

Introduction to Information Retrieval

Ulf Leser

Verschiebung

- VL am 27.4. muss verschoben werden
- Alternativen
 - Donnerstag, 22.4., 16 Uhr
 - Freitag, 23.4., 15 Uhr
 - Montag, 3.5., 16 Uhr

Content of this Lecture

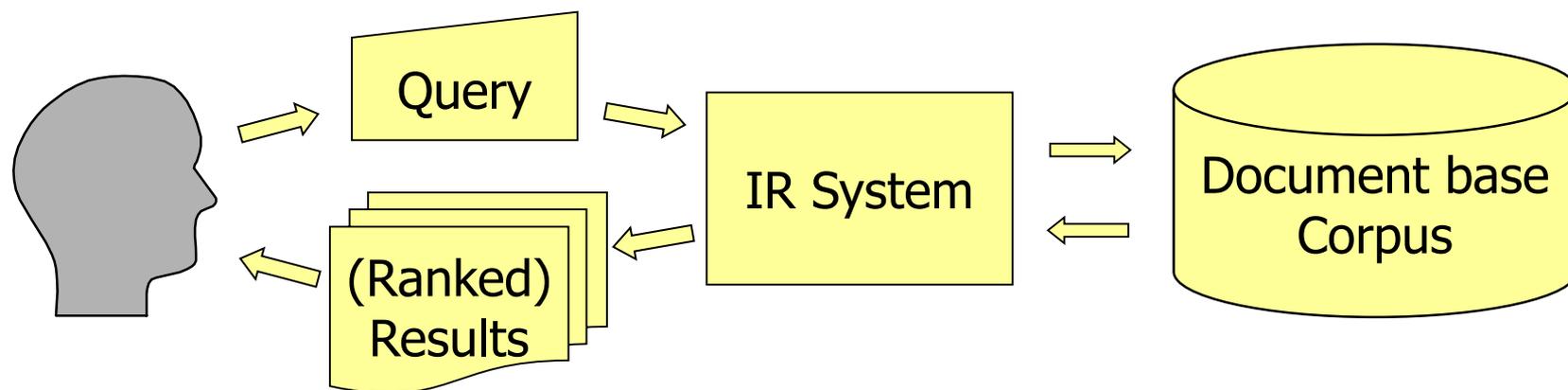
- What is Information Retrieval
- Documents
- Queries
- Related topics

Information Retrieval (aka "Search")

- Naïve: Find all **documents** containing the following **words**
- Advanced: „Leading the user to those documents that will best enable her to satisfy her **need for information**“
 - [Robertson 1981]
 - A user wants to know something
 - The user needs to tell the machine what he wants to know: query
 - Posing exact queries is difficult: room for interpretation
 - **Machine interprets query** to compute the (hopefully) best answer
 - Goodness of answer (relevance) depends on **original intention** of user, not on the query
 - Answer is always a set of docs (in classical IR)
 - “Leading”: Sensible **ranking** of all potentially relevant docs

The Informal Problem

- Help user in **quickly** finding the **requested information** within a **given set of documents**
 - Set of documents: **Corpus**, library, collection, ...
 - Quickly: **Few queries**, **fast responses**, simple interfaces, ...
 - Requested: The “best-fitting” documents; the “most relevant” content



Difference to Database Queries

- Queries: Formal language versus **natural language**
- Result granularity: Set of **documents** versus relation as defined by query
- Exactly defined result versus loosely described **relevance**
- Result set versus **ranked result list**
- DB: Posing the **right query** is completely left to the user
- IR: Understanding the query is a **problem of the software**

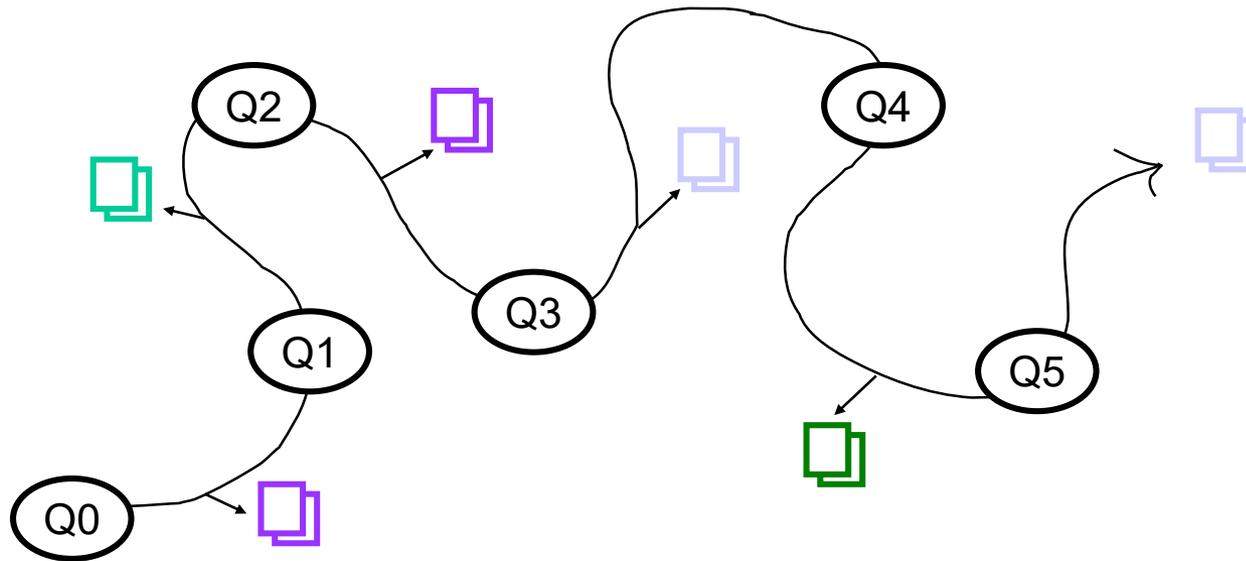
Why is it hard?

