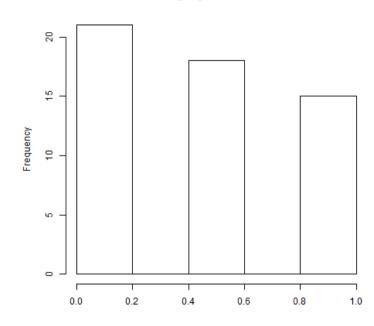


2. QUERY/DOCUMENT MATCHING

3/3

- Cross-Language Information Retrieval
 - Can a user retrieve documents in different languages? (language-neutral terms, main language)
 - No clear tendency
 - BP: Use combinations of translation resources, translate metadata, maximize vocabulary coverage of translation resource

2.6 Cross-Language Information Retrieval





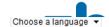
Produkte und Dienstleistungen und Expertise

Wirtschafts-News

Karriere Wir über uns



Zurich University of Applied Sciences



Search Center



https://www.credit-suisse.com/ch/unternehmen/kmugrossunternehmen/d Credit Suisse - Die Termin-Fix-Credit Suisse - Die Termin-Fix-Hypothek -Unter den verschiedenen Hypothekarvarianten finden Sie sicher das Final

Bedürfnissen entspricht. https://www.credit-suisse.com/ch/unternehmen/kmugrossunternehmen/d

Credit Suisse - Die variable Hypothek - 2012-08-20

Profitieren Sie mit der variablen Hypothek der Credit Suisse von hoher Fle Wechselmöglichkeiten.

https://www.credit-suisse.com/ch/unternehmen/kmugrossunternehmen/d

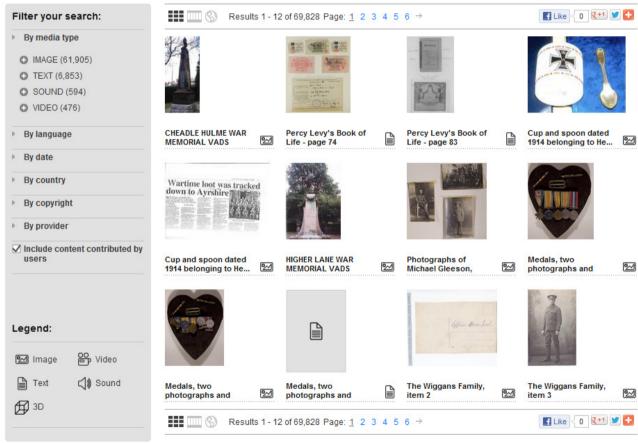


Explore Europe's cultural collections

world war Search Refine your search Help

Explore ▼ Help ▼ About Us ▼ Follow Us ▼ My Europeana

Matches for: world war



Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts



3. USER INTERACTION

1/7

- Performance/Responsiveness
 - How responsive are the sites?
 - 86% of the tested sites had a response time smaller than 5sec
- User Guidance
 - Is there any guidance for the user? E.g. Term suggestion, spell checker,...
 - Most of the pages do not offer user guidance features ($\mu = 0.16$)
- Browsing
 - Is there usable browsing functionality?
 - 82% of the tested sites offered browsing functionality

ABB in der Schweiz

Home Über uns Produkte und Dienstleistungen Medien Job und Karriere ABB Group

→ Suchtipps → Feedback zur Suche



Produkte & Leistungen für w

ABB W - Cabinets (Sub Distribution Boards)

Low Voltage Products and Systems > Enclosures > Sub Distribution Boards > Cabinets > W

... availability... Condition. Product ... Global alias ... Price ... Availability. 0. Quantity. The W wall-mounting and floor-standing cabinet. ...

ABB Rozłączniki i produkty bezpiecznikowe w obudowach ...

Produkty niskiego napięcia > Rozłączniki i produkty bezpiecznikowe w obudowach ... Collection of plastic and metal enclosed switches. Rozłączniki w obudowach i produkty bezpiecznikowe. ... Skontaktuj się z ABB w Inne.

ABB FCU200-W - Flow Computer Units (Flow Measurement ...

Measurement Products > Flow Measurement > Flow Computer Units > FCU200-W
... Checking price and availability... Condition.
Product ... Global alias ... Price ... Availability. 0.
Quantity. FCU 200-W (SensyCal-W). ...

