

The Future of Information Retrieval

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Three Main Trends

- Document Retrieval is passé, age of Multimedia is upon us
- Information Glut (Overload) not Information Famine
- Growth of Personal Information



- Discuss the new set of IR problems
 Multimedia
 Information Glut
- Present potential solutions to those problems
- With reference to work from my own lab



From text to multimedia IR

Inception of the web

- OText with a few images
- ONow text IR is a solved problem on the web
- (but not for personal information or enterprise search)

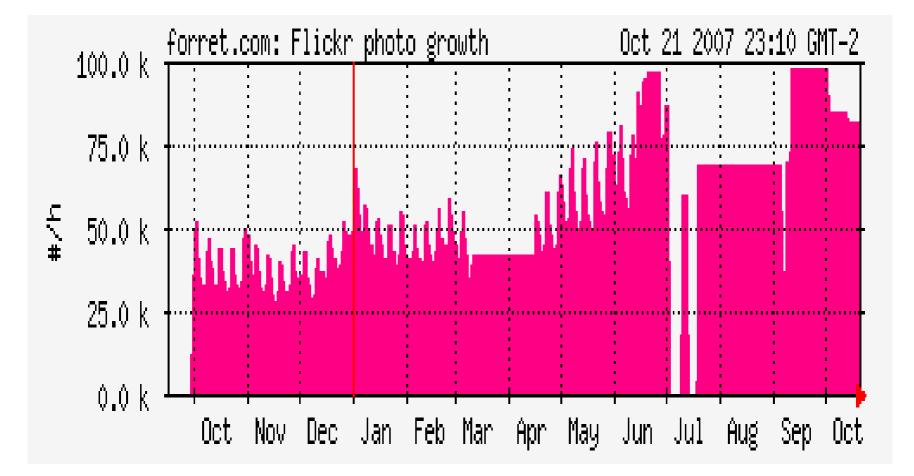
Now:

- OVideo (Youtube), Images (Flickr)
- Blogs?? sociologically rather than technically interesting



- In one month (Aug.2006), the number of videos grew 20% to 6.1 million
- YouTube has 45 terabytes of videos
- Video views reached 1.73 billion
- Total time people spent watching YouTube since it started last year is 9,305 years
- Wall Street Journal 2006

Flickr



http://blog.forret.com/projects/statistics/photo-hosting/flickr-statistics/



The technical problem with multimedia IR

- 'Semantic gap' low level automatically extracted features do not generate useful information for users
- E.g. even face recognition in a picture collection is still not reliable



Closing the semantic gap

- Content-oriented (CBIR): Use automatic speech recognition (ASR) to generate text and then use text techniques
 - ○(only works when there is speech in the video)

Metadata

- Explicit content-oriented tags: terminator, schwarzenegger, hastalavista
- Implicit tags: user behaviour with respect to the source



Content-based multimedia retrieval

- Speech->Text via ASR
- Then use text search techniques
- It doesn't have to be perfect
- SCAN retrieve broadcast news
- SCANMail retrieve your voicemail
- Whittaker et al., 1999, Whittaker et al., 2004.

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	Query - "when did princess diana vist a chicago hospital"
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	3 ABC World News Now 06/06/96 6 33.262 237.899 13
	4 CNN Headline News 06/05/96 60 15.55 20.489 2 5 CSPAN Washington Journal 06/10/96 23 7.264 280.729 3
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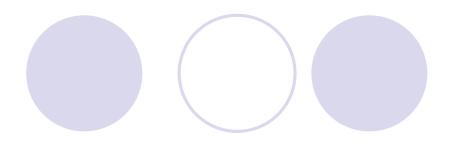
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#### **Content-based** approach

- ASR doesn't have to be perfect
- We can do very well with 60% correct
- ASR fails on words we don't care about
- Problem: there isn't always speech, e.g. with images
- -> user tags





Two types
 Explicit
 Implicit



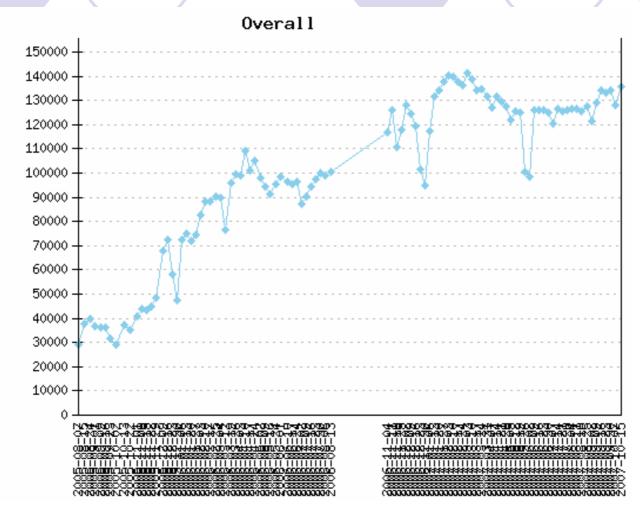
### Explicit tags

Youtube, Flickr, Digg, Citeulike....
Users generate content-oriented tags

(Social tagging)