- Properties of human languages
 - Homonyms (context): Fenster (Glas, Computer, Brief, ...), Berlin (BRD, USA, ...), Boden (Dach, Fussboden, Ende von etwas, ...)
 - Synonyms: Computer, PC, Rechner, Desktop, Laptop, Tablet, ...
- Properties of the corpus
 - Size: Corpora today may have **billions of documents**
 - Heterogeneity: **Length**, format, language, genre, **grammatical correctness**, special characters, ...
- Heterogeneous users: **Precise** queries versus **usability**
 - Lay persons: Short queries with **wide spectrum** of interpretations
 - Average web queries have 1,6 terms
 - Additional knowledge: Location, current trends, popular answers, ...
 - Professionals: Long queries trying to **precisely define** the intention
 - "Information broker" was/is a profession

Quickly

- Time to **execute a query**
 - Indexing, parallelization, compression, ...
- Time to **answer the request** (may involve multiple queries)
 - Understand request, find best matches
 - Success of search engines: Better results (and fast!)
 - **Process-orientation**: User feedback, query history, ...
- Information overload
 - “We are drowning in data, but starving for knowledge”
 - If the corpus is large, **ranking is a must**
 - Alternative: Result summarization (grouping on what?)
 - Different **search modes**: What’s new? What’s certain?

IR: An Iterative, Multi-Stage Process



- IR process: “Moving through many actions towards a general goal of satisfactory completion of research related to an information need.”
 - “Berry-picking” [Bates 89]

Gesellschaft für Informatik (2014)

- Im Information Retrieval (IR) werden Informationssysteme in Bezug auf ihre Rolle im **Prozess des Wissenstransfers** vom menschlichen Wissensproduzenten zum Informations-Nachfragenden betrachtet. ... Fragestellungen, die im Zusammenhang mit **vagen Anfragen und unsicherem Wissen** entstehen auch solche, die nur im **Dialog iterativ** durch Reformulierung (in Abhängigkeit von den bisherigen Systemantworten) beantwortet werden können ... Die Unsicherheit resultiert meist aus der **begrenzten Repräsentation von dessen Semantik** (z.B. bei Texten oder multimedialen Dokumenten);... Aus dieser Problematik ergibt sich die Notwendigkeit zur Bewertung der **Qualität der Antworten eines Informationssystems**, wobei in einem weiteren Sinne die Effektivität des Systems in Bezug auf die Unterstützung des Benutzers bei der **Lösung seines Anwendungsproblems** beurteilt werden sollte.

Prominent Systems I: Digital Libraries

- E.g. OPAC
 - Combination of structured attributes and IR-style queries

Universitätsbibliothek der Humboldt-Universität
Digitale Bibliothek

Anmelden | Hilfe | Schnellsuche | Ressource finden | Suche in Datenbanken | Suchen | Ergebnisse

Schnellsuche

Einfach **Erweitert**

Suche: Alle Felder und

Allg. Fachinform. Zeitschriftenartikel und ...
 Naturwissenschaft. Agrarwissenschaft, Technik: ...
 eBooks elektronische Bücher

Geisteswissenschaft Zeitschriftenartikel und ...
 Sozialw. und Recht Zeitschriftenartikel und ...

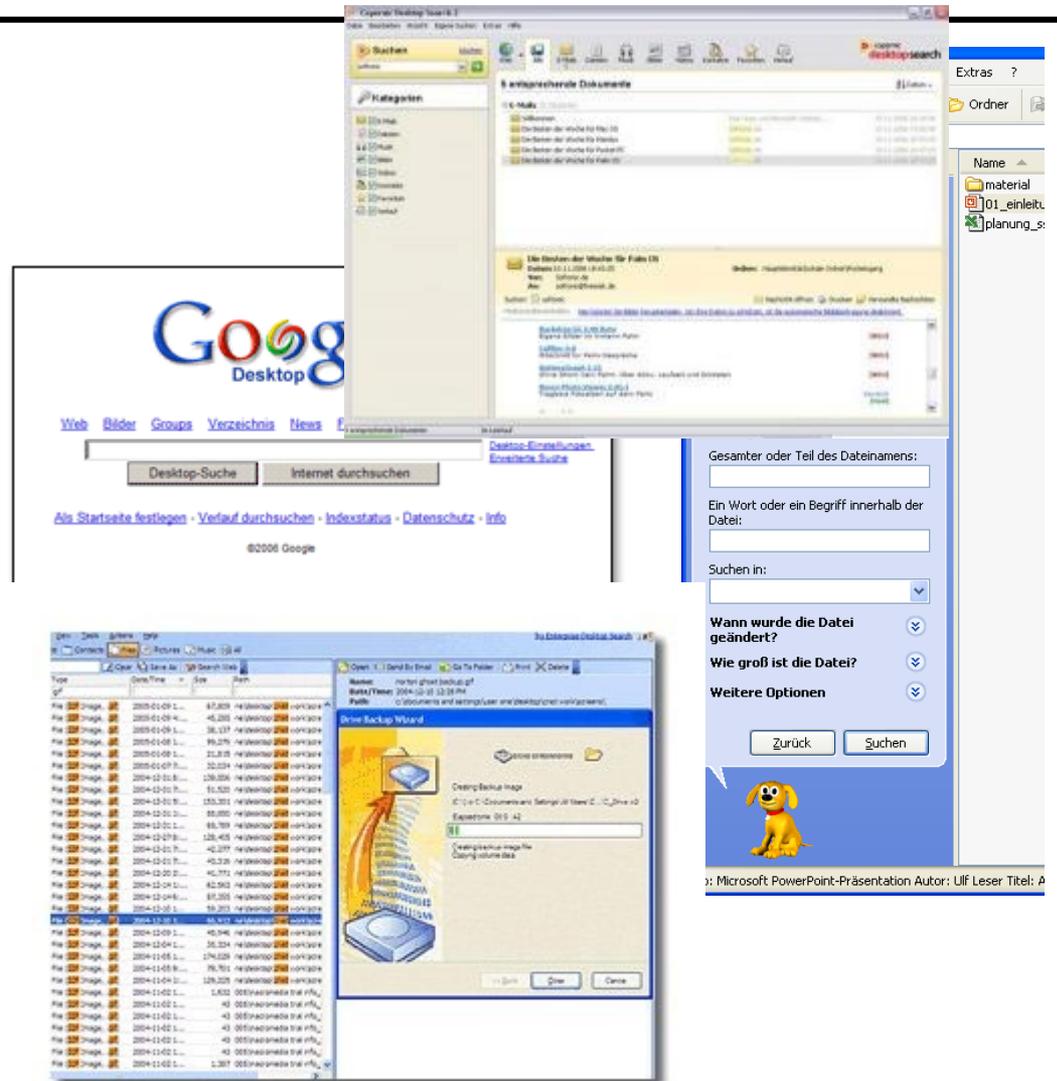
Literatur Berlin/B Katalog
 Sprach- Zeitschr ...