→ Weitere Ergebnisse in Produkte & Leistungen ansehen

Produktkatalog für w

ABB15FGR643W2LA140

Product ID: ABB15FGR643W2LA140 PC, Dynics Industrial w/Enet

2240 W-54 / 6500-0-0792

Product ID: 6500-0-0792
Product Main Type: Alarm- and control devices
Twilight switch

2240 W-53 / 6500-0-0791

Product ID: 6500-0-0791
Product Main Type: Alarm- and control devices
Twilight switch

→ Weitere Ergebnisse im Produktkatalog ansehen

ABB W - Cabinets (Sub Distribution Boards)

Low Voltage Products and Systems > Enclosures > Sub Distribution Boards > Cabinets > W ... availability... Condition. Product ... Global alias ... Price ... Availability. 0. Quantity. The W wall-mounting and floor-standing cabinet. ...

ABB FCU200-W - Flow Computer Units (Flow Measurement ...

Measurement Products > Flow Measurement > Flow Computer Units > FCU200-W ... Checking price and availability... Condition. Product ... Global alias ... Price ... Availability. 0. Quantity. FCU 200-W (SensyCal-W). ...

Webseite

Aktualisiert am: 2012-08-23

Webseite

Aktualisiert am: 2004-09-14

Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts



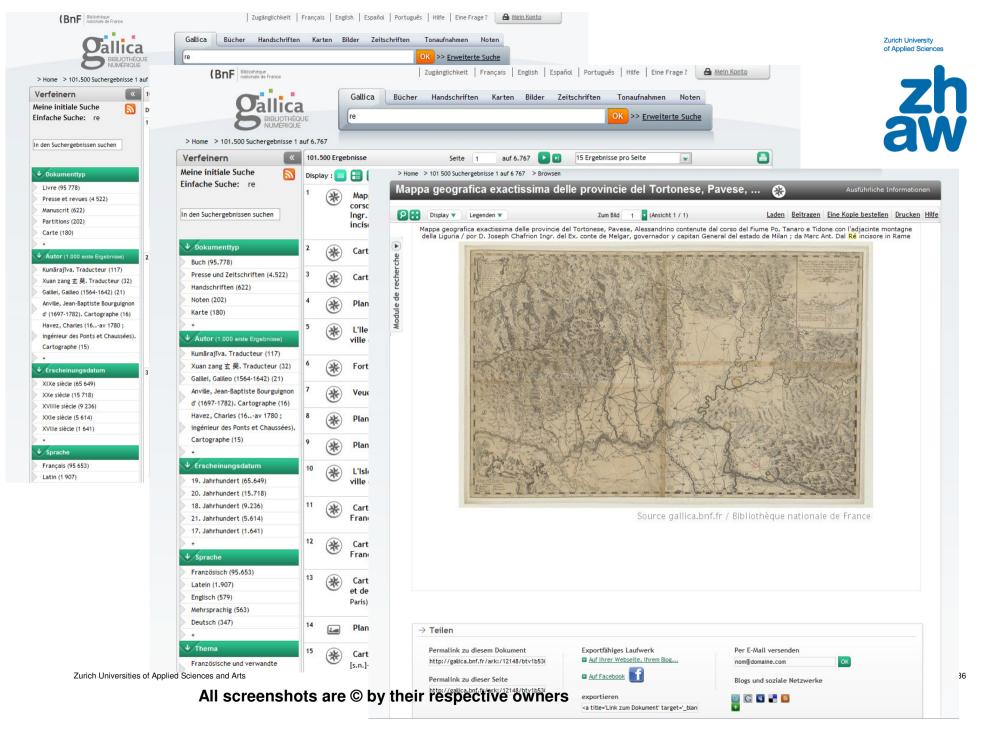
Zurich University
of Applied Sciences



3. USER INTERACTION

2/7

- Personalization
 - Is it possible to personalize the search? E.g. user profiles, user preference, search history,...
 - Only rarely there were personalization features available
- Social Aspects
 - Can search result be shared with other user? Is content suggested based on searches by other users?
 - In general **no social aspects** are available ($\mu = 0.17$)
- Exception Handling
 - What happens if invalid input is entered in the search field?
 - No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.43$, $\sigma = 0.44$)





3. USER INTERACTION

3/7

Result List Presentation

- How are the results presented? Snippets, highlighting, arrangement
- No clear tendency
 - BP: Offer document snippets in the result list

