which the user was brought into the project; and the communication channels that contributed to the digitization project.

Development and training of machine learning methods for automatic text categorization was the topic of the presentation by **Miguel E. Ruiz** and **Padmini Srinivasan**. Drawing on their paper entitled "Combining Machine Learning and Hierarchical Indexing Structures for Text Categorization", Ruiz and Srinivasan described a method for training an automatic classifier that used a divide-and-conquer approach to exploit the hierarchical structures that are part of an indexing vocabulary. This methodology was evaluated by training a backpropagation neural network to assign MeSH subject headings to a subset of MEDLINE records. The approach described by Ruiz and Srinivasan adopted a modular approach that would break a large problem area into a series of smaller tasks. Comparison of this approach to other methods of automatic text categorization such as flat neural classifiers and the classical Rocchio classifier has indicated that the use of hierarchical structures can improve performance significantly.

Terrance A. Brooks reported recent research findings in the presentation of his paper entitled "Relevance Auras: Macro Patterns and Micro Scatter". Drawing on his previous work with the semantic distance model [SDM], Brooks investigated the relationship between verbal scatter and a searcher's relevance assessments. The *semantic distance effect* of the SDM predicts that relevance assessments will decline as the hierarchical distance between descriptors increases. The *semantic direction effect* of this model predicts that relevance assessments deteriorate more quickly when descriptors become increasingly more specific (move down the hierarchy) than when they become increasingly more general (move up the hierarchy). The subjects were 28 students from engineering and 28 students from library and information science. Brooks used bibliographic records from engineering and LIS, each of which consisted of a citation with abstract. With each bibliographic record presented to a subject, Brooks provided a set of 20 descriptors representing five levels in the representational hierarchy. Subjects were asked to indicate their assessment of relevance for each descriptor by moving a light bar over an unmarked scale. Brooks analyzed the aggregate data and found that, while assessments of nonrelevance occurred after two semantic levels when descriptors moved down the hierarchy, descriptors were still assessed as relevant at the fourth semantic level when movement was up the hierarchy. He concluded that there was support for both the *semantic distance effect* and the *semantic direction effect* of the SDM.

The proceedings will be available from Information Today later this year.

Elin Jacob
ejacob@indiana.edu

The Second ISKO-France Conference

The French chapter of ISKO held its second conference on the theme L'indexation a l'ere d'internet (Indexing in the era of Internet) on October 21-22, 1999, Lyon, France. The conference was organized by ENSSIB-Lyon and Université Lyon III and cosponsored by MENRT.

Of the 120 papers submitted, the number of selected papers was limited to 20 full papers and 12 posters since there was no parallel session. Five sessions and a stand for posters were held during the conference. The sessions were as follows:

1. Access to information resources on Internet *(Accès aux ressources d'information sur Internet)*
2. Indexing and document space *(Indexation et espace documentaire)*
3. Indexing of movies, multilingual indexing *(Indexation de l'image animée, indexation multilingue)*
4. Semantic and discursive approaches *(Approches sémantiques et discursives)*
5. Indexing : tasks and methods *(Indexation : tâche et méthodes)*

Each session was opened by an invited speaker.

The discussions and debates that followed the sessions showed the interest of the participants in the presented topics.

The number and quality of submitted papers showed the important research activities in information processing using the Internet technology. On conceptual approaches, the papers treat normalized and heterogeneous documents. Results on the studies of information representation through document formats were also presented. Even in the area of document indexing, there was a clear orientation towards the integration of knowledge on the part of the end-users of an information system. Almost all the studies presented in the papers and posters were applied in the context of industrial applications.

Most of the papers are written in French. We present below the translation of the paper topics in each session.

1. Access to information resources on Internet

- Internet tools for the retrieval of electronic journals, **M. S. van der Walt**, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

- Directory of Internet and technology watch sites in developing countries, **M. Bonnard**, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
- Selection, description, indexing: do you say "automatic"? **B. Thirion, J.P. Leroy** et alii, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Rouen
- Thematic relevance and multibase access on Web, **G. Eynard** and **J. M. Francony**, Université Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble
- Metadata and user profile, **Youcef Amerouali**, Université Claude-Bernard, Lyon

2. Indexing and document space

- Innovation and tradition on thematic organization in Internet, **M. Hudon**, EBSI, Université de Montréal
- Compatibility problem of indexing language in the context of information network, **A. Ghouas-Dziri**, Centre de Recherche sur l'Information Scientifique et Technique, Alger
- The francophone research guide Nomade, **G. Gourbin**, Objectif Net, Paris
- Indexing : a choice of words or texts ? Towards "discursive indexing" on Internet, **M. Amar**, École des Mines, Paris
- Structuring of hypermedia documents and indexing, **Isabelle Vidalenc**, Université Jean-Moulin, Lyon