No.	Autor	Titel	Jahr	Quelle	Volltext?
1	Leser, Ulf	Informationsintegration :Architekturen und Methoden zur Integration verteilter und heterogener Datenquellen	2007	KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg	
2	Leser, Ulf	A query language for			
3	Leser, Ulf	Informationsintegrat Integration verteilter			
4	Leser, Ulf [Hrsg.]	Data integration in the life sciences :third International Workshop, DILS 2006, Hinxton, UK, July 20 - 22	2006	KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg	
5	Leser, Ulf	Informationsintegration :Architekturen und Methoden zur Integration verteilter und heterogener Datenquellen	2007	KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg	
Eintrag doppelt - siehe # 2					
6	Leser, Ulf	A query language for biological networks	2005	KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg	
7	Leser, Ulf	Query planning in mediator based information systems	2000	KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg	
Eintrag doppelt - siehe # 7					
8	Leser, Ulf	Query planning in mediator based information systems	2000	KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg	
9	Heyden Ulf	Zielgruppen des Romans	1986	Staatsbibliothek Berlin	
10	Heyden, Ulf	Zielgruppen des Romans :Analyse, Franz. Romanvorworte d. 19. Jh.	1986	KOBV Berlin-Brandenburg	

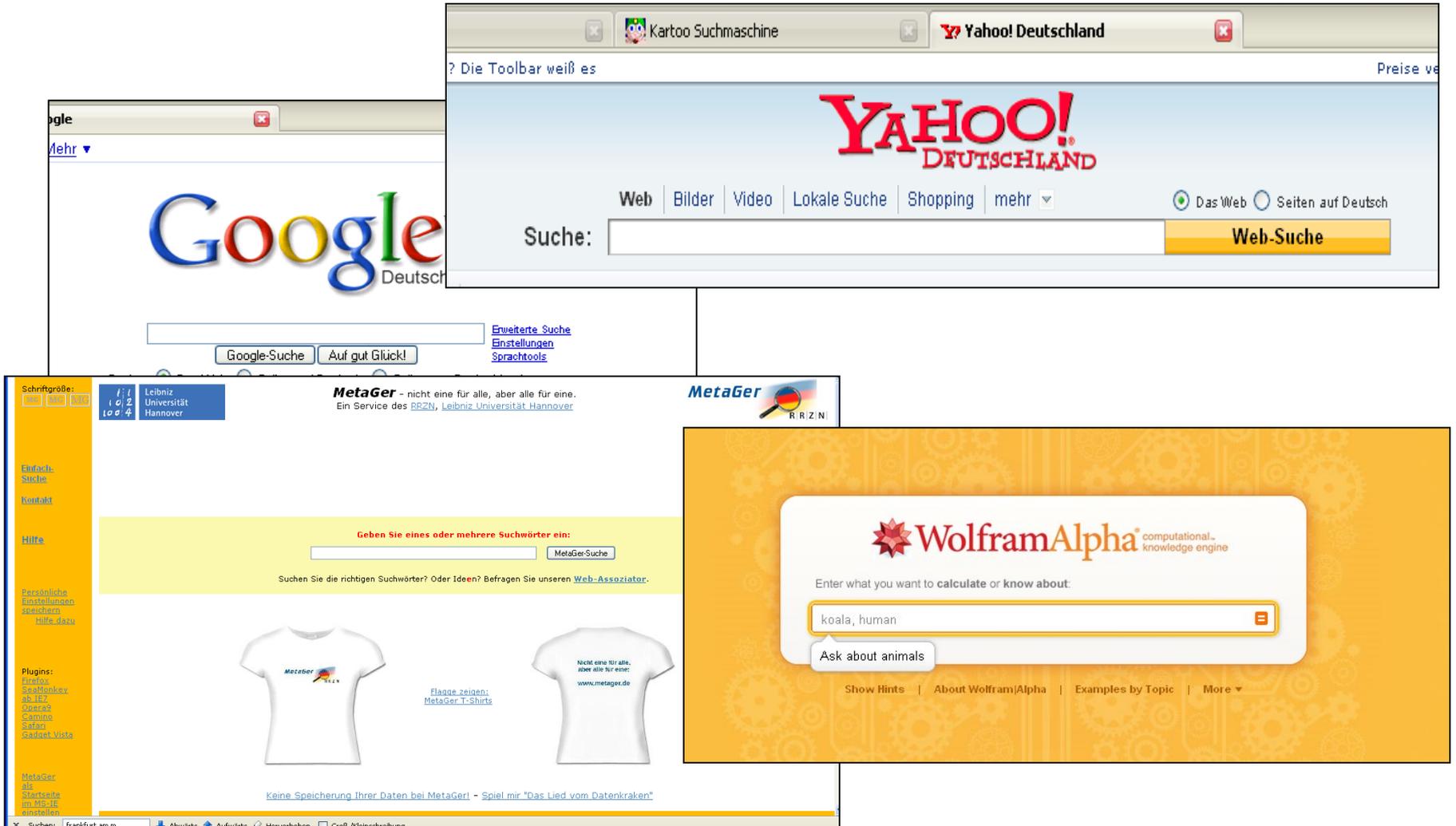
Errors?

