Tightly Coupling Search and Structure

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Search and Structure

- Two Common Methods for Info Access
 - Search (Querying)
 - Structure (Navigation)
- Search -> Ranked List or Set of Results
 e.g., Excite, Infoseek, Lycos, Alta Vista
- Structure -> Navigable, Browable Structure
 e.g., Yahoo! ... Dewey, LC, MeSH
- Both Methods Have Known Access Problems

Combining Search and Structure

- Separate-But-Equal
 - Both Search and Structure available, but not integrated
- Tightly Coupled Integration
 - Very powerful notion; limited exploration of rich design space; some possibilities:
 - Structure Search Results
 - Show Search Results in Context of Structure

Separate-But-Equal

- Provide Two Alternative Methods
- User Can Explore Ranked Search Results OR Topic Hierarchy

- e.g., Excite, Infoseek, Lycos

🔯 Excite Search Results: search engines - Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.02 ITG Release	
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Summary: Also, parallel search in USENET News groups databases: Alta Vista News; Dejanews; Excite News].	Search the
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Summary: Announce-A-Site is a new service which submits a site's information to 20 different Indexes, Directorie	s, What's New
Lists for one low fee. New on the Net is a new service which submits a site's information to 20 different Indexes, D	



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Tightly Coupled Integration

• Structure Search Results ... going beyond the ranked list

– e.g., Scatter/Gather; Excite; Document "maps"

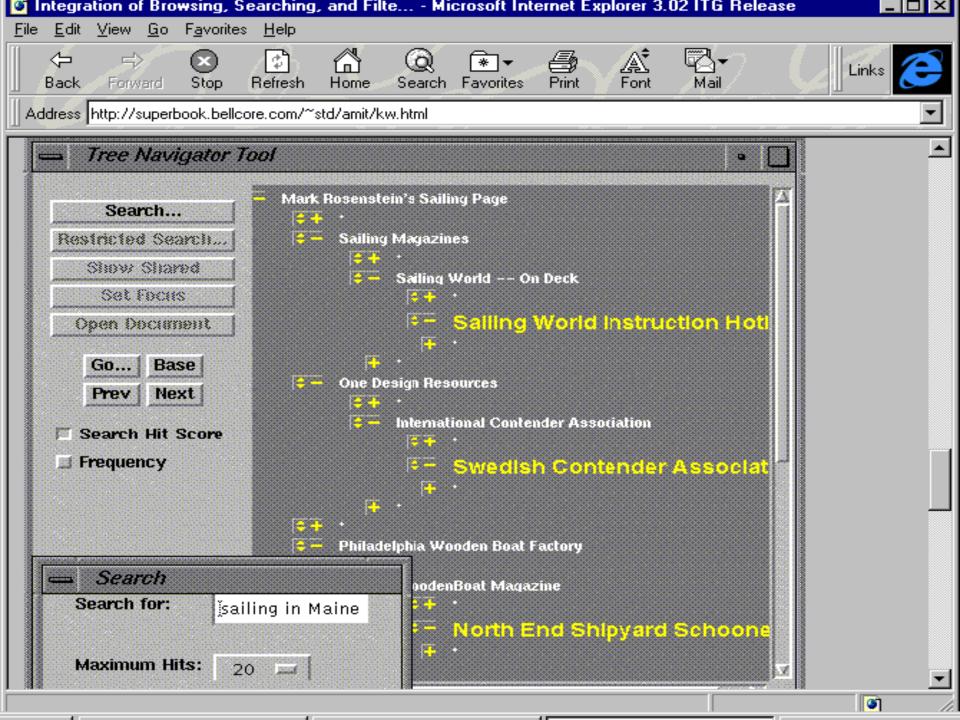
 Search Results Are Shown in the Context of an Organizing Structure (*focus today*)
 – e.g., Yahoo!, SuperBook, AMIT, Cat-A-Cone

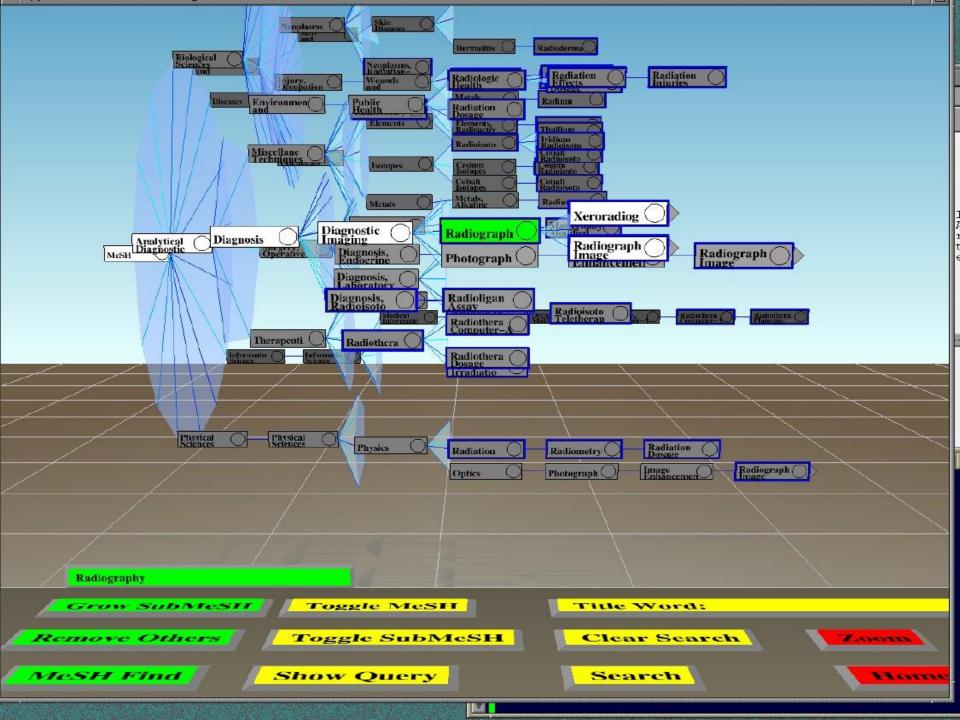


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J		What Is Hypertext?		
Query: Web Search	1	Hypertext is a method of presenting information where selected words in the text can be "expanded" at any time to		
History List:		provide other information about the word. That is, these words are <i>links</i> to other documents which may be text, files,		
web (51)	7	pictures, anything. For the sake of illustration, let's assume that your library had a hypertext card catalog. If you		
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Benefits of Integration

- "Structure-Guided Search" Selection of relevant matches guided by context
- "Search-Guided Structure" Structure view depends on query (e.g., fisheye)
- Other combinations?
- Mitigates some key IR problems
 - Word sense disambiguation
 - Recall enhancement

Open Issues

- Generating structures
- Scalability
- Integration with other sources of information e.g., usage communities, collaboration, temporal, attributes
- Evaluation need to go beyond static relevance judgements a la SuperBook expts