#### Del.icio.us tags



http://deli.ckoma.net/stats

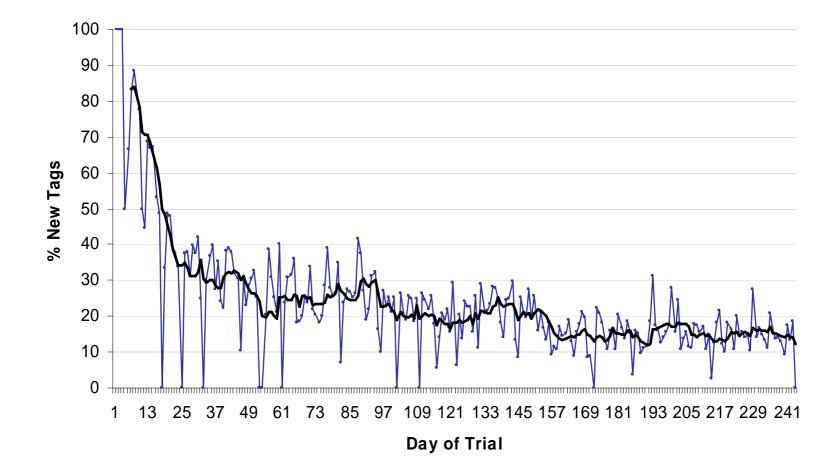
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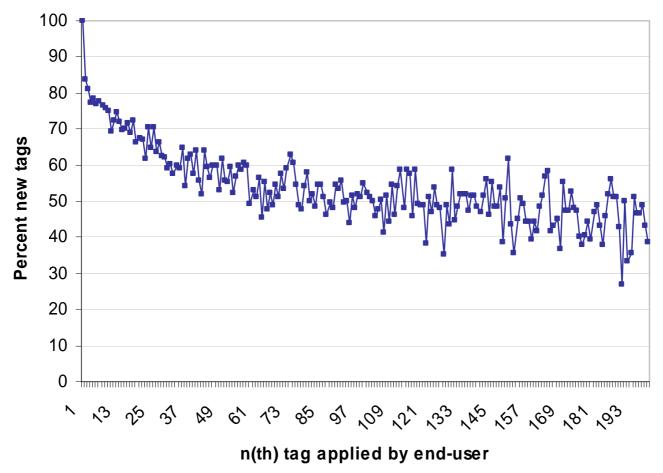
#### Problems with social tagging?

- Concerns of the librarians (Hammond et al. 2005)
- Ordinary people can't create reliable taxonomies
- Inconsistent terms and ontologies

## Convergence: Creation of a corporate folksonomy (Millen et al.,2006)

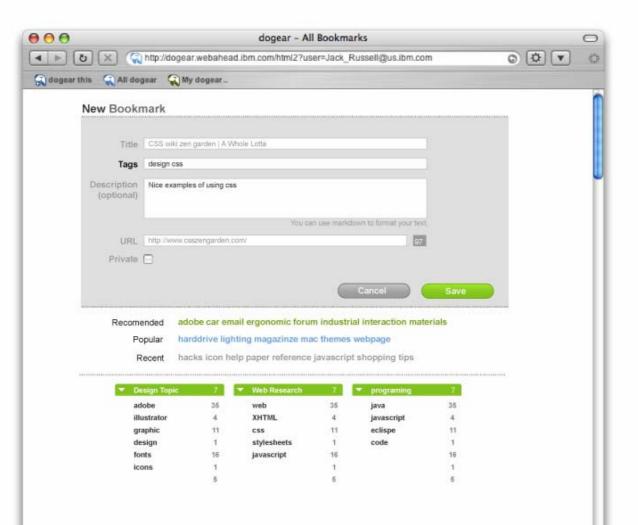


## Convergence: Individual end-user tag histories (Millen et al., 2006)





#### Dogear post form





#### User Interface helps tag convergence

#### Completion

Shows others' tags – increase tag similarity
Reduces spelling mistakes
Makes it efficient to tag, so more tags