Prominent Systems II: Desktop Search

- Much activity in 2000-2010
- Various search engines and indexing mechanisms
- Important: Search **different types of files** (txt, doc, mail, ppt, pdf, tex, odp, xls, ...)



Prominent Systems III: Web Search Engines



Almost Any Web Site

Suchergebnis auf Amazon.de für **tiger**

1-16 von mehr als 200.000 Ergebnissen oder Vorschlägen für "tiger"

Ergebnisse anzeigen für

- Küche, Haushalt & Wohnen
- Bettwäsche-Sets
- Badaccessoires
- Wohn- & Kuscheldecken
- Zierkissen & -hüllen
- Teppiche
- Spielzeug
- Plüschtiere
- Party- & Scherzartikel
- Kostüme & Zubehör für Kinder
- Elektronische Haustiere
- Tierfiguren für Kinder
- Baumarkt
- Wandtattoos & Wandbilder
- Fremdsprachige Bücher
- Kinderbücher zu Löwen, Tigern & Leoparden
- Romane & Erzählungen für Kinder
- Science Fiction & Magie für Kinder
- Jugendbücher
- Soziale Themen für Kinder
- Prime Video
- Prime Video Filme
- Prime Video Serien
- Kindle-Shop
- Kinderbücher zu Löwen, Tigern & Leoparden (englischsprachig)
- Science Fiction & Magie für Kinder (englischsprachig)
- Tiere (englischsprachig)
- Kinderbücher zu Säugetieren (englischsprachig)
- Action & Abenteuer für Kinder (englischsprachig)
- Alle 29 Kategorien

Filtern nach

- AmazonFresh
- fresh
- Pantry

ansich Hervorheben Groß-/Kleinschreibung Ganze Wörter Ausdruck nicht gefunden

GESPONSERT VON COBI FACTORY S.A.
COBI für Sammler von historischen Militärmodellen
Jetzt einkaufen >

Ampe! 24 Trampolin Ø 430 cm grün | Gartentrampolin Komplettset mit verst...
★★★★☆: 20
prime

Gesponsert
Handtuchstange + kostenloser Versand / Tiger Cria Chrom M Handtuchhalter, Handtuchstange
von Tiger
EUR 15,90
KOSTENFREIE Lieferung

Gesponsert
verschiedene Handtuchhalter wählbar + kostenloser Versand Handtuchhaken, Handtuchhalter, Handtuchring, Handtuchst...
von Tiger
EUR 14,90
KOSTENFREIE Lieferung

Produktkategorien

- Plüschtiere
- Fitness-Kleingeräte
- Spielzeug
- Spielzeugfiguren & Spielwelten: Bauernhof & Tiere
- Bettwäsche-Sets

Plüschtier Tiger - liegend - braun - 90 cm
von Plushfarm
EUR 20,00 + EUR 5,99 Versandkosten
Nur noch 18 Stück auf Lager - jetzt bestellen.

Suchergebnis auf Amazon.de für **tiger**

Meistbesucht Frequent WBI Lehre Google News Buecher kaufen Projekte Paper Reisen MyStuff hub Berlin We

Tiger Tigerfix Klebesystem Nummer 1 für Ausstattungsserien, Metall, Chrom, 0.6
von Tiger
EUR 9,99 prime
Lieferung bis **Donnerstag, 3. Mai**
Kostenlose Lieferung möglich.
Andere Angebote
EUR 8,91 (5 gebrauchte und neue Artikel)

Onistuka Tiger Herren Onistuka Tiger Mexico 66 Low-Top
von Onistuka Tiger
ab EUR 49,00 prime
Kostenlose Lieferung möglich.
Einige Größen/Farben sind für Prime qualifiziert

Plüsch Wildtier Großkatzen Plüsch Leopard Tiger Panther Designs und Größen
von TE-Trend
ab EUR 22,95 prime
Kostenlose Lieferung möglich.
Nur noch 5 Stück auf Lager - jetzt bestellen.
Einige Farben sind für Prime qualifiziert.

Ty Beanie Babies Classic Tiggs Tiger 15 cm 33 cm Plüsch Stofftier Kuscheltier
von TY
ab EUR 4,51 prime
Kostenlose Lieferung möglich.
Einige Größen sind für Prime qualifiziert.

