RESEARCH WORKS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE VOLUME 2

Yushiana Mansor



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Editor

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ABSTRACT

Understanding user behaviour is important in designing effective image retrieval system. This chapter presents previous research findings on how users search for images on the Internet. Studies of user needs in image repositories indicated majority of user requests and queries were specific in nature. In addition, most queries were structured using both abstract concepts as well as concrete image elements.

19.1 INTRODUCTION

The number and size of digital repositories containing visual information is increasing and thereby demand appropriate ways to represent and search these information spaces. Their visualisation often relies on reducing the dimensions of information space to create a lower-dimensional feature space, which, from the point-of-view of the end user will be viewed and interpreted as a perceptual space.

The purpose for which images are required typically determines user needs and behavior when searching for the images. It is widely accepted that present day society is much more dependent on the use of visual information in both forms: still and moving images. Visual information is useless if it cannot be obtained in an efficient and effective way. The user needs should be an important part of the requirements used to develop image retrieval.

As for textual documents, nowadays it is easy to generate visual documents but not so easy to gain physical access to them and ever more difficult to retrieve or access those few visual documents which satisfy specific information need (Enser, 1995).