- How others tagged this page
- Frequent tags
- All increase likelihood of convergence



#### Outstanding problems with tagging

- Annotation costs
- 'Long tail' power law
   Most tags are generated by a small subgroup
   Not everything gets tagged



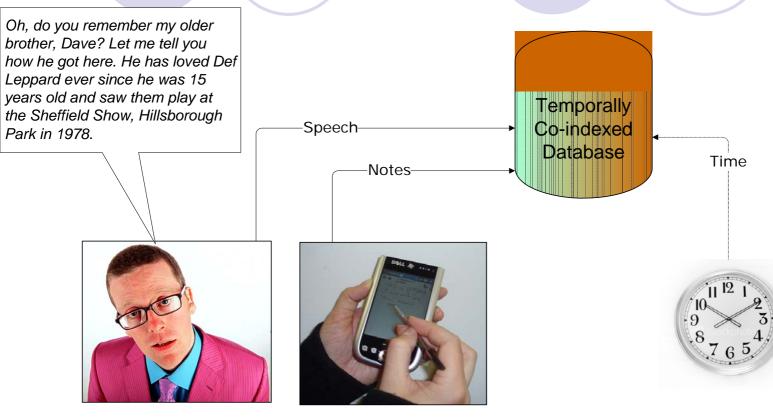


### So... Implicit Tags

- Reduce annotation costs, democratise, by using *implicit behaviours*
- Temporal tagging, 'swarm' effects
- E.g.
  - OEdit/print a photo, registers interest
  - Take a note about a specific slide, registers interest



#### Temporal Tags – handwritten notes





### **Retrieval Interface**

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## **Pictorial Tags**

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### Chitty Chatty demo

#### Chattyweb.kivikit.com



#### Naturalistic Evaluation of ChattyWeb

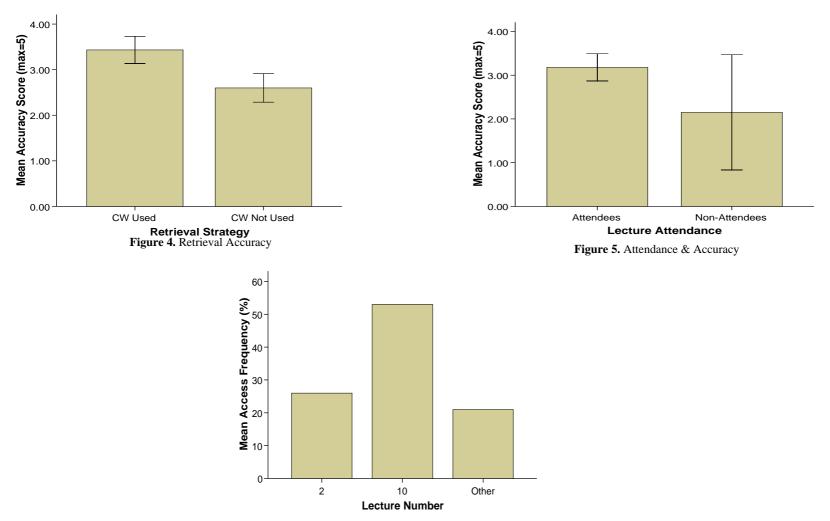
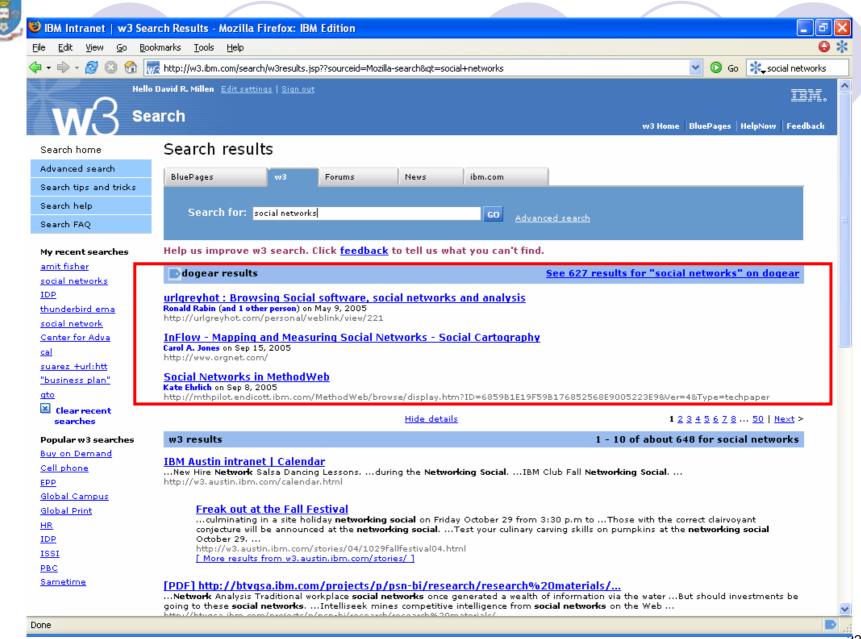