20 Staubsaugerbeutel geeig. Vorwerk Tiger 250 251 252 INCL. FILTER
von LeaBen®
EUR 12,99 prime
Kostenlose Lieferung möglich.
Nur noch 11 Stück auf Lager - jetzt bestellen.
Andere Angebote
EUR 9,99 (4 neue Artikel)

ansich Hervorheben Groß-/Kleinschreibung Ganze Wörter Ausdruck nicht gefunden

Properties of Information Retrieval (IR)

- IR is about **helping a user**
- IR is about **finding information**, not about finding data
- IR builds systems for **end users**, not for programmers
 - No SQL
 - IR (web) today is used by **almost everybody**, databases are not
- IR searches **unstructured data** (e.g. text)
- **90% of all information** is presented in unstructured form
 - Claim some analysts

History

- ~300 ad. Library of Alexandria , ~700.000 „documents“
- 1450: [Bookprint](#)
- 19th century: Indices / concordance
- Probabilistic models: Maron & Kuhns (1960)
- Boolean queries: Lockheed (~1960)
- [Vector Space Model](#): Salton, Cornell (1965)
 - Faster, simpler to implement, better search results
- 80s-90s: Digital libraries, SGML, hypertext, metadata standards
- Mid 90s: The web, [web search engines](#), XML, federations
- End 90s: Personalized search engines, [recommendations](#)
- 2010 - : Mobile/localized search, user-generated content, [social networks](#)
- 2015 - : Knowledge graphs, [entity search](#), personalization
- 2018 - : [Question answering](#), language models, machine-learning based

Content of this Lecture

- What is Information Retrieval
- Documents
- Queries
- Related topics

Document or Passage

The image displays three search results for the query "shakespeare death":

- Left:** A library search interface (Universitätsbibliothek) showing search results for "shakespeare death". The results are presented as a table with columns for No., Autor, and Titel. The first result is "A Catalogue of the Shakespeare Exhibition, held in the Bodleian Library to commemorate the death of..."
- Middle:** A Google search result for "shakespeare death". The search bar shows the query, and the results list several documents, including "Death: Shakespeare" and "The Death of William Shakespeare and his will".
- Right:** A WolframAlpha search result for "when did shakespeare die?". The search bar shows the query, and the results display the date "Saturday, April 23, 1616" and a table of date formats (Julian calendar, Julian day number, Jewish calendar, Islamic calendar).

Searching only
metadata

Searching tokens
within documents

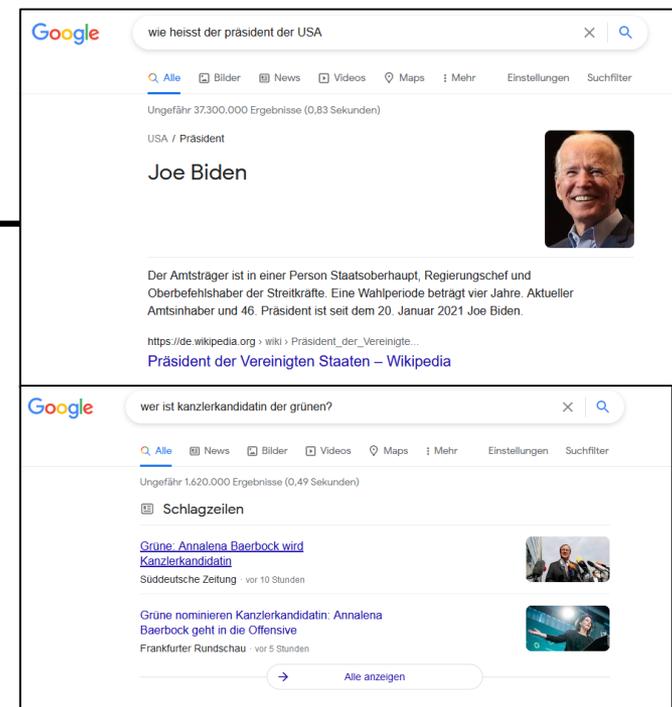
Interpreting
natural text

Documents

- This lecture: [Natural language text](#)
- Might be grammatically correct (books, newspapers) or not (blogs, Twitter, spoken language)
- May have structure (title, abstract, chapters, ...) or not
- May have associated (explicit or in-text) metadata or not
 - Author, title, year, publisher, ...
- May be in different languages or even have mixed content
 - Foreign characters
- May have various formats (ASCII, PDF, DOC, XML, ...)
- May refer to other documents ([hyperlinks](#))
- Not covered here
 - Semi-structured data (XML)
 - Structured data (But: Keyword search in relational databases)

IR Queries

- Users formulate queries
 - Keywords or phrases
 - Logical operations (AND, OR, NOT, ...)
 - Also other operators: “-ulf +leser”
 - Natural language questions
 - Question answering, e.g. wolfram alpha
 - (Semi-)Structured queries (author=... AND title~ ...)
 - Voice (Siri, Alexa, ...)
- Documents as queries: Find documents similar to this one
- Query refinement based on previous results
 - Find documents matching the new query within the result set of the previous search
 - Use relevant answers from previous queries to create next query



