



CS 597: SPECIAL TOPICS

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Research Projects

(Some slides based on Dr S.A. Prathapar's work at UWS)

Definition

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- “A **research problem** is a statement about an area of concern, a condition to be improved upon, a difficulty to be eliminated, or a troubling question that exists in scholarly literature, in theory, or in practice that points to the need for meaningful understanding and deliberate investigation”

The Research Problem

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- How to identify a problem
 - Define your *destination* before beginning a journey
 - Be sure that you can answer these questions
 - what you will do?
 - will it withstand scientific scrutiny?
 - how you will do it?
 - what you may achieve?
- How to select a problem
 - Researchers interest in a topic
 - National or agency priorities
 - Urgency of an issue

How to define a research topic

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- Identify a broad topic (Big Picture)
- Identify a narrow topic within the broad topic
- Raise questions
- Formulate objectives
- Use action-oriented words:
 - To demonstrate...
 - To evaluate...
 - To measure...

Sources to Consider

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- Conference & Workshops
 - ▣ ACM SIGIR
 - ▣ ACM WWW
 - ▣ ACM CIKM
 - ▣ ACM RecSys
 - ▣ ACM WSDM