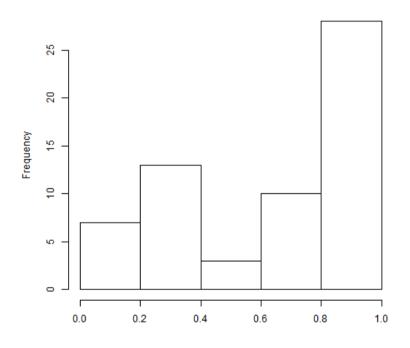
Entertainment

- Is the search functionality entertaining?
- Most of the sites have decent usability and aesthetics

Localization

- Are different languages selectable? Is the localization consistent?
- No clear tendency ($\mu = 0.48$, $\sigma = 0.44$)

3.7 Result List Presentation





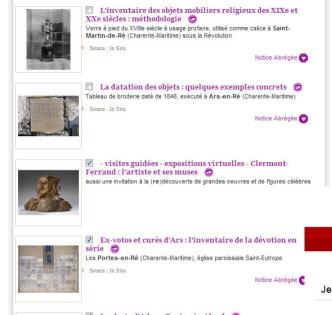
3. USER INTERACTION

- Facets
 - Is it possible to filter?
 - 56% provide filters, 44% don't
- Result List Import/Export
 - Can the result list be imported or exported?
 - 84% of the tested sites don't offer import or export
- Sorting of Result List
 - Can the result list be sorted?
 - 65% provide sorting, 35% don't
 - BP: Offer multiple ways to sort the result list; adapt to requirements of use case domain



3. USER INTERACTION

- Justification of Results
 - Can the result be justified based on snippets, highlighting and the number of results?
 - Some of the sites already provide it, but still capacity to improve ($\mu = 0.68$)
- Monitoring
 - Can the queries be monitored over time?
 - 85% of the sites don't provide monitoring functionality
- System Override
 - Can user input modifying features be overridden or disabled?
 - 81% of the sites don't allow system overrides



Zurich University of Applied Sciences



Erfahren Sie mehr über Feeds

■ Recherche collections

Diesen Feed abonnieren über Google Reader ▼

Abonnieren

La chute d'Adam. Benjamin Alard Praeludium en ré mineur BuxWV 140 ... Passacaille en ré mineur BuxWV 161 / Christian Ritter Suite en ut mineur / Johann Sebastian Bach ... Canzona en ré mineur BWV 588

Notice Abrégée 🧲

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **s** fin

S'abonner à cette recherche

Jean-Baptiste Troppman

Donnerstag, 6. September 2012 13:44:03



@ MuCEM, Dist. RMN / image

MuCEM un personnage de fiction, re -convoqué à chaque nouvelle affaire criminelle, héros tragique de complaintes puis de films et d'émissions télévisées Oeuvres étudiées : Condamnation et éxecution de Jean-Baptiste... / Exécution de Jean-Baptiste Tropmann, Date: 1870-01-19 / 1870-01-19 Lieu de conservation : MuCEM / MuCEM

Une leçon de France

Donnerstag, 6. September 2012 13:44:03



© Photo RMN - G. Blot ré Oeuvres

étudiées : En Alsace - La première leçon (FABIANO Fabien) Date: 1914 Lieu de conservation: MuCEM

Réseau des sites maieurs de Vauban

Donnerstag, 6. September 2012 13:44:03



Besancon, Briancon, Mont-Dauphin,

Villefranche-de-Conflent, Mont-Louis, Blaye/Cussac-Fort-Médoc, Saint-Martin-de-Ré, Camaret-sur-Mer, Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue, Arras, Longwy, Neuf-Brisach ... Saint-Martin-de- Re'

Ministère de la Culture - Les dieux égyptiens

Donnerstag, 6. September 2012 13:44:03



Les Guides Joanne : invention d'une collection

Donnerstag, 6. September 2012 13:44:03

lles de Noimoutier, d'Yeu, de Ré, d'Aix

Le label « bateaux d'intérêt patrimonial »