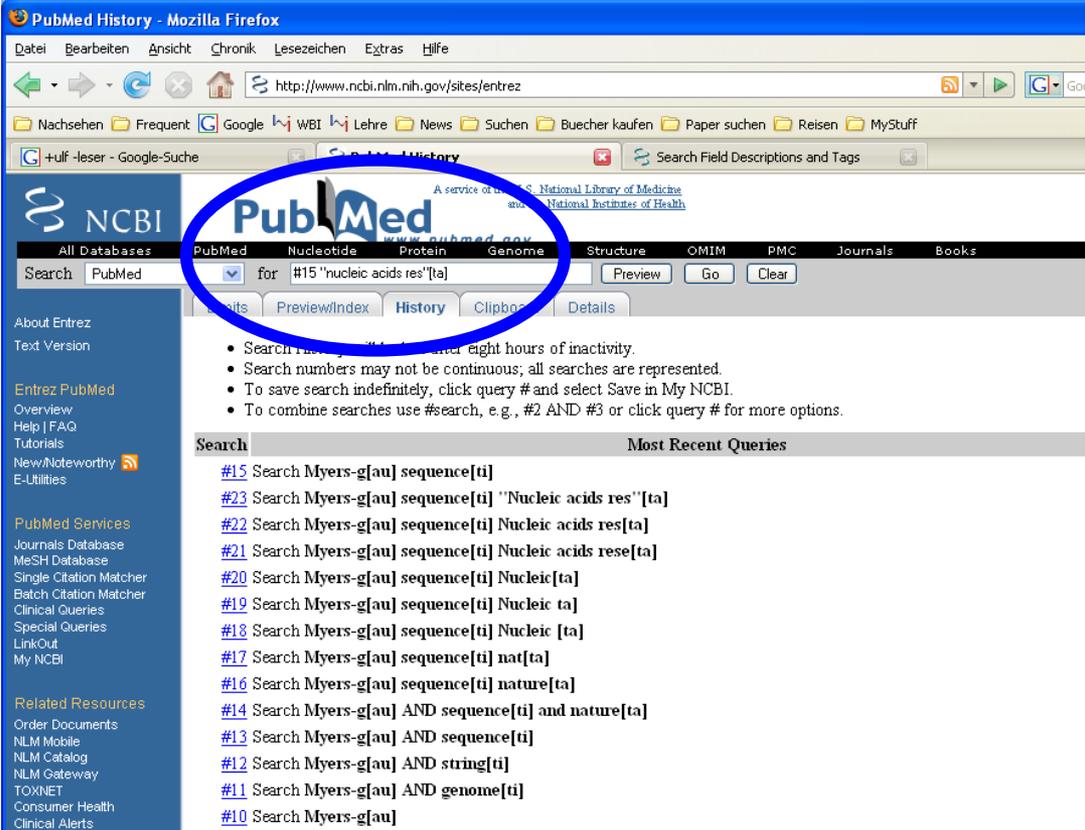
Searching with Metadata (PubMed/Medline)

The screenshot shows the PubMed search interface. The search bar contains the query "Myers-g[au] sequence[ti]". The search results show one item: "Myers GS, Parker D, Al-Hasani K, Kennan RM, Seemann T, Ren Q, Badger JH, Selengut JD, Deboy RT, Tettelin H, Boyce JD, McCarl VP, Han X, Nelson WC, Madupu R, Mohamoud Y, Holley T, Fedorova N, Khouri H, Bottomley SP, Whittington RJ, Adler B, Songer JG, Rood JJ, Paulsen IT. Genome sequence and identification of candidate vaccine antigens from the animal pathogen Dichelobacter nodosus. Nat Biotechnol. 2007 May;25(5):569-75. Epub 2007 Apr 29." The search field descriptions and tags are listed below the search results.

Search Field Descriptions and Tags

Affiliation [AD]	Issue [IP]	Place of Publication [PL]
Article Identifier [AID]	Journal Title [TA]	Publication Date [DP]
All Fields [ALL]	Language [LA]	Publication Type [PT]
Author [AU]	Last Author [LASTAU]	Secondary Source ID [SI]
Comment Corrections	Location ID [LID]	Subset [SB]
Corporate Author [CN]	MeSH Date [MHDA]	Substance Name [NM]
EC/RN Number [RN]	MeSH Major Topic [MAJR]	Text Words [TW]
Entrez Date [EDAT]	MeSH Subheadings [SH]	Title [TI]
Filter [FILTER]	MeSH Terms [MH]	Title/Abstract [TIAB]
First Author Name [1AU]	NLM Unique ID [JID]	Transliterated Title [TT]
Full Author Name [FAU]	Other Term [OT]	UID [PMID]
Full Investigator Name [FIR]	Owner	Volume [VI]
Grant Number [GR]	Pagination [PG]	
Investigator [IR]	Personal Name as Subject [PS]	
	Pharmacological Action MeSH Terms [PA]	

Query Refinement



The screenshot shows the PubMed website in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The search bar contains the query: `for #15 'nucleic acids res'[ta]`. A blue circle highlights the search bar and the 'for' dropdown menu. Below the search bar, there are buttons for 'Preview', 'Go', and 'Clear'. The page displays a list of 'Most Recent Queries' with the following entries:

- #15 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti]
- #23 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] "Nucleic acids res"[ta]
- #22 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] Nucleic acids res[ta]
- #21 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] Nucleic acids rese[ta]
- #20 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] Nucleic[ta]
- #19 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] Nucleic ta
- #18 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] Nucleic [ta]
- #17 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] nat[ta]
- #16 Search Myers-g[au] sequence[ti] nature[ta]
- #14 Search Myers-g[au] AND sequence[ti] and nature[ta]
- #13 Search Myers-g[au] AND sequence[ti]
- #12 Search Myers-g[au] AND string[ti]
- #11 Search Myers-g[au] AND genome[ti]
- #10 Search Myers-g[au]

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (W3C), 1995

- identifier: ISBN/ISSN, URL/PURL, DOI, ...
- format: MIME-Typ, media type,
- type: Collection, image, text, ...
- language
- title
- subject: Keywords
- coverage: Scope of doc in space and/or time
- description: Free text
- creator: Last person manipulating the doc
- publisher:
- contributor:
- rights: Copyright, licenses, ...
- source: Other doc
- relation: To other docs
- date: Date or period

Usage in HTML

```
<head profile="http://dublincore.org/documents/dcq-html/">
<title>Dublin Core</title>
<link rel="schema.DC" href="http://purl.org/dc/..." />
<link rel="schema.DCTERMS" href="http://purl.org/..." />
<meta name="DC.format" scheme="..." content="text/html" />
<meta name="DC.type" scheme="..." content="Text" />
<meta name="DC.publisher" content="Jimmy Whales" />
<meta name="DC.subject" content="Dublin Core Metadata" />
<meta name="DC.creator" content="Björn G. Kulms" />
<meta name="DCTERMS.license" scheme="DCTERMS.URI"
      content="http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html" />
</head>
```

