



Project Title:	Learning object metadata surrogates in search result interfaces: user evaluation, design and content
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Department:	Information Science

Project Description:

The purpose of this research was to examine and evaluate the effects of the design of metadata surrogates in search result interfaces of e-learning systems (such as, digital libraries of educational material) on users' relevance judgment behaviour. The main objectives of this research were:

- To develop a framework for the evaluation of user interaction with learning object metadata surrogates in search result interfaces;
- To investigate the usability of learning object metadata surrogates;
- To examine in-dept the type of content that should be included in learning object metadata surrogates.

These objectives were addressed through the use of usability experiments and relevance judgment research. Some benefits that this research would provide for students include the optimisation of their performance (for example, the time needed to identify relevant learning objects, or the accuracy of their relevance judgments) and the improvement of their satisfaction when searching for relevant learning objects. Improved performance and satisfaction can minimise the negative effects of information overload and anxiety on students' relevance judgment behaviour. Other implications of this type of research include the development of design recommendations for designers of educational IR systems and metadata professionals, as well as the creation of new knowledge concerning the relevance judgment process of students in Higher Education.