

IPRO 311 – Spring 2006

Making the Mediator More User-Friendly Through the Holocaust

Team Members:

Mark Haase
Jane Ji
Justion Moses
Yacin Nadji
Erica Scott
Jason Soo
Jeff Rowland

Objective:

The main focus of IPRO 311 this semester was two fold. First, develop a locality search to allow a user to find the location of specific data. Second, develop ten search improvement functions which will automatically add terms to improve a search in progress, improving the results.

Organization:

Initial activities performed during the first weeks of class revealed the strengths and weaknesses of our team members. In order to meet our objectives, the team decided to divide into subgroups; each subgroup was composed of people whose talents were best suited to the task of the group.

Our team's subgroups were the Coders, the Testers, and the Documenter: the Coders responsibility was to develop the code for the Locality search and the Search Improvement functions; the Testers ran queries on the search improvement functions, and performed analysis of the results of this testing; Jane was also responsible for the poster and brochure. The Documenter, aided by the others groups, assembled documentation of the entire project, such as minutes and reports, in addition to aiding the testers as needed.

Accomplishments:

The team was able to complete all of the sub-goals:

- Create Ten search Functions
- Run two-hundred queries on each function to determine utility
- Create a user interface for Mediator
- Create a mechanism to add data sets
- Create a manual for that interface
- Present the Interface to the USHMM
- Create any materials necessary for IPRO day

Future Work:

There were a number of other ideas for functions that would improve search which could prove powerful search aids, if able to be implemented. More functionality could be added to the locality search. In addition, further testing of both would not be unwarranted.