Exploring web search results with meaningful and stable categories

Bill Kules and Ben Shneiderman

Department of Computer Science
Human-Computer Interaction Lab
University of Maryland, College Park
{wmk,ben}@cs.umd.edu

HCIL Workshop on Exploratory Search Interfaces
June 2, 2005
Exploring Search Results

- Source Selection
- Query Formulation
- Search
- Selection
- Examination
- Skimable Document
- Readable Document
- Delivery

Perception Supports Choice and Learning

- Search System
- Query
- Search Results
Found 200 results for urban sprawl site.gov

- Agriculture (10)
- Commerce (4)
- Defense (0)
- Education (1)
- Energy (3)
- Health and Human Services (10)
- Homeland Security (0)
- Housing and Urban Development (3)
- Interior (20)
  - Office of the Secretary (14)
  - National Park Service (3)
  - Interior - Other (3)
- Justice (0)
- Labor (0)
- State (4)
- Transportation (7)
- Treasury (0)
Principles for Categorized Search Results

• Overview large sets of results
  – 100-1000 items
• Meaningful, stable categories and variable (automated clustering) can both help
• Support multiple categorizations
  – User-controlled re-organization
  – “Fast-feature” categorizations
Evaluation – Can we measure “insights”

• Insight: “An individual observation about the data by the participant, a unit of discovery.”

• Attributes
  – Importance
  – Breadth/depth
  – Directed/undirected
  – Correctness

For more information see www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/categorizedsearch

This research is partially supported by an AOL Fellowship in Human-Computer Interaction and by the National Science Foundation (NSF EIA 0129978).

© University of Maryland 2005