Donnerstag, 6. September 2012 13:44:03



traditionnel, construit en 1957 à Saint-Gilles Croix-de-Vie

Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

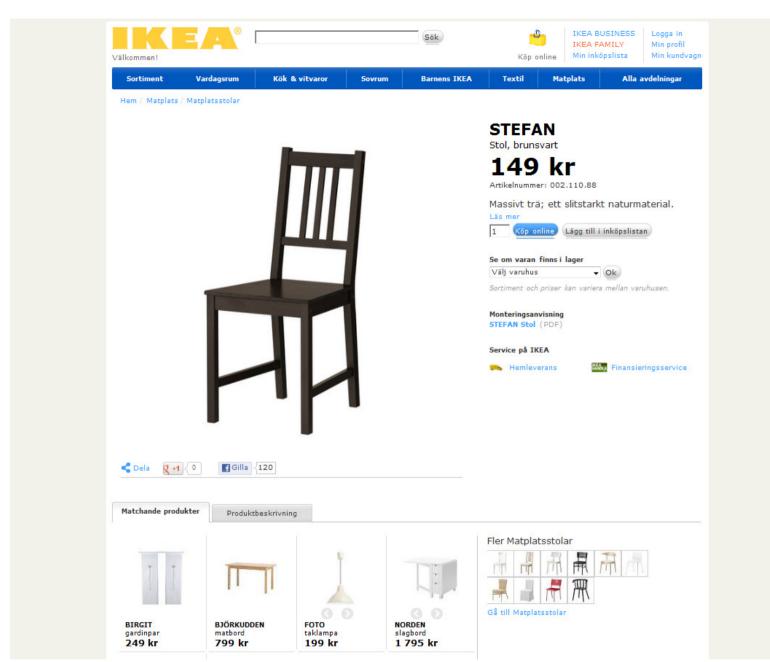
All screenshots are © by their respective

et d'Oléron Auteur de l'article : Hélène Morlier



3. USER INTERACTION

- Related Content
 - Does the application suggest other content that might be relevant?
 - 78% of the tested sites don't suggest other content
 - BP: Link additional sources and resources that provide context information
- Context Information
 - Does the application present contextual information? E.g. #views, #citations
 - 78% of the tested sites don't provide contextual information



Zurich University of Applied Sciences



Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

All screenshots are © by their respective owners.



3. USER INTERACTION

- Navigational Aids
 - Is it possible to navigate back and forth in the query history?
 - 82% of the tested sites don't offer a navigation possibility
- Mobile Access
 - Is there a mobile version of the site and the search functionality?
 - 82% of the tested sites don't have a mobile version of the search functionality

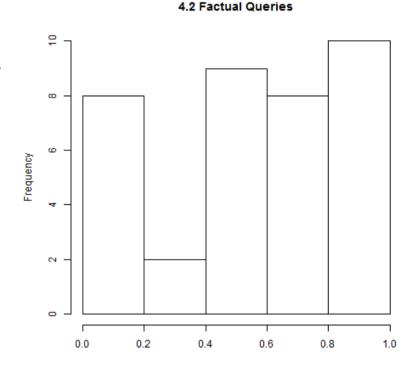


4. SEARCH RESULTS

1/2

Navigational Queries

- Can navigational entry points be found by queries?
- 50% success, 50% don't
- Factual Queries
 - Can facts be found through the search functionality?
 - No clear tendency





4. SEARCH RESULTS

- Known Item Retrieval
 - Can known items be re-found?
 - 77% of the tested sites succeeded in finding a known item
- Diversity
 - Are the retrieved results diverse?
 - 80% of the tested sites are felt to **deliver diverse** results
- Geo-Location
 - Is the user's geo-location part of the retrieval functionality?
 - 87% of the tested sites don't consider the geo-location

Criteria Results Summary

zh aw POOR RESULTS

GOOD RESULTS

- Completeness
- Phrasal Queries
- Performance/Responsiveness
- Browsing
- Known Item Retrieval
- Diversity

- Office Document Handling
- Separation of Actual Content and Representations
- Special Characters
- Duplicate Documents
- Meta Data Quality
- Tokenization
- Named Entities
- Query Syntax
- Over- and Under-Specified Queries
- Cross-Language IR
- Exception Handling
- Result List Presentation
- Entertainment
- Localization
- Facets
- Sorting of Result List
- Justification of Results
- Navigational Queries

Freshness

- Synonyms
- Stemming
- Feedback
- Multimedia
- User Guidance
- Personalization
- Social Aspects
- Result List Import/Export
- Monitoring
- System Override
- Related Content
- Context Information
- Navigational Aids
- Mobile Access
- Geo-Location

