# Assignment – Interactive IR

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# Assignment

A patent office is about to introduce a new patent search system. The system will be used by the in-house patent lawyers as well as general public. You are a consultant specialising in testing information retrieval and information search systems. You have been asked to evaluate this system before it is launched and make suggestions for any possible improvements. Your tasks are to:

1. Gather information about the requirements for this system.

2. Propose what aspects of the system need testing/evaluating based on the requirements.

3. Describe in detail how you would proceed with the evaluation (justify your proposed evaluation procedures).

4. Describe what results you would expect to obtain based on your selected evaluation methods.

# Timeline

- First draft submission: 2 March (at least 50% of the essay should be done by then but the more the better)

- Peer-feedback: 9 March (you will provide feedback to 3 other students)

- Final assignment: 18 March

# Evaluation criteria

| Criteria for assessment/Areas of assessment | Standards of assessment | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1 passable** | **2** | **3 good** | **4** | **5 excellent** |
| **Completeness of the summary recommendation** | Recommendation is short and narrow and not very detailed. Not all the points described in the brief are addressed. | Student attempted to addresses all the points, however, there is lack of clarity. The recommendation is difficult to follow and possibly shows lack of understanding on the part of the student. | The recommendation addresses all the points, but is lacking in detail. | Does not meet the criteria of 5, but better than 3. The recommendation addresses all the points of the brief but there is still some room for improvement. | All points of the brief have been addressed in great detail. The recommendation is thorough and shows effort. |
| **Selection and descriptions of methods and techniques** | Methods and techniques used in the recommendation are inappropriate or are missing altogether. The description of the methods is lacking | Methods and techniques used in the recommendation are mostly inappropriate. The description of the methods is very brief or largely inaccurate. | The selected methods are appropriate. The recommendation forms a logic entity. Many of the details and explanation of their interdependencies are missing | The selected methods are appropriate, explained in sufficient detail but there is still some room for improvement. | The methods and techniques used in the recommendation are described in detail and very well aligned with the goals of the brief, and their connections and interdependencies are explicated. |
| **Justification of the solutions (methods/techniques) described in the recommendation** | The choice of methods and techniques is not justified for the application at hand, and it remains unclear whether and how they relate to the brief. | Does not meet the criteria of 3, but better than 1. | The methods and techniques are chosen provide a good solution to the problem described in the brief, but the arguments as to why they were selected are not thoroughly explained. | Does not meet the criteria of 5, but better than 3. | Choices of methods are justified convincingly with clear supporting examples and clear reference to the problem at hand. |

# Suggested Length

- No set length: try to address all the points in the brief in as much detail as you can, you should be able to do it within 10 pages (but if you requirements gatherings are too demanding, then you may require more space…)

- Peer-feedback: between half a page and one page per assignment
  - Take the evaluation criteria into account when giving feedback
  - Clearly state which parts need improving and why, give suggestions how you would improve them
  - State which parts of the assignment completed so far are good and why you think so

# Requirements gathering

- Pretend that you intereviewed a number of typical users of the system, or the CTO of the company, or IS/IT support, or other stakeholders. The idea is to set out 4 – 6 requirements with respect to the performance of the system, e.g. speed, accuracy, etc.

- Set out these requirements clearly at the beginning of your essay

- You should refer to these requirements when completing the remainder of the assignment.

- The requirements can be contradictory – this will give you more scope for discussion of trade-offs between different possible solutions.

- Think who are the typical users of your system and what they might need from such a system

*Propose what aspects of the system need testing/evaluating based on the requirements.*

- Refer back to your requirements, e.g. if users complain of the system being slow, what aspect of it would you test, etc.

*Describe in detail how you would proceed with the evaluation (justify your proposed evaluation procedures).*

- What methods, test, datasets, etc. would you use and why, are your selected approaches approriate for the problem at hand, can you run them online/offline, do you need to run studies with the company employees or can you do it outside the company setting.
- Describe all the methods that you are planning to use to your customer in plain language, ideally refering to the specific issues that you will try to test/solve
- Explain in plain language to your customer why the selected methods are appropriate for the problem at hand.

*Describe what results you would expect to obtain based on your selected evaluation methods.*

- Explain, in plain language, what outcome is good/bad in terms of using specific evaluation techniques

- Explain the trade-offs of optimizing for different outcomes, e.g. precision vs. recall

- Suggest which requirements, in your opinion, should be the priority for your customer and why