## Appendix A

# Okapi system description

This Appendix illustrates and describes the systems used in the City University library and for registered network users. All the Figures except A.21 and A.22 illustrate the system used at the terminal in the library. There are minor differences in the wording of messages and prompts between the library and the network systems.

Figure A.1: Welcome screen



If the user presses the BLUE key the message shown in Figur A.2 is superimposed over the "Welcome Screen"

If users enter a library card number a small window (or *snippet*) appears telling them the last time they used the system. If they enter the "special number" the snippet says "Thank you for your cooperation". The special

Figure A.2: Information window for welcome screen

#### OKAPI

It is helpful to us if you enter your library card number as this enables the computer to 'recognise' you when you use the system again. We are hoping to use this information to develop a system that will adapt itself to the needs of individual users.

We cannot and do not want to find out who you are from your library card number.

The OKAPI project is based in the Information Science Department in Room A223. Please call in if you would like to know more about our work or if you have any suggestions.

Press the Return key to continue

Figure A.3: Information offered after user identification

# OKAPI In this experiment you will be asked for information about the relevance of books you find. OKAPI can then try to find similar books using the title and subject words. This is called automatic query expansion. The OKAPI project is based in the Information Science Department in Room A223. Please call in if you would like to know more about our work, or if you have any suggestions. Type S to start your search

number is intended to be unmemorable so that users are more likely to use their own library card number. It is randomly generated each time the system returns to the welcome screen.

Users are given three attempts to enter either their own or the special number correctly. If they fail a snippet saying "sorry" appears under the number box, the screen goes blank for a few seconds and the welcome screen reappears. Once a number has been entered correctly users are offered the choice of either starting their search or seeing more information. The information at this stage is shown in Figure A.3.

If users do not press the RETURN key after typing in their search a snippet appears reminding them to do so.

When the search has been entered the "Results" screen of Figure A.6 appears

Figure A.4: Search input screen

=======================================	=======================================
SUBJECT SEARCH	** OKAPI
The computer will look for books which include all (or most) of in their titles or subject descriptions	f <b>y</b> our words
Type a word or a phrase which describes the books you want :	
1	1
Press BLUE	BLACK key
for info	to quit
=======================================	

Figure A.5: Information offered from search input screen

Figure A.6: Search results screen

SUBJECT SEARCH for "insecticides and the environment"

5 books under "insecticides"
1081 books under "environment"

One book matches your search well
(5 books found altogether)

Type Display to look at the books found?
(the most similar books should appear first)

Type New if you want to do a different search
Type Edit to change or add to your search

\_\_\_\_\_\_

The "BLACK key to quit" snippet appears on every display as it is important that the user logs off at the end of the session.

A spelling mistake or the entering of a word not in the database results in Figure A.7.

Figure A.7: Replacement of misspelt word

SUBJECT SEARCH for "insecticides and the enveronment"

5 books under "insecticides"

CAN'T FIND "enveronment"

Press the return key if you want to change this word

Press the space bar to continue without this word

or type New if you want to do a new search

|BLACK key |
|to quit |

Figure A.8: Brief record display

LIST OF BOOKS Search: "insecticides and the environment"	Books 1 to 5	of 5
No. Title	Author	Date
1 Organochlorine insecticides : persistent organic THE REST OF THE BOOKS MAY NOT MATCH YOUR SEARCH VERY W		1975
2 Chlorinated insecticides.	BROOKS G T	1974
3 Safe use of pesticides : twentieth report of the	World Health Org	1973
4 Insecticide and fungicide handbook for crop prote.	. British Crop Pro.	. 1972
<pre>5 Insecticides : action and metabolism. ** END OF LIST **</pre>	O'BRIEN R D	1967
Type its number to see if a book is relevant		
Type Options to see other things you can do		
	BLACK ke	e <b>y</b> l
	to quit	1
=======================================		

In Figure A.10 the BLUE option informs users that if they choose some books the system will look for similar ones if they type MORE.

Figure A.9: Options from brief display

```
______
                                                Books 1 to 5 of 5
Search: "insecticides and the environment"
             |OPTIONS
-----
                                                            1--
1 Organochlorine insectici|You can do :
                                                            175
THE REST OF THE BOOKS MAY NO!
  Chlorinated insecticides | Wew (start a new search)
                                                            174
3 Safe use of pesticides: | Edit or repeat your last search
                                                            173
4 Insecticide and fungicid
5 Insecticides: action an Please choose one
                                                            167
   ** END OF LIST **
                      (or press the return key
                     | to return to the list of books)
Type its number to see if a |
Type Options to see other th!
                                                   |BLACK key |
```

Figure A.10: Full record display

When the user chooses the book of Figure A.10 as relevant appropriate fields of the record is "indexed" and the terms extracted from it placed in a list with the original query terms. After this book has been chosen the list will contain "insecticides" and "environment" from the original query, together with "organochlorine" and the other title words, "pollution", "pesticides" etc from the subject headings, and the Dewey number 632.95042. This list of terms, which is added to every time a record is chosen relevant by the user, is the list from which the "best" terms will be used for query expansion.