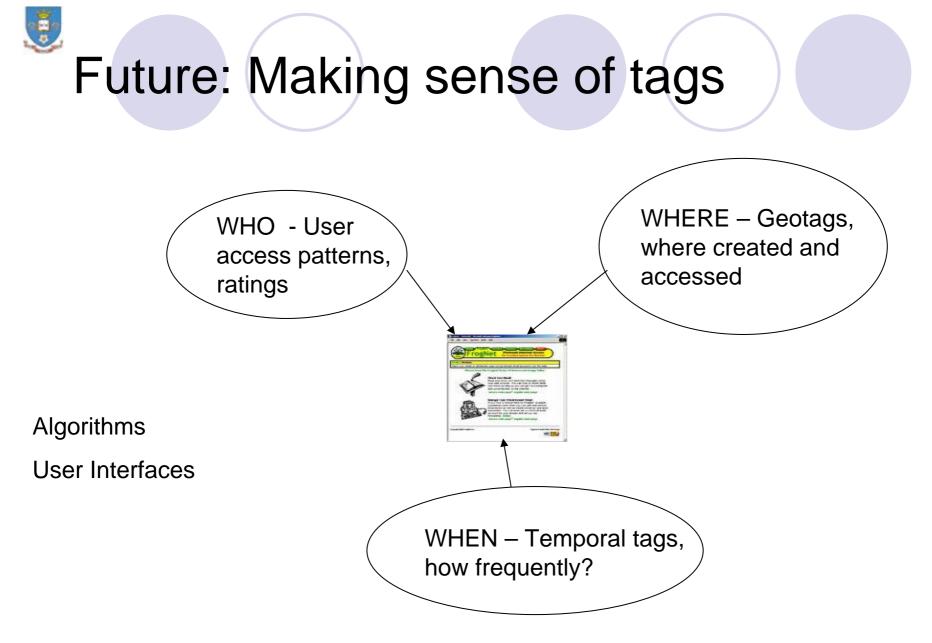
Figure 6. Frequency of Lecture Access



#### Tags can also improve text search

- Google search vs. Dogear (results reordered by tag frequency)
- Preference for Dogear search over Google (Millen et al., 2006)

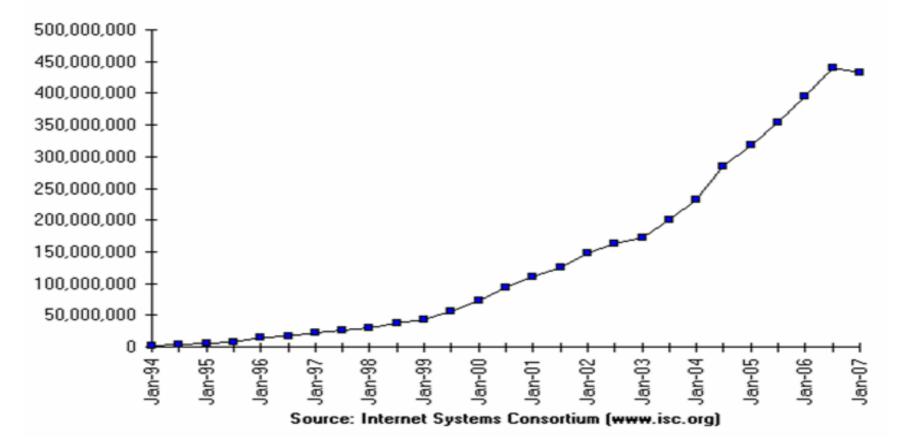




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#### Information Glut: Domain hosts

#### Internet Domain Survey Host Count





#### From Information Famine to Glut

- Past: high cost of information access
   Information held in libraries, interlibrary loan, xerox
  - Commend students for finding relevant resources
- Now: Cost of information access is much reduced
  - OEducation: Plagiarism is the problem
  - OAllocating attention to *what's important*
  - OCan people make sense of found information?



