Answer All Questions

The low-fidelity prototype of the Search interface from Quiz 3 (to find either all document files (of one or more types — PDFs, word processor files, spreadsheets, presentations) containing user-specified keywords in the name and optionally in the content or all media files (of one or more types — pictures, audio, video) containing user-specified keywords in the name is given below.

One of the following is displayed depending on the selected file category.

File Search	File Search
Search for all ⊙ Document Files or ○ Media Files	**Search for all** ○ Document Files or ⊙ Media Files
Containing the keyword(s) [|]	**Containing the keyword(s)** [|]
In their name ☐ and also in their content/body	**In their name**
And of the following Document types	**And of the Following Media types**
☑ All Document Files	☑ All Media Files
☑ PDF	☑ Pictures
☑ Word Processor Files	☑ Audio
☑ Spreadsheets	☑ Video
[Cancel] [Search]	[Cancel] [Search]

(a) [1 mark] What is the mental model used in the given Search interface? Why?

The mental model used is a search request/order since the user requests/orders the system to perform a search by completing the required search details (file category, keywords and file types).

(b) [1 mark] Is the mental model in (a) appropriate for this Search interface? Why or why not?

This mental model is appropriate as users perform searches in real life using a helper or assistant by giving the search details and requesting/ordering the search.

(c) [1 mark] What is the interface metaphor used in the given Search interface? Why?

The interface metaphor used is a form of search details since the interface has the necessary controls/fields to enter all the required search details and then perform the search by clicking the Search button.

(d) [1 mark]   Is the interface metaphor in (c) appropriate for this Search interface? Why or why not?

This "form" metaphor is appropriate for the Search interface as it implicitly tells the user which information is required to perform the search according to the mental model in (a).

(e) [1 mark]   Which interaction type (*instructing*, *conversing*, *manipulating*, or *exploring*) is used in the given Search interface? Why?

This Search interface uses "instructing" interaction type since the user has to enter/select all necessary details precisely and then perform the search by clicking the Search button.

(f) [1 mark]   Is the interaction type in (e) appropriate for this Search interface? Why or why not?

The "instructing" interaction type is appropriate as the user is expected to be knowledgeable and understand the search details and enters/selects them correctly and precisely.

(g) [1 mark]   Which interaction type (*instructing*, *conversing*, *manipulating*, or *exploring*) is not appropriate for the given Search interface? Why?

The "manipulating" interaction type is not appropriate for the given Search interface as there are no objects to manipulate in the interface.

(h) [1 mark]   What is the major difference between the given Search interface and interfaces for general web search (for searching the web, like Google, Bing, etc.)? Why?

The given Search interface requires the user to select/check the search criteria (file category and types) whereas general web search interfaces do not. This is because the given interface is to search for document/media files within a computer whereas web search interfaces are to search for web contents (information from the entire web).

(i) [1 mark]   Is the interface metaphor in (c) appropriate for general web search? Why or why not?

The "form" metaphor is also applicable for general web search even though the user needs to enter the search keywords only (not the search details, thus making it a simple form) to perform the search.

(j) [1 mark]   Which interaction type (*instructing*, *conversing*, *manipulating*, or *exploring*) is most appropriate for general web search? Why?

Since the user searches for all web documents containing the specified keyword(s), he/she needs to go through/explore the search results in order to locate the required document. Thus, "exploring" interaction type is most appropriate for general web search.

*** END OF QUIZ ***