Information Retrieval Experiment

Edited by Karen Sparck Jones

Retrieval system testing in an operational environment is difficult and expensive. *Information Retrieval Experiment* brings together and presents in a coherent fashion, material about retrieval system testing scattered in reports and papers. The systems of past tests, and requirements for future tests are examined in detail with many references to examples.

The contributors are all noted workers in the field and their chapters are designed to fit together to provide a thorough treatment of general retrieval test problems, concepts and methods of specific types of tests and of significant and characteristic tests and projects of the last twenty years.

This book is written for research workers, teachers and students of information science but will also be of value to library and information science administrators.

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Testing in General ● The methodology of information retrieval experiments ● Retrieval effectiveness ● Ineffable concepts in information retrieval ● The pragmatics of information retrieval experiments ● *Types of Test* ● Evaluation within the environment of an operating information system ● Opportunities for testing with online systems ● Laboratory tests of manual systems ● Laboratory tests: automatic systems ● Simulation, and simulation experiments ● Gedanken experimentation ● *Actual Tests* ● Retrieval system tests 1958–1978 ● The Cranfield tests ● An experiment: search strategy variations in SDI profiles ● The Smart environment for retrieval system evaluation ● Bibliography ● Index