As only one book, in this example, was a good match to the search and as that has been looked at and chosen as relevant, the user is now given the choice of doing MORE (Figure A.11). If the original query results in at least three good matches MORE is not offered until several of the books have been looked at as the automatic query expansion usually works better with a larger pool of terms.

Figure A.11: Brief record display with "MORE" option

	T OF BOOKS rch: "insecticides and the environment"	Books 1 to	
Yo.	Title	Author	Date
	Organochlorine insecticides : persistent organic REST OF THE BOOKS MAY NOT MATCH YOUR SEARCH VERY W		1975
2	Chlorinated insecticides.	BROOKS G T	1974
3	Safe use of pesticides: twentieth report of the	World Health Org	1973
4	Insecticide and fungicide handbook for crop prot	British Crop Pro	1973
5	<pre>Insecticides : action and metabolism. ** END OF LIST **</pre>	O'BRIEN R D	196
Typ	e its number to see if a book is relevant		
Тур	e More to look for books similar to the one you cho	se MORE	
Тур	e Options to see other things you can do	BLACK k  to quit	-

When MORE is chosen the system takes the original search terms together with those added from the title and subject fields and the classmark of any chosen books and automatically expands the original query. The result of the new search is displayed in a window superimposed on the brief record display (Figure A.12).

Figure A.13 shows the two books found by the first iteration of query expansion in this search.

Figure A.12: Results of query expansion

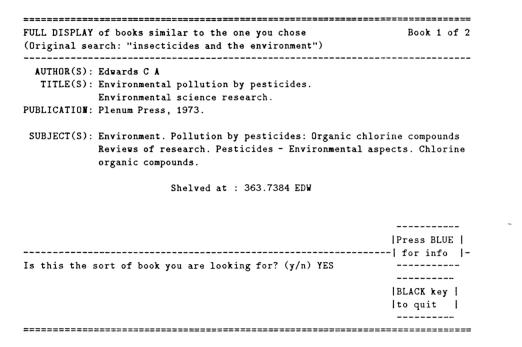
LIST OF BOOKS	Books 1 to 5 of 5
Search: "insecticides and the environment"	
No. Title	Author Date
1** Organochlorine insecticides : persisten THE REST OF THE BOOKS MAY WOT MATCH YOUR SE. 2 Chlorinated insecticides	ARCH VERY WELL
3 Safe use of pesticides:  Looking for mo:	
4 Insecticide and fungicidone you chose.	
5 Insecticides: action an	[67
** END OF LIST **   Found some more	e books
i i	Ī
Type Disp to se	ee the books
	i
l	1
(or press return	n if you don't want to see them)
Type its number to see if a	1
Type More to look for books	
Type Options to see other th	BLACK key    to quit
=======================================	

Figure A.13: Brief display from query expansion search

LIST OF BOOKS similar to the one you chose (Original search: "insecticides and the environment")	Books	
No. Title	Author	 Date
1 Environmental pollution by pesticides. 2 Environmental toxicology of pesticides. ** END OF LIST **	EDWARDS C A (MATSUMURA F)	1972
Type its number to see if a book is relevant  Type Back to return to the books you originally found  Type Options to see other things you can do		y

Figures A.14 and A.15 show that the records from the expanded query contain many of the terms extracted from the originally chosen record (Figure A.10). Although both these books are indexed under "environment" the records do not contain "insecticide" and the searcher would not have found them easily without query expansion.

Figure A.14: Record from query expansion



The user chooses both the books shown in Figures A.14 and A.15. A second iteration of query expansion results in the list shown in Figures A.16 and A.17.

The initial "options" window (Figure A.9) just gives the user the choice of doing a new search or editing the existing one. Once a book has been chosen there are more choices as shown in Figure A.18.

The VIEW option displays a list of the titles which the user has selected as relevant. Choosing the PRINT option results in Figure A.19.

The EDIT option displays the original search and allows the user to add or delete terms. The screen of FIgure A.20 shows the information snippet for this screen after the BLUE key has been pressed.

The NEW option allows the user to type in a completely new search while allowing the user to see up to their last three searches

#### Figure A.15:

FULL DISPLAY of books similar to the ones you chose (Original search: "insecticides and the environment")	Book 2 of 2
AUTHOR(S): (Matsumura F); (Boush G M); (Misato T) TITLE(S): Environmental toxicology of pesticides. PUBLICATION: Academic Press, 1972.	
$\label{eq:SUBJECT} SUBJECT(S): \   \textbf{Environment. Pollution by pesticides. Pesticides and environment. Pollution.}$	d the
Shelved at : 632.95042 MAT	
Is this the sort of book you are looking for? $(y/n)$ YES	Press BLUE   -  for info  - 
	to quit

Figure A.16: Records from second iteration of query expansion

\_\_\_\_\_\_

LIST OF BOOKS similar to the ones you chose Books 1 to 9 of 85 (Original search: "insecticides and the environment") \_\_\_\_\_ Organometallic compounds in the environment. CRAIG P The use and significance of pesticides in the en.. MCEWEN F L 1979 Lead pollution: causes and control.

