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Retrieval Strategies

7 RETRIEVAL STRATEGIES

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There is a significant body of literature dealing with the problems involved in the retrieval of visual materials. Most of this literature focuses on approaches for assigning technology to this visual material. While specialists in information retrieval have operated under the assumption that what the field needs is better ways to assign terms to visual materials, image processing specialists have promoted pattern recognition as a solution to automatic indexing of large bodies and materials.

The papers in this session begin to break out of these traditional paradigms. All three report on projects involving new methods for image retrieval that do not involve direct assignment of word-based terms to individual images. Matteo Panzeri's paper reports on a project to improve access to paintings in the Accademia Carrara through the manipulation of a lexicon in a post-coordinate fashion.

Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets' paper examines how natural language queries can be used to examine both written and visual material related to Delphi, Greece. This project raises interesting questions on whether a single system can satisfy both the precise retrieval needs of researchers and the more general educative and browsing needs of a wider public. It also begins to identify the problems arising from determinations which must be made as to the granularity of informational pieces.

Jørgensen, Jørgensen, and Hogan's paper proposes the assignment of visual icons that can supplement and perhaps even replace the traditional assignment of controlled vocabulary (word-based) terms. Icons are assigned to figurines from classical archeology, and searches can use these icons (in combination with each other or with a limited number of textural index terms) to search for the relevant image. The system also supports a limited spatial indication so that the user can indicate s/he wants to only retrieve images containing a given entirely located in a particular quadrant of the image.