Using Topic Information to Improve Access to Scientific Document Collections

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Introduction

- Databases of technical documents
- Users are domain specialists, not information specialists
- Information Overload
- Ambiguities in Query Formulation
Observation

- Initial experiment with Astrophysics Data System (ADS)
- Abstract as Query feature - “more documents like this”
- Identify threads of information within results set

FOR MORE INFO...

http://adswww.harvard.edu
Approach

- Allow searcher to view and interact with a subject categorization of the documents returned in response to a query.
Prototype

- Interpose Subject Intermediary
- ACM Digital Library/ACM CCS
- Current Prototype
  - Categories Displayed
  - Information Conveyed in Interface
  - Search Options

http://www.cs.virginia.edu/~cyberia/subject/

FOR MORE INFO...
Display and Interaction Issues

- User profiles?
- Characterize only subsets of retrieved documents?
- Color and graphics?
- Re-issue search?
- Keywords vs. subject hierarchy
  - display in order of frequency? alphabetically?
Evaluation Issues

- Separability from interface
- Appropriate test collection
Conclusion

- Current aim is improving access to technical documents
- Further revisions of prototype underway
- Initial responses lively
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