

Summaries

ARTICLES:

Karen Nedergaard: TARGET OG BOOLE - anvendelse af TARGET-kommandoen og kognitiv quorumsøgning samt de bagvedliggende teorier (TARGET and BOOLE - the use of the Target command and cognitive quorum search, including the theoretical background)

Page:

Starting from the TARGET command introduced in December 1993 by Dialog, the article illustrates the use of the TARGET command in connexion with the utilization of knowledge of the cognitive structures existing in available databases. Two search methods, cognitive quorum search and TARGET, are exemplified through a search in INSPEC. In addition, the assumed theoretical background to TARGET, viz. the vector space model, is explained.

Suzette Lindholm Kjær og Hanne Møller: Feedbackfaciliteter som et hjælpemiddel ved informationssøgning - med inddragelse af semantiske problemstillinger (Feedback facilities as an aid to information retrieval by including semantic problems)

Page:

This article focuses on three selected feedback-facilities: Navigation, clusters and the rank/zoom functions, which will all be evaluated on basis of the cognitive view. Like the cognitive view, two of the automatic feedbackfacilities, clusters and rank/zoom, have roots in cognitive science where semantic problems are not discussed. In spite of an opening towards more hermeneutic and linguistic theories within the cognitive view, this article points out a lack of theoretic thinking on human knowledge and the meaning of words in relation to problems with subject indexing. Based on hermeneutic thoughts and Wittgensteins thoughts on language, this article breaks with cognitive science

and gives some pragmatic suggestions on how to improve the three selected feedbackfacilities in order to pay attention to the complexity of words and meaning.

The navigation-technique is considered as being the best qualified, followed by clusters and the rank/zoom functions. Finally it is concluded that feedbackfacilities based on qualitative user and languageanalyses within a well-defined target group are essential to create an interactive dialogue between end user and system, which may result in information.

Christian Ørslykke Møller og Birger Kidmose: Relevant om relevans - teori og metodologi (Relevant about relevance - theory and methodology)

Page:

The paper reviews the predominant approaches to the concept of relevance within information retrieval. It gives a general view of the history and evolution of relevance, and the different aspects are seen in a critical light. Along with the illustration of different approaches to the concept of relevance, the authors express their own opinion and their view on the theoretical future of relevance research. The paper concludes that relevance has come a long way since "the systems view". The authors lend support to the argument that relevance is a multidimensional concept, implying the need to take into account cognitive, situational, dynamic, domainspecific, hermeneutic and technological/systemdependent factors.

Methodologically the paper distinguishes between research aiming to explore the variety of relevance criteria influencing on user's relevance judgements, and research setting out to test the efficiency of information retrieval systems.

The authors recognize and point out the problem of generalization from relevance research, and recommend future research to include domain-specific and technological/systemdependent factors in

research with real users, in order to get a grasp of the very complex nature of the concept of relevance.

Birgit Truelsen: Selvbetjening på CD-ROM (Self-service on CD-ROM)

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Over the past years thousands of information products have been developed using CD-ROM technology. Many of these, especially the bibliographic databases have been sold to the libraries as a replacement for printed materials and online databases. Beside the price- and space-saving attributes, librarians tend to think that databases on CD-ROM offer the end-user a more user-friendly interface.

This article analyses the searching behavior of 29 end-users, searching SilverPlatters bibliographic databases on CD-ROM. The study was carried out at a larger academic library. The study objectives were to determine how helpful the CD-ROM interface was for the end-user during the information retrieval process. Factors therefore included how end-users select terms to search with, how they search, especially how they use boolean logic and other search techniques. Factors also included the subjects satisfaction and their level of experience. The result indicates that end-users put a lot of effort and interest into searching, but it also indicates that end-users lack a basic knowledge of how to search. This suggests that while it is important to continue to improve the interface technology an ongoing need remains for the human intermediary.

REVIEWS:

Erik Thorlund Jepsen: CD-ROM eller online? (CD-ROM or online?)

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The article reviews "CD-ROM eller online?" (CD-ROM or online? The book evaluates 18 bibliogra-

phies (printed, online-accessible or CD-ROM) and 4 reference books on CD-ROM.

The evaluations are primarily intended to serve skilled librarians acquainted with the sources evaluated, and there is a lack of consistency between the evaluations. Nevertheless the book is recommended - especially for use in Inter-library loan departments.

Marianne Lykke Nielsen: Informationens skygge og foran : informationskvalitet, informationsekspllosion og online kataloger (The shadow of information and its front: information quality, information explosion and online catalogues)

Page:

The book under review "Informationens skygge og foran" is a Danish book by Claus Poulsen. The first part of the book is a description of the theoretical and empirical basis for a new approach to subject indexing for library catalogues. The new concept, called PARADOKS indexing, is based on the assumption that the standard tools for subject access - classification and descriptors - are inappropriate. The use of automatic indexing, based on abstracts and tables of contents, is recommended. According to PARADOKS indexing subject access should furthermore be restricted to be executed in the survey literature and the marginal literature. Included in the book is a comparison between a traditional indexed catalogue and a PARADOKS indexed catalogue. This review focusses on the fact that document representation involves an interpretation to catch all subjects in a document. It is a general recognition that the best search performance can be achieved by the parallel use of the two types of indexing languages, controlled and natural indexing languages, and it is recommended to combine PARADOKS indexing with a manual indexing method based on a domain analysis of the knowledge domain and the user group. The book is considered as an important contribution to the discussion about finding improvements for the subject access in online library catalogues.