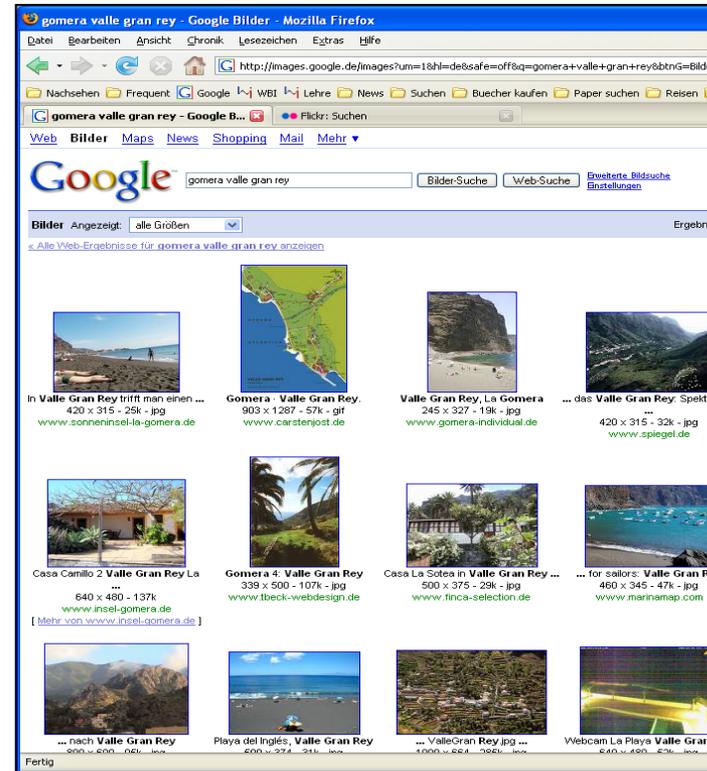
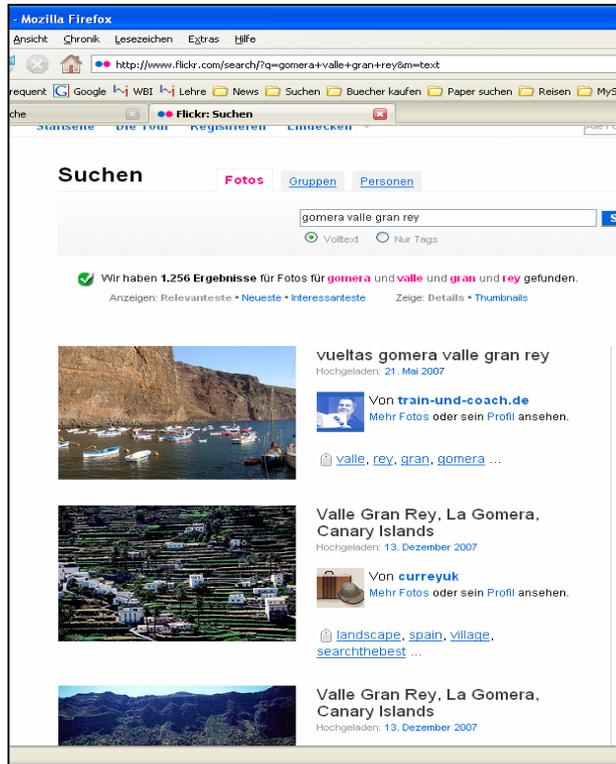
Knowledge Quiz

- Search engines are used only in the web
- Most search engines return documents, not direct answers to questions
- Search primarily is about faster answers to a query
- "Keyword queries" and "Boolean queries" are synonyms
- Search engines rarely offer sub-token search apart from morphology

Content of this Lecture

- What is Information Retrieval
- Documents
- Queries
- [Related topics](#)

Multimedia Retrieval



- Note: Neither searches within images
 - Flickr: tags (“folksonomy”)
 - Google: text in neighborhood

„Search by Image“ (10/2014)

A screenshot of a Google Images search result. The search bar contains the filename 'leser_ulf_01.jpg' and the text 'describe image here'. The 'Images' tab is selected. The main image is a portrait of a man in a blue shirt. To its right, the text reads 'Image size: 1348 x 899' and 'No other sizes of this image found.' Below the image, a tip says 'Tip: Try entering a descriptive word in the search box.' There are two links: 'Visually similar images' and 'Report images'. A grid of 20 smaller images is displayed below, showing various people's faces. One image in the bottom row is labeled '2 days ago'.

A screenshot of a Google Images search result. The search bar contains the filename 'taged...2014_2.JPG'. The 'Images' tab is selected. The main image shows a group of people sitting at tables in a room. To its right, the text reads 'Image size: 4000 x 3000' and 'No other sizes of this image found.' Below the image, a tip says 'Tip: Try entering a descriptive word in the search box.' There are two links: 'Visually similar images' and 'Report images'. A grid of 20 smaller images is displayed below, showing various outdoor scenes, including people walking, bicycles, and public spaces.

Search by Image 4/2018 – it's difficult ...

