LIS618

Database Searching

subject to change: 2002–09–22

The latest version of this document is available on the web at http://openlib.org/home/krichel/lis618n02a/.

Course Description
This course will introduce the students to the theory of information retrieval and its application in large-scale commercial database system. In addition, the course will also introduce student the SQL database language.
Web searching will not be covered at all.

Course objectives
On completing this course, students

- will have been introduced to information retrieval models

- will have been introduced to serveral commercial database systems and be aware of their strengths and weaknessess

- will be introduced to relational databases and the SQL language

Prerequisites
Students should have a basic command of the MS Windows 2000 operating system because the machines in the lab run on this operating system.

Instructor
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Class structure
Classes will be held on Sunday afternoon between 13:30 and 19:00 at the Bobst Libary's Electronic Resource Center. There will be a mixture of lectures and hands-on work in the lab. Provisional class details are:

1	2002–09–15	Information Retrieval 1
2	2002–09–22	Information Retrieval 2 and DIALOG
3	2002–10–29	DIALOG
4	2002–10–06	Lexis/Nexis
5	2002–10–13	FirstSearch
	2002–10–20	*no class*
6	2002–11–27	citation indexing and searching

Readings
The powerpoint slides of the intructor are the reading. The slides may point to other sources of reference as required. Of course database practice makes for a master searcher.

Assessment
Each student will have to prepare a search exercise and report as detailed in the first lecture. This report must not exceed 5 pages. Appendices will be discarded. It will count for 50% of total grade. It is due on November 3. Quizes at the start of lectures 2 and 3 will count for 15%, and quizzes at the start of lecture 4 and 5 will count 10% each.