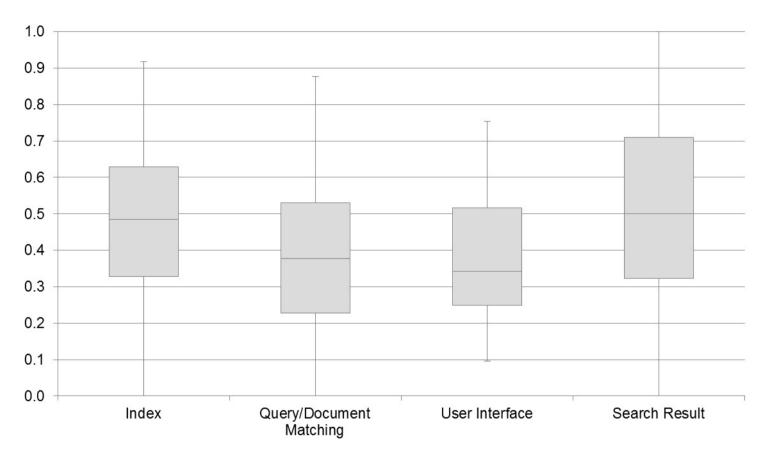
Best Practice



- Even though best practices exist (→ e.g. Promise NoE work package 2), most of the sites achieve poor results for the following tests
 - Freshness
 - Stemming
 - Multimedia
 - Related Content
 - Separation of Actual Content and Representation
 - Tokenization
 - Cross-Language Information Retrieval
 - Result List Presentation
 - Sorting of Result List

Overall Result





Zurion Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

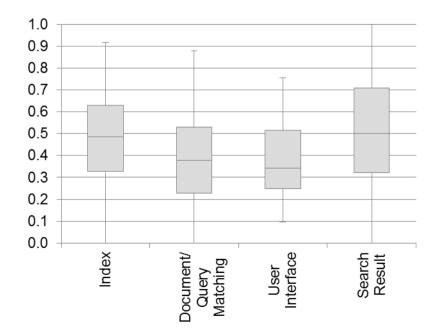
Overall Result Interpretation



- High scatter (different use cases)
- User interface has lowest mean and smallest standard deviation
 - most of the sites have a poor performance in this category

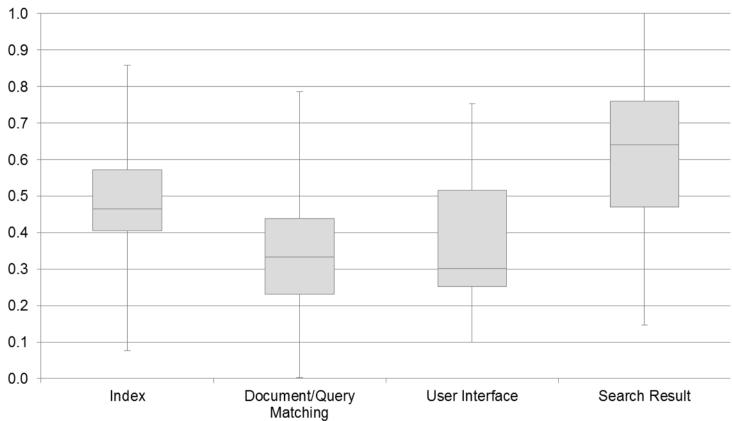
Search results is the only category where the maximal score

is reached



Enterprise Search Result





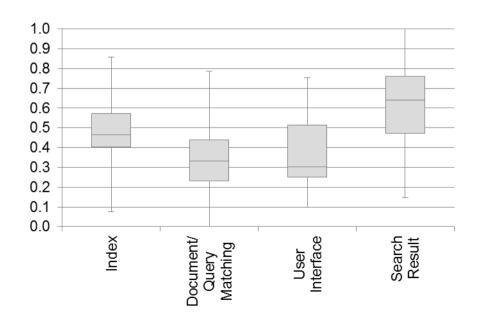
Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

Zurich University of Applied Sciences



Enterprise Search Result Interpretation

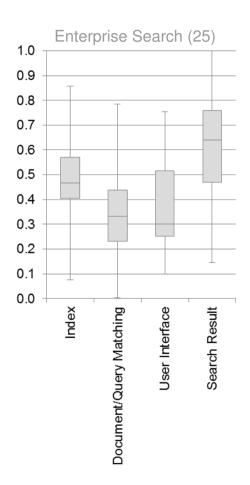
- Smaller scatter
- Higher mean in search result category
- Lower mean in document/query matching

