

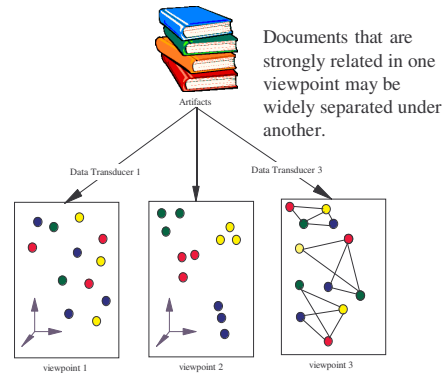
Multiple Viewpoints for Information Retrieval



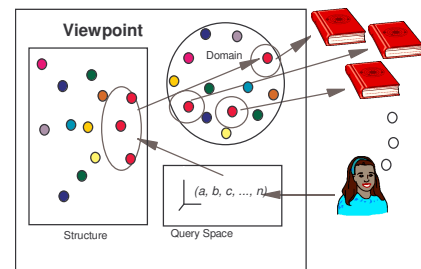
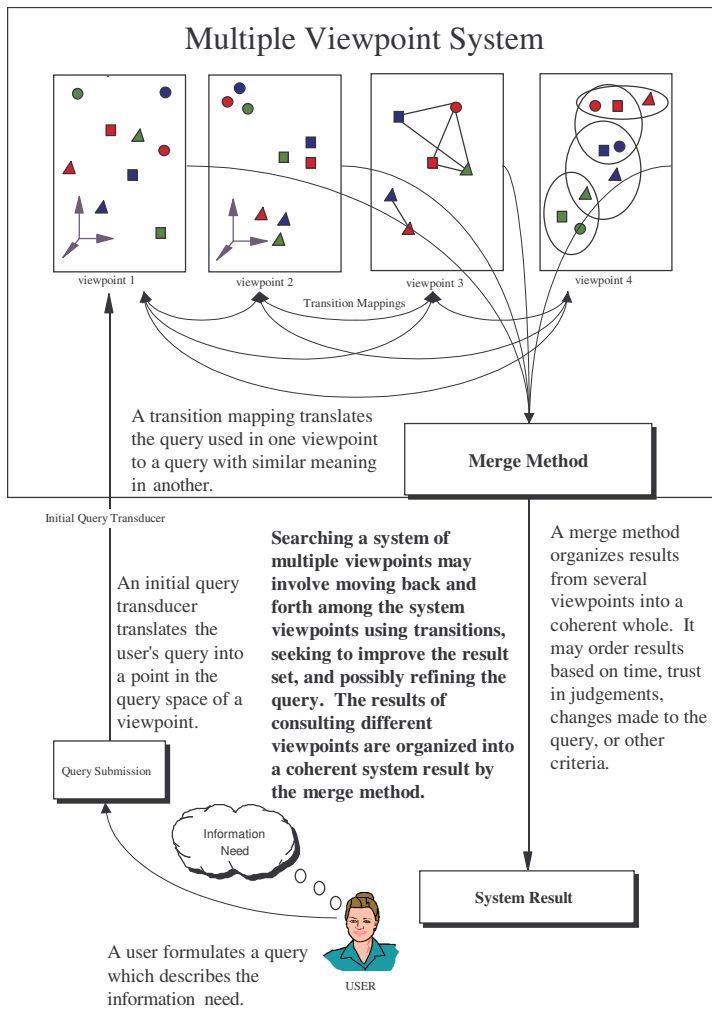
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A system of multiple viewpoints uses representations of several organizations of a document collection to aid in retrieving information from that collection. For instance, the subject and author catalogs of conventional libraries constitute two viewpoints on the holdings. We are creating a framework for investigating and designing information retrieval systems using multiple viewpoints.



It has been observed that the use of two or more representations of a document collection consistently improves document retrieval.



A viewpoint is a representation of a collection for which we can identify:

- a domain of data representations;
- a structure on the domain; and
- a query space of valid queries.

Queries are mapped by the structure to subsets of the domain.

New searchers may not be familiar with the terms used to index a collection and may be confused by conflicting usage of common terms in different fields. Access to viewpoints representing judgments framed in more than one vocabulary provides a basis to alleviate this problem. Using our framework we are seeking to identify other such benefits of using multiple viewpoints and to aid in designing systems to take advantage of them.