The screenshot shows a Google search for 'informatik' using the image search feature. The search results include a small image of a person in a classroom, a Wikipedia entry for 'Informatik', and a 'Feedback' section with various icons. The browser tabs and address bar are also visible.

search by image - Google-Suche x Google-Suche x "ulf leser" - Google-Suche x Ulf Leser x +

Meistbesucht Frequent WBI Lehre Google News Bücher kaufen Projekte Paper Reisen MyStuff hub Berlin Wetter

Google JPG x informatik Anmelden

Alle Bilder Maps Shopping Mehr Einstellungen Tools

Ungefähr 3 Ergebnisse (0,60 Sekunden)

Bildgröße: 200 x 133
Dieses Bild in einer anderen Größe suchen: [Alle Größen - Klein](#)

Vermutung für dieses Bild: **Informatik**

Informatik – Wikipedia
<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informatik> ▾
Informatik ist die „Wissenschaft von der systematischen Darstellung, Speicherung, Verarbeitung und Übertragung von Informationen, besonders der automatischen Verarbeitung mithilfe von Digitalrechnern“. Historisch hat sich die Informatik einerseits als Formalwissenschaft aus der Mathematik entwickelt, andererseits als ...

Informatik Studium: Studiengänge, Gehalt & Berufsaussichten
<https://www.studycheck.de> > [Studiengänge](#) > [Informatik & Mathematik](#) > [Informatik](#) ▾
Ein Informatik Studium interessiert Dich? Hier findest Du eine Übersicht der Studieninhalte & der Voraussetzungen sowie Infos zum Thema Gehalt & Karriere.

Optisch ähnliche Bilder

Unangemessene Bilder melden

Informatik

Informatik ist die „Wissenschaft von der systematischen Darstellung, Speicherung, Verarbeitung und Übertragung von Informationen, besonders der automatischen Verarbeitung mithilfe von Digitalrechnern“. [Wikipedia](#)

Andere suchten auch nach Über 10 weitere ansehen

Wissenschaft Computer Unternehm... Algorithmus Mathematik

Feedback

Question Answering

- Asking for a specific bit of information
 - What was the score of Bayern München versus Stuttgart in the DFB Pokal finals in 1998?
 - How many hours of sunshine has a day in Crete in May?
 - When does the next S9 leave this station?
- Prominent until recently: IBM Watson
 - “IBM Watson is a technology platform that uses natural language processing and machine learning to reveal insights from large amounts of unstructured data” [2011]
- Hot topic for **personal assistants**
 - E.g. Amazon Echo, Apple Siri, Google Assistant, ...
- QA: Mixture of **statistical NLP**, **Machine learning** and **IR**



Historic Texts



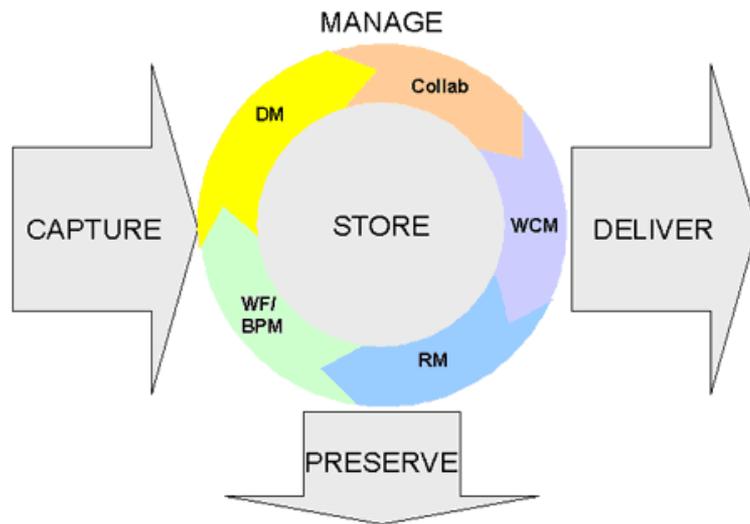
- Sachsenspiegel, ~1250
 - "Swerlenrecht künnen wil•d~ volge dis buches lere.alrest sul wi mer ken, daz ..."
- Multiple representations
 - Facsimile
 - Digitalization / diplomacy
 - How well can the facsimile be reproduced from the dig. form?
 - Differences in individual writers (proliferating errors)
 - Different translations
 - Different editions

Other Buzzwords

- Document management systems (DMS)
 - Large [commercial market](#), links to OCR, workflow systems, etc.
 - Many legal issues (compliance, reporting, archival, ...)
 - Essentially all companies run some form of a DMS
 - Every DMS includes an IR system
- Knowledge management
 - “More sophisticated” DMS with [semantic searching](#)
 - Ontologies, thesauri, topic maps, ...
 - [Social aspects](#): Incentives, communities, enterprise standards, ...
- Digital libraries
 - Somewhat [broader](#) and less technical
 - Includes social aspects, [archiving](#), multimedia, ...

Enterprise Content Management

- „The technologies used to capture, manage, store, deliver, and preserve **information** to **support business processes**“



Quelle: AIIM International

- Authorization and authentication
- Business process management and **document flow**
- **Compliance**: legal requirements
 - Record management
 - Pharma, Finance, ...
- Collaboration and sharing
 - Inter and intra organizations
 - Transactions, locks, ...
- **Publishing**: What, when, where
 - Web, catalogues, mail push, ...
- ...

Technique versus Content

- IR is about techniques for searching a **given doc collection**
- **Creating doc collections** is a business: **Content provider**
 - Selection/filtering: classified business news, new patents, ...
 - Augmentation: Annotation with metadata, summarization, linking of additional data, ...
- **Examples**
 - **Medline**: >5000 Journals, >28M citations, >700K added per year
 - Thompson Reuter
 - Impact factors: which journals count how much?
 - Web catalogues ala Yahoo
 - “Pressespiegel”, web monitoring

Self Assessment

- Give a definition of „Information retrieval“
- How is information retrieval different from database query evaluation?
- What are means to shorten the number of queries necessary to fulfil an information request?
- What is the difference between classical IR and Question Answering?
- What are possible types of answers to a IR query?