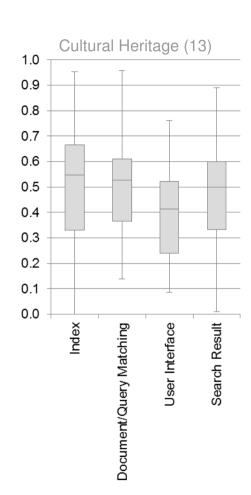


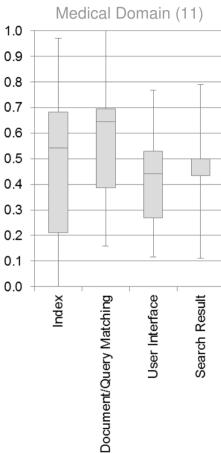
Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

Use Case Domains







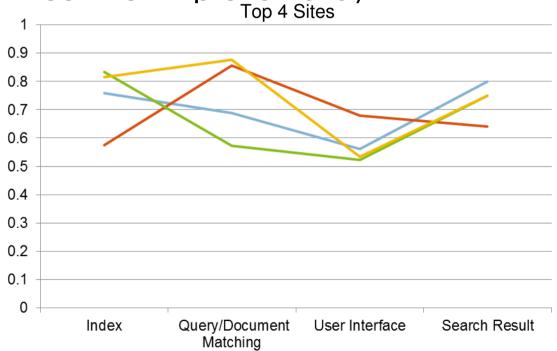


 Due to too little data these plots are not representative (→ work in progress)

Ranking



- Correlation between rankings based on the four categories is low
- the four best category scores were achieved by four different sites (-> room for improvement!)



Zurich University of Applied Sciences



User Experience vs. Overall Score

Correlation of User Experience and Overall Score: 0.53

Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

Zurich University of Applied Sciences

Conclusion



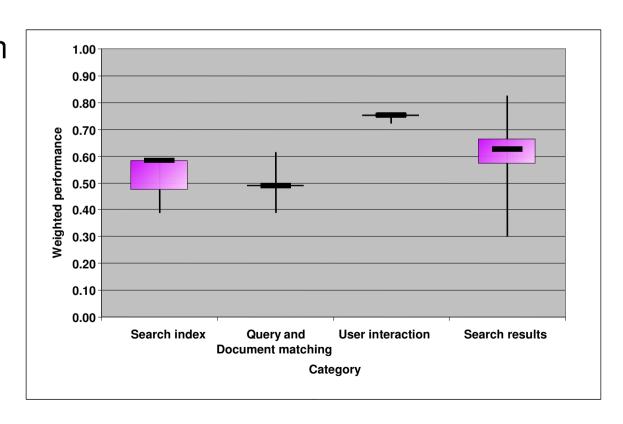
- Index
 - Keep index fresh
 - Apply stemming
- Query/Document Matching
 - Allow the user to give feedback about the search result
 - Include multimedia objects in index
- User Interface
 - User guidance (term suggestions, spell checking, ...)
 - Benefit from other users (social aspects, related content, context information)
 - Advanced search functionality (result list import/export, monitoring, system override)
- Search results
 - Consider geo-location in the search

Future work

Zurich University



- Comparing to Google baseline (fixed system!, shows variation from application)
- Already explored in earlier study
- "What would happen, if one used Google web search instead of a specific site search?"
- Evaluation of a search with Google web search and a site restriction (www.google.de site:...)
- Mediocre results



Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts





Future work

- Explore automation of tests (such as completeness, freshness, responsiveness...)
- Explore more deeply the actual use of IR applications inside organizations

Zurich University of Applied Sciences



References

- Braschler, M.; Herget J.; Pfister, J.; Schäuble P.; Steinbach, M.; Stuker, J. Evaluation der Suchfunktion von Schweizer Unternehmens-Websites. 2006
- Braschler, M.; Heuwing, B.; Mandl, T.; Womser-Hacker, C.; Herget, J.; Schäuble, P.; Stuker, J. Evaluation der Suchfunktion deutscher Unternehmenswebsites. 2009
- Cleverdon, CW The Cranfield tests on index language devices. 1967
- Peters, C.; Braschler, M.; Clough, P.: Multilingual Information Retrieval: From Research To Practice, Springer, 2012
- Promise NoE, deliverable 2.3 and 4.2, www.promise-noe.eu
- Robertson SE, Maron ME, Cooper WS: Probability of relevance: a unification of two competing models for document retrieval. Info. Tech: R and D. 1: 1-21, 1982
- Sanderson, M.; Braschler, M. Best Practices for Test Collection Creation and Information Retrieval System Evaluation. November 2009