

Information Track Creation for Different Users According to User Profiles

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Abstract:

This work discusses the problem of creating information tracks for different users according to user profiles. The idea of information personalizing belongs to the field of Information Science. It claims that each user has different information demands, and there has to be an appropriate access to the information collection according to user needs and user cognitive profile.

The database that is represented in this work is an empirical prototype rather than a real application. The idea of pathway creation is analyzed only from the point of view of the information specialist. A demonstration of such a database is offered.

The idea of order and chaos in the information structure is followed in the "Methodological background". It is suggested that this idea helps to understand the importance of personalizing information as a new vision of order in the information organization.

The capabilities of the human mind for processing information and its comparison to a computer allows the discussion of the cyberspace as a virtual (not physical) space where the user may find himself as the creator or keeper or knowledge.

A new form of media – multimedia – is a tool for knowledge presentation. The track of media development goes from linear media (text books) to multimedia (non-linear digital media that includes text, images, video, etc.). Hypertext is a way to receive different types of media via hot spots and links.

The "Virtual museum system analysis" is a study of six different user types (student, researcher, museum friend, museum visitor, scholar, new immigrant), their cognitive characteristics and their information seeking skills.

The assumption is that the user who begins to navigate in the museum may receive from the system a special attitude suitable to his/her interest in the search for information. This attitude is some kind of assistance for the user to help him choosing a way for seeking information that is constructed according to his own profile.

It should be kept in mind that users have different information demands. Their educational background, personal interests and computer literacy influence their profile. The course is built for each user type according to his profile. The user not only chooses an appropriate track but he is also involved in "teaching the system" how to collect data about himself. The database does not simply gives answers to the users' questions but also offers the users an opportunity to participate in the creation of a private virtual museum.

The museum that is proposed in this work is only a prototype. Creating a more complicated database requires computer skills and tools. In the prototype design three user types are represented: student, researcher and visitor.

Museum pages are created in HTML language. The HTML editors (HotDog 16, HomeSite 2.5) and graphic editors have been utilized. **A virtual museum is constructed for different users according to their profiles. For each user a private navigational path offered.**

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