

## **CA557: Information Access**

### **Continuous Assessment**

**Dublin City University**  
**School of Computing**

#### **Introductory Issues**

- Submission Deadline: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 (one week after the end of semester 2 and after May Day weekend). Please note that a penalty will be applied for late submission without good reason.
- Weighting: 30%
- Your report should be placed in the appropriate box in L1.14 – no electronic submissions please
- For this assignment you should work in teams of two. You are free to choose who you work with from among anybody else registered for the module
- Please email me alan.smeaton@dcu.ie if you are unable to form a team and I will assign.
- Each team should submit a single joint report and marks are split equally between the pair of students.

#### **Aim of the Project**

The aim of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to examine some of the topics covered in CA557 and to get you thinking about the topics, creatively. If you want a sounding board then email me alan.smeaton@dcu.ie giving the title and a couple of sentences of your topic and I will give you feedback; if you feel confident enough that you'll get the topic spot on yourself then OK, but its no harm to check.

## The Assignment

For the assignment you are required to perform an analysis and develop a specification for a proposed new information retrieval application. In addition you need to discuss either (a) how this new application could form the basis for a successful start-up company or (b) what are the system or architectural implications and requirements of your proposal. The application that is the subject of this report should be a novel application bringing together material from any topics studied in CA557.

Your system should be based on the existing techniques for information management and information access, and related applications. Thus it should be possible to build and evaluate a prototype system based on your submission.

There are lots of possibilities for new information retrieval applications based on the technologies covered in the module. Some ideas are:

- Video Retrieval System for my Sky+ box
- A sports summarization system for my iPOD
- A music video organiser for my iPOD Touch
- A web image search engine
- A multimedia web search engine
- Photo organiser for my mobile phone or iTouch
- Automatic photo forwarding from my mobile based on analysis of the picture and whose bluetooth phones are in the area
- Automatic structuring of video from my mobile into keyframes
  
- ... something else.

If you have an idea for a new information retrieval application and are not sure if it is suitable please feel free to contact me.

## Format of Submission

Your submission should be in the form of functional specification for a research project to investigate your proposed system. Your report should include the following sections:

- Include the following disclaimer at the top of the first page of your report.

*A report submitted to Dublin City University, School of Computing for module CA557: Information Access, 2007/2008. I hereby certify that the work presented and the material contained herein is my own except where explicitly stated references to other material are made.*

- A title describing the topic to be addressed.
- Your names, email addresses, classes, and student ID numbers.
- A short (150 word maximum) abstract overviewing the contents of your CA. It should be possible for someone with a background in information retrieval to read and understand this abstract without needing to make

reference to the report itself, and to have a clear idea about topic explored of your report.

- The main body of the report should include numbered sections (and where you feel appropriate subsections) as follows:
  - An overview of the objectives of your system. Include details of what the system will do, how it will do it and what constraints or limitations your system will have. **(10%)**
  - A functional description of the system. Give details of the techniques to be used. Include an analysis of the pros and cons of your design. **(50%)**
  - Evaluation plan. Explain how the system would be assessed and evaluated. **(15%)**
  - A discussion of how your system could form the basis of a successful e-commerce start-up or a discussion of the architectural and system design aspects. **(25%)**
  - A list of the references used in your research giving full publication details. You should cite these references in your report at relevant points. For each reference you should aim to include the following details as appropriate: author(s), title, year of publication, conference/journal, pages, volume no.

### **Other Issues**

There is no single correct format for this CA. Every project will be different, even having different headings and emphasising different aspects as possible. You may use a combination of presentation formats. These might include short sections of essay style prose, bullet points of key points, clearly labelled diagrams, equations, pseudo code, and possibly other formats.

Your report should include no more than 2,000 words, excluding the abstract and reference list. The number of pages will depend on the number and size of diagrams, lists, etc, but should typically be in the region of 7 - 10 pages.

You should NOT include any code as part of your submission. This is an analysis, design and specification assignment, not an implementation task.

Unacknowledged copying of text and diagrams is, of course, plagiarism. The disclaimer at the head of your report states that you are aware of the need to acknowledge material included in your report which is not original.

### **Marking Criteria**

The following can be said of a perfect submission:

“You have written an excellent and well structured report. The writing and other presentations in the report is clear and concise. You have provided full reference details of your sources and you show clear evidence of reading and analysis

beyond material provided in lectures. You have shown excellent judgment in your choice of relevant material from your sources. You have compared and contrasted the material from your reading, and commented thoughtfully on aspects which you feel to be strengths and weaknesses of the techniques used.' Your discussion of how your system could form the basis of a successful e-commerce start-up is well thought-out and logically presented."

The following gives the criteria for assessment against this ideal:

*H1*

You have written a very good and well structured report. You have clearly described the motivation and specification of your system. Your analysis and design are well integrated, and include material beyond that covered in lectures. You have compared and contrasted techniques clearly, and displayed insights into their relative merits. Your e-commerce discussion is well founded and acceptably presented.

*H2*

Your report is good but the structure may not be smooth or some points may not be well explained. You have shown good evidence of limited background reading. You have made a basic attempt to critically analyze the methods covered in your report. Your e-commerce discussion is acceptable and acceptably presented.

*Pass*

You have written a complete report, but it has some weaknesses in its structure. You show very little sign of background reading and your report is limited and difficult to follow. Your e-commerce discussion is weak.

*Fail*

Your report is incomplete/missing. There is no evidence of background reading. Your presentation is poor and difficult to follow and your e-commerce/system design discussion is weak and shows little thought.