

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Web search itself is a lonely task for anyone because he/she must face the PC screen all the time. Besides, a set of operation for web search consists of quick motions and never gives users time to stop and rethink about their search topics and strategies for the next steps. CASSYS enables learners to see the other community members' keywords used in past sessions with a map-like image (see figure 1). The image shown in the JAVA applet presents a map of related keywords accumulated in a database attached to a web server. Web searchers can see by what keywords and how the other classmates are searching the web and if needed they can pick up other person's keywords for their further steps. It is our hypothesis that sharing knowledge inside a learning community will help information seekers to reflect on their own search process and it will encourage them to think more deeply on topics and strategies for their future sessions.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

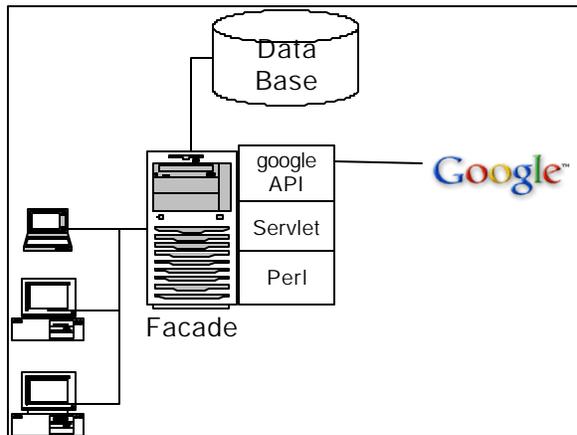


Figure 2: System Structure

“Google” is one of the most popular web-search engines in Japan. We connected a database to a web server in order to pool keywords. When a searcher inputs keywords through the CASSYS menu, the keywords are sent through two different paths to Google and to the database (see figure 2). As search results are responded by Google, the used keywords stored in a database are visualized by our own program and shown as JAVA applet.

IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

CASSYS is to be examined in actual classrooms in a secondary school in Tokyo, Japan in early June 2003. All data will be analyzed after that and it will be presented at the site of ED-Media 2003.

REFERENCES

- Murata, T. (2001). Discovery of Web Communities from Input Keywords to a Search Engine, Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (Research Group Journal), SIG-FAI/KBS-J, pp.141-145
- Kasai, Y. (2001). How Internet Use Influences Information Seeking Process: Empirical Study on Secondary School Students' Errors in their Web Search, Japan Educational Technology Society the 17th (2001) Annual Conference Proceedings, 1a16-02