#### New tools needed to:

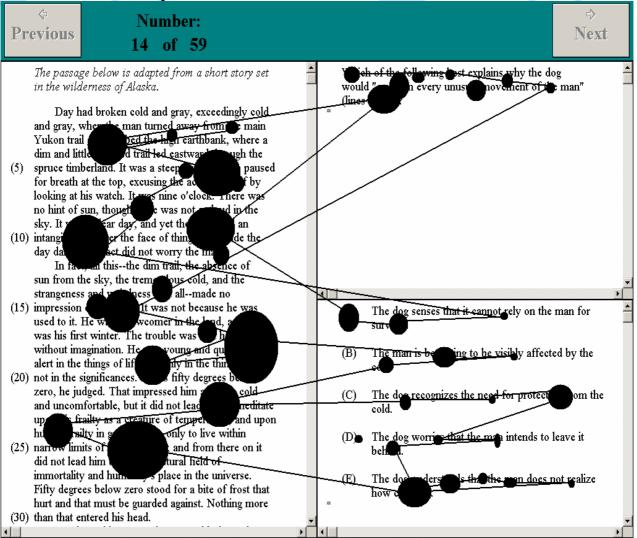
## Skim – identify which parts of retrieved documents are important

- On.b. also skim to find whether document is relevant at all
- Combine sources (sense-making)



- Allow users to focus on the relevant parts of a document
- Is this document relevant?
- If so, what parts of it are relevant?

#### Replicate and improve on the human eye (Gorin, 2005)



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#### **Interactive Compression**

# Interactive tools that allow users focus on relevant information ignore irrelevant information Increase efficiency of skimming



#### **Interactive Compression**

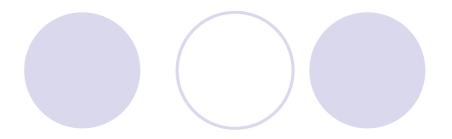
#### Allow users to control

OAmount of information that they see

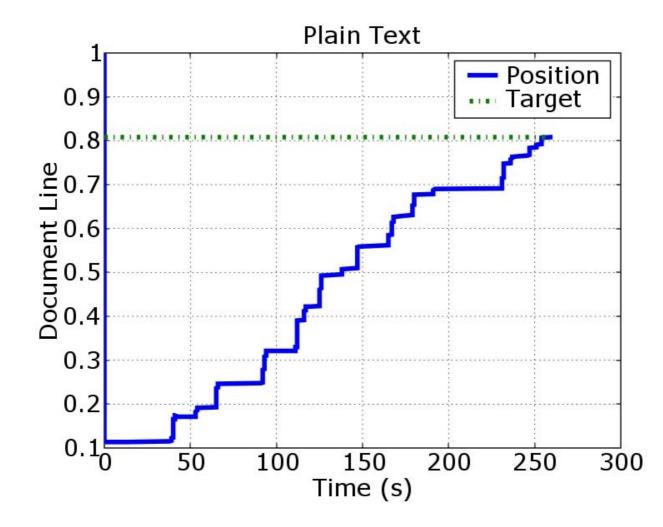
OPresentation of that information

- Two main methods
  - *Remove* irrelevant information (destructive)
  - OHighlight relevant information (non-destructive)
- Automatic Methods