3. Indexing of movies, multilingual indexing

- Considerations on the indexing of movies, **J. Turner**, EBSI, Université de Montréal
- DTD Karina : meta-description in XML for the annotation of movie segments, **S. Ranwez** and **M. Crampes**, EMA, Nîmes
- Indexing of the collection of "Cinéastes de Notre Temps" (Film makers of our time), **A. M. Moulis**, Université Le Mirail, Toulouse
- Indexing in audiovisual : the example of the vidiotech of Euronews, **M. El Hachani**, ENSSIB, Lyon
- Indexing elements in the process of referencing of Arabic text by META, **M. Ben Henda**, ISD, Tunis

4. Semantic and discursive approaches

- Query reformulation for information collection on Web based on view points, **L. Naït-Baha, A. Jackiewicz, B. Djioua**, Centre d'Analyse et de Mathématiques Sociales, CNRS, Paris
- Indexing of technical documents for reuse in professional training, **C. Desmoulins, O. Fouial, M. Grandbastien**, Université de Nancy
- The technical document : unicity or plurality, **C. Froissart, G. Lallich-Boidin**, Université Stendhal, Grenoble
- "Semantic" indexing of archeological documents, **A. Benel, S. Calabretto, J.-M. Pinon**, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées, Lyon
- Characterization of scientific discourse sections : correlation analysis between relations, **C. Michel, E. Guinet, T. Lafouge**, Université Claude-Bernard, Lyon

Indexing : Tasks and methods

- Cognitive explanation of inter-indexer coherence, **C. David, L. Giroux, S. Bertrand-Gastaldy**, EBSI, Université de Montréal
- Terminology environment of indexing, **J. Deschamps**, École d'Information Documentaire, Genève
- Indexing whatever be the language and writing : an approach that combines n-grams and textual cartography, **A. Lelu, M. Hallab**, Université Paris 8
- Access to relevant information in voluminous technical documents, **E. Mounier, C. Paganelli**, Université Stendhal, Grenoble
- Automatic recognizing of anaphoric resources in an indexing process using full text, **A. Haddad, M. Le Guern**, Université Lumière, Lyon

Posters

- Towards a "multilingual" system for knowledge management, **Ismail Biskri, Sylvain Delisle**, Département de Mathématiques et d'Informatique, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Canada
- Error processing in information retrieval system, **Riadh Ouersighni**, Mohamed Hassoun, SII-ENSSIB
- Indexing and full text : relevance and contribution of text linguistics, **Bénédicte Pincemin**, INaLF-CNRS, équipe Sémantique des Textes
- Teaching Indexing in the Age of Internet: Changes in US Library and Information Science Curricula, **Hermina G.B. Anghelescu**, University of Texas at Austin
- Indexing and factorial analysis in the case of text documents, **Laurence Favier**, Institut de Recherche en Informatique et Automatisme de Rennes et SII-ENSSIB
- Document indexing using conceptual graphs, **David Genest**, Laboratoire d'Informatique, de Robotique et de Micro-électronique de Montpellier, CNRS - Université Montpellier II

- Indexing in the era of Internet, **Laurence Kister**, LanDisCo, IUT A, Université Nancy 2; Lylette Lacote-Gabrysiak, CRYSTAL-GRESEC
- The trees that hide the forest : on the hierarchical organization imposed on the users, **Jérôme Euzenat**, INRIA Rhône-Alpes
- VT-SAM : Vowelling of texts at the output of morphological analyzer: the case of Arab, **Mohammed Tout**, SII-ENSSIB
- Modeling the activity of the realization of a doctorate thesis in pharmacy associated with its terminology environment : Modeling of activity, **Pascal Bador**, RECODOC Lyon I; **Jacqueline Rey**, ERSICO Lyon III
- Multimedia and text management for an automatic indexing model, **Sahbi Sidhom, Mohamed Hassoun, Richard Bouché,** SII-ENSSIB; **Danièle Dégez-Vataire**, Collette Lustière, INA-France
- Knowledge representation in voluminous technical documents : a proposal for indexing based on logico-gramatical division of concepts, **Virginia Bentespinto, Jacques Rouault, Genvève Laliche-Boidin**, CRISTAL/GRESEC, Université Grenoble III

Amos David
Amos.David@loria.fr