

Executive Summary

The objective of MultiMatch is to develop a multilingual search engine specifically designed for access, organization and personalised presentation of cultural heritage information. The development of the system thus implies addressing a number of significant research challenges in a multidisciplinary context. R&D expertise is required in a diverse set of system- and user-oriented research areas. On the system side, these relate to focused Internet crawling, information extraction and analysis, multilingual information access and retrieval, multimedia complex object management, and interface design. On the user side, relevant areas include user profiling, metadata and ontology studies, user/system interaction, and user-centered interface design. The technology in these areas tends to develop rapidly. For this reason, it was decided to prepare a detailed state of the art report in the initial phases of the project.

This report thus describes the state of the art in the development of image collection browsing and overviewing. This is motivated by the fact that such activities are complementary to search operations and may provide efficient solutions where search tools are deficient due to the lack of representative semantics within the documents. Further, initial evaluations of the work in MultiMatch have pinpointed the need for complements or alternatives to the Query-by-Example paradigm. Deliverable D1.1.1 has included an in-depth review of the latter. It is therefore natural to propose in this document a review of browsing technique in a context close to or departing from retrieval.

This overview is made with the view of evaluating browsing principles and technologies as useful in the context of MultiMatch.