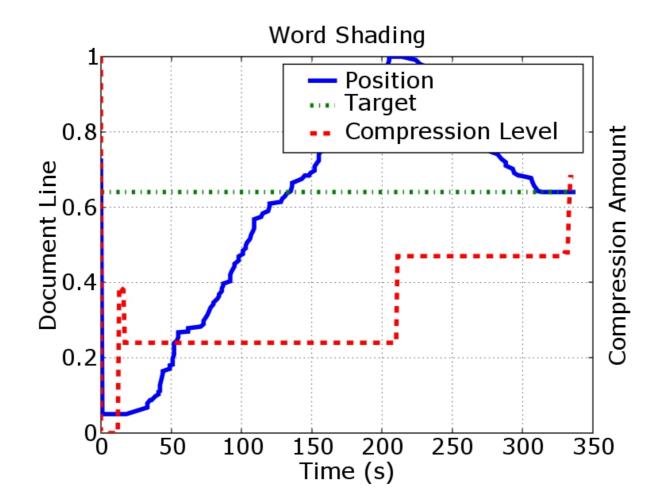




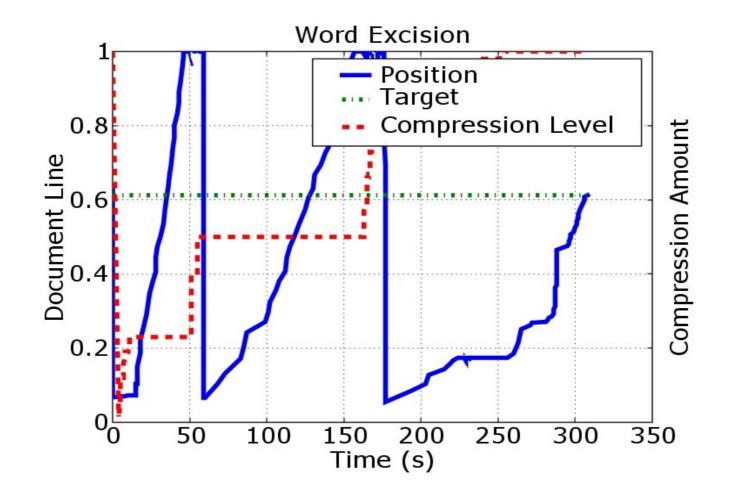
#### Typical behaviours: plain text





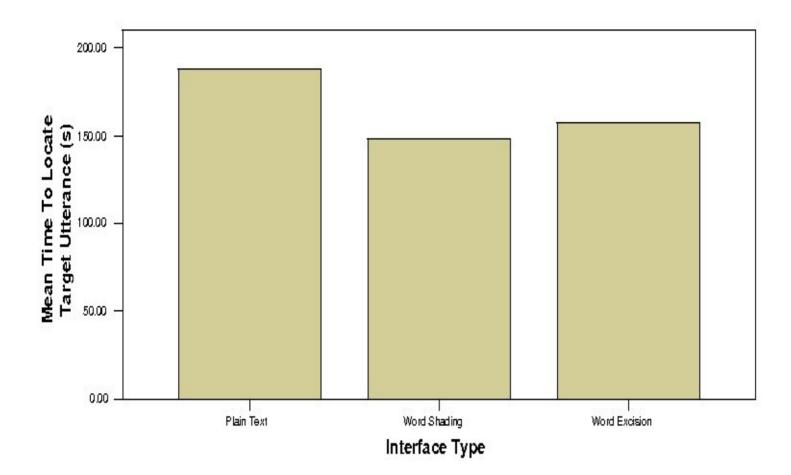






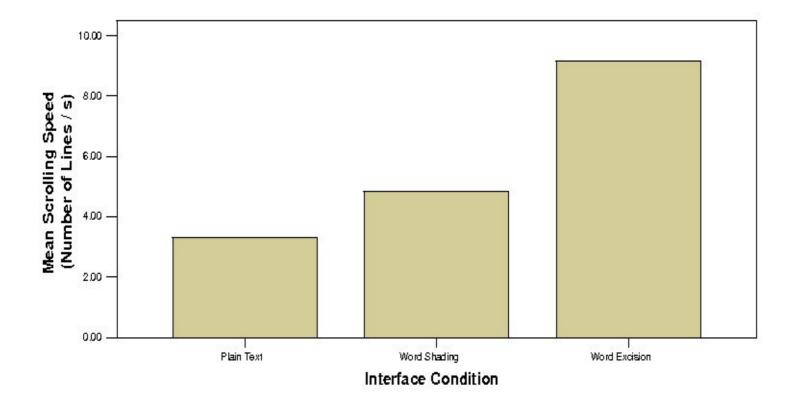


## Interactive compression reduces retrieval time





#### Improved scanning speed





### **Comparing Methods**

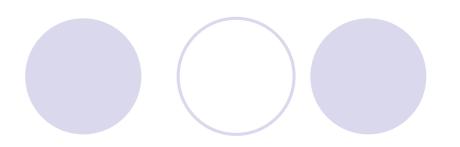
- Overall efficiency

   Excision = Shading > Plain

   Speed through document

   Excision > Shading > Plain
- Is there a cost?
  - OExcision > Shading > Plain number of passes through document
  - OBut Error rates, 'overshoots' were equivalent





- Beyond document retrieval
- Multimedia IR
  - Content-based: speech oriented methods
  - Tagging, especially implicit tags
  - Future tag interpretation, combination

#### Skimming

- Interactive compression methods
- Future 'sensemaking'
- Implications?
  - O Education, science, society