

Exploration of Intrinsic Relevance Judgments by Legal Professionals in Information Retrieval Systems

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Overview:

- Goals
- Background
- Method
- Results
- Conclusions
- Current Work

Goals of the research:

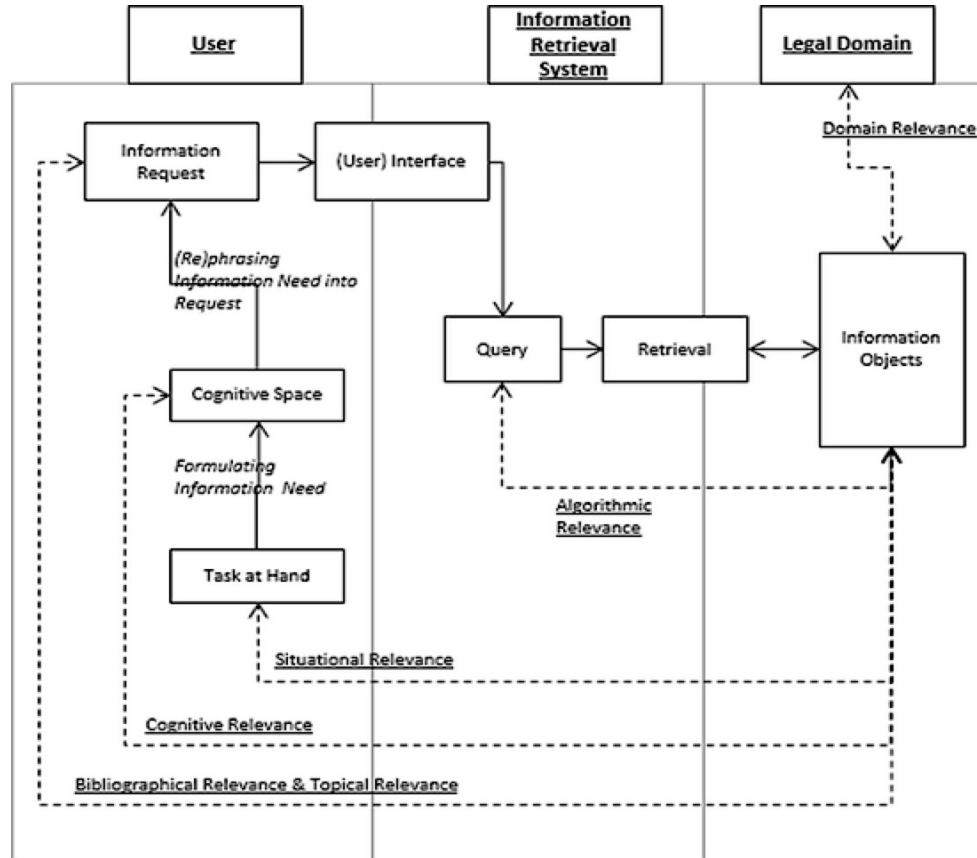
- Verify relevance factors obtained from literature and users
- Discover possible new relevance factors
- Test the method of focused questionnaire with pairwise comparisons to obtain relevance factors

Background (1):

Legal Information Retrieval:

- High recall
- Conservative customers
- Diverse document types and lengths

Background:



Method (1):

- Focused questionnaire with pairwise comparisons
- < 12 minutes
- Online to ensure maximum participation
- Distributed via email, newsletter, LinkedIn, LIS and government

Method (2):

Vignettes

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE

tarieven deskundigenonderzoek



Optie 1

RSV 1998, 85 - Centrale Raad van Beroep - 05-03-1997

Vergoeding deskundigenonderzoek en reiskosten

Optie 2

Rechtspraak.nl - Centrale Raad van Beroep - 08-09-2017 -

ECLI:NL:CRVB:2017:3091 - Arbeids/Sociaal Recht

Beëindiging WIA-uitkering. Onvoldoende medische grondslag. De door de Raad geraadpleegde deskundige heeft in het rapport gemotiveerd uiteengezet dat appellante meer beperkt is dan door het Uvw is aangenomen, niet alleen bij persoonlijk en sociaal fun [...]

Method (3):

Tested factors:

- Recency;
- Legal hierarchy;
- Annotated case law;
- Source authority;
- Authority author;
- Bibliographic relevance;
- Title relevance;
- Document type.

Results (1):

- 43 respondents
- Range of areas of legal expertise, function types etc.
- 473 choices made
- 90 instances with no clear motivation
- Considerations show two options distinguishing enough to trigger serious consideration

Results (2):

Factor	Number of times mentioned
Title relevance	154
Document type	67
Recency	59
Level of depth *	58
Legal hierarchy	44
Law area (topic) *	31
Authority/credibility (total)	31
Source authority	15
Authority author	9
Usability	15
Bibliographical relevance	12
Annotated	7
Length of the document	2
No preference	28

Analysis:

- Relevance judgment of result easier with snippets
 - Non-ranking solution for ranking improvement
- Document type and level of depth/detail very important
 - Should we stop putting all results in one list?

Conclusions:

- Focused questionnaire with vignette style pairwise comparisons works well:
 - Mitigates work experience bias;
 - (Largely) mitigates function;
- Relevance factors found in literature are confirmed
- Agreement on document factors that play a role in relevance, a collective cognitive relevance/domain relevance.

Current Work – Information Specialists v. Legal Practitioners

Information Specialists

Title relevance

Document type

Legal hierarchy

Recency

Authority/credibility (total)

 Source authority

 Authority author

Level of depth

Law area (topic)

Bibliographical relevance

Annotated

Usability

No preference

Practitioners

45 Title relevance

19 Document type

19 Level of depth

17 Recency

12 Law Area (topic)

10 Legal hierarchy

1 Authority/credibility (total)

10 Authority author

5 Source authority

5 Usability

2 Bibliographical relevance

1 Annotated

12 Length of the document

No preference

109

48

48

42

26

25

19

8

5

14

7

5

2

16

Current Work – Challenges in Legal IR

Challenge	Number of times mentioned
Query formulation	17
Information overload	14
Determining the value of a result	8
Fear of missing information	7
Filtering down results	5
Context of results	3
Case based information retrieval	2
Different document types	1
Overview	1
Summary does not provide enough information	1
Retrieving recent information	1
Finding academic articles	1
Double results	1
Cost of legal information	1

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