

# Online Information Retrieval

Course Code: **LIS-6210**

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# OIR: Definition

## ➤ Online

- A general term for devices and Peripherals which are interacting directly and simultaneously with a computer in real time.
- A reference to, or the act of undertaking, online information retrieval. (Harrods', 2000)

## ➤ Information

- Information is data that has been processed into a meaningful form.  
(International Encyclopaedia of Information and Library Sc.)
- An assemblage of data in a comprehensible form capable of communication. (Harrods', 2000)

# OIR: Definition

## ➤ Retrieve

- Regain possession of
- Recover by investigation or effort of memory
- Obtain (information stored in a computer etc.)
- Restore to knowledge or recall to mind

(The Oxford English Reference Dictionary)

## ➤ Retrieval

- The action of searching a database, catalogue, or physical store in order to locate a document, other form of record, or item of information, and actual recovery of the required item.



# OIR: Definition

## ➤ Retrieval Device

- A record of documents or information which is consulted in order to obtain what is needed and recorded as being in the store. An abstract journal, a text book, a library catalogue, or a database used to select documentary information, are all retrieval devices.



# OIR: Definition

## ➤ Information Retrieval

- Information retrieval (IR) is the science of searching for documents, for information within documents and for metadata about document, as well as that of searching relational database and the World Wide Web.

(Wikipedia)

# OIR: Definition

- ▶ The finding and recall of information from a store; earlier methods included comprehensive classification and cataloguing, and searching database by various mechanical means. Electronic methods have now generally replaced these systems, and modern retrieval depends on searching full text databases, locating items from bibliographic databases, and document supply via a network.

(Harrods, 2000)

- ▶ The process of gaining access to stored data for the purpose of becoming informed.

(Taylor, 2002)



# OIR: Definition

- ▶ Information retrieval (IR) is finding material (usually documents) of an unstructured (usually text) that satisfies an information need from within large collections (usually stored on computers)

(Christopher D. Manning, Parbhakar Raghavan and Hinrich Schütze, 2008)

# OIR: Introduction

- The term “*information retrieval*” was coined in 1952 and gained popularity from 1961 onwards
- Information retrieval is the term conventionally, through somewhat inaccurately, applied to the type of activity discussed in this volume. An information retrieval system does not inform (i. e. change the knowledge of) the user on the subject of his inquiry. It merely informs on the existence (or non-existence) and whereabouts of documents relating to his request.

(Lancaster)



# OIR: Introduction

- A means whereby a searcher at a remote terminal can access and interrogate databases containing bibliographical or other data. Such databases, produced by commercial firms, government departments, professional bodies, research organizations etc. are usually made available via a Host.
- A searcher accesses the database through telecommunication links, quoting a Password to establish authenticity and facilities billing.
- Recent years a significant growth in CD-ROM based online services and networked services available from national datacentres, with a consequent reduction in online activity.



# OIR: Introduction

- Previously, IR used to be an activity that only a few people engaged in reference librarians, paralegals, and similar professional researchers. But now the world has changed, hundreds of millions of people engage in IR everyday when they use a web search engine or search their e-mail.
- IR is fast becoming the dominant form of information access, overtaking traditional database style searching. Now the information is at our door steps, for its retrieval to make well informed and up to date the knowledge.



# OIR: Introduction

- IR didn't begin with the Web.
- In response to various challenges of providing information access, the field of IR evolved to give principled approaches to searching various forms of content.
- The field began with scientific publications and library records, but soon spread to other forms of content, particularly those of information professionals, such as journalists, lawyers, and doctors.

# OIR: Introduction

- How can a seeker access his required query, what may be the search techniques, what are the criteria for using various search engines as well as database?
- Above all the activities evolved in the process of IR.
- Online IR provides access to seekers about queries putting by them, the required documents, information about recoded knowledge, its availability or unavailability after investigating and recalling form retrieval devices.
- Modern IR deals with storage, organization and access to text, as well as multimedia information resources.