

1999

Pg 6

Information Retrieval

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Using natural language words directly for searching: while a retrieval system has a number of disadvantages. What are they?

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There are many different ways of compensating for the ~~the~~ problems of simple word indexing. Describe four of these in detail, showing how they work and justifying ~~their~~ their use in a system.

10

~~Which~~ Which of the devices do you regard as most effective and why?

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Problems with full words: irrelevant variation in word forms, synonyms, lack of conceptual specificity etc

Devices: stemming, phrases (various methods), term classes (different location methods and application), ~~search~~ query expansion (different grounds for preferred terms), etc

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Assessment: ^{impact of} precision/recall tradeoffs, value of truncated query expansion through relevance feedback.

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