HARRISON R M
Lead pollution: causes and control

HARRISON R M Lead pollution : causes and control HARRISON R M Lead and health: the report of a DHSS Working .. Great Britain. .. 1980 Methodological approaches to deriving environmen.. CALABRESE E J 1978 Analytical aspects of mercury and other heavy me.. (FREI R W) 1975 Environmental pollutants: selected analytical.. International Co.. 1975 9 Further review of certain persistent organochlor.. Great Britain. .. 1969 Down (next)

Type its number to see if a book is relevant

Type Back to return to the books you originally found Type Options to see other things you can do

|BLACK key | |to quit |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Figure A.17:

===			
	T OF BOOKS similar to the ones you chose iginal search: "insecticides and the environment")	Books 10 to 18	of 85
No.	Title	Author	Date
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Witrogenous air pollutants: chemical and biolog Effects of airborne sulphur compounds on forests The non-agricultural use of pesticides in Great The Bhopal syndrome.  Pesticides, boon or bane?.  Pesticides and pollution.  The use and significance of pesticides in the en Chlorofluorocarbons and their effect on stratosp Chlorine dioxide: chemistry and environmental	Discussion Group Great Britain WEIR D GREEN M B MELLANBY K MCEWEN F L Great Britain	1979 1976 1974 1988 1976 1979 1976 1979
тур Тур Тур	on (next), Up (prev)  oe its number to see if a book is relevant  oe Back to return to the books you originally found  oe Options to see other things you can do		 y   

Figure A.18: Options after query expansion

LIST OF BOOKS	Books 1 to 5 of 5
Search: "insecticides and the environment"	
No. Title   OPTIONS	te
1** Organochlorine insectici You can do :	75
THE REST OF THE BOOKS MAY NO!	]
2 Chlorinated insecticides   New (start a new search)	74
3 Safe use of pesticides :   Print out your list of chosen	
4 Insecticide and fungicid   View your list of chosen books	
5 Insecticides: action an   Edit or repeat your last search	
** END OF LIST **   (your selections will be los	t)
l   Please choose one	1
(or press the return key  to return to the list of books)	1
Type its number to see if a	
Type 103 Rumber to see 11 a	i
Type More to look for books	'
Type Options to see other th	BLACK key

Figure A.19: Choosing the PRINT option

		=
SHORT DISPLAY of the book you chose	Book 1 of	1
(Original search: "insecticides and the environment")		
	-	
Your list of books will be available in		-
No. Til the Information Science Research Room A223	l lte	е
		-
1** Or You can collect it between 10.00 and 12.00	1 175	5
** or 14.00 and 17.00 Monday-Friday.	1	
We will keep your list for a week from today.	1	
	hosen books	
Type P to print your list	1	
	search	
or type O to go back to OPTIONS	be lost)	
	- 1	
Please choose one PRINT	1	
	1	-
(or press the return key	ı	
to return to the list of	books)	-
Type 1 to see details of the	1	
1	1	
Type Back to go back to the		
Type Options to see other th!	BLACK key	
	to quit	
		=

Figure A.20: Editing a search

	SUBJECT SEARCH	•	* OI	(API
   P	revious search(es)	Books	four	
1   	"insecticides and the environment"			5       
	e a word or a phrase which describes the books you want :			
i:	nsecticides and the environment     Use the Delete key (above the Return key)			 -
	to get rid of anything you don't want.	BLACK  to qui	•	

Figure A.21: Full record display: INSPEC

FULL DISPLAY Search: "mac	hine learning in information retrieval"	1 of 568
TITLE:	Inference technique for distributed query procession	ng in a
SOURCE:	(Report) 1990)	
HEADINGS:	Incomplete knowledge; knowledge based approach; quentwork partitioning; entity-relationship model; contents attributes; database content; machine letchniques; rules; data inference; objects; correctiverion; toleration; algebraic tools; distribute system; ship database; model-based knowledge acquismethodology.	orrelated earning tness d database
network part query and th	"A new knowledge based approach to query processing itioning has been proposed. The approach is based on the use of available domain knowledge to infer inacce	n the given ssible data.
Down to see	the next page	
or press Ret	urn to continue	CTRL-Y    to quit
=========		

Figure A.22: Brief record display: INSPEC

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS 1 to 9 Search: "machine learning in information retrieval"	of 568
No. Title Author	Date
1** Inference technique for distributed query processing  2 Using type inference and induced rules to provide in Chu, W W  3 Structured information management using new techniqu Gibb, F  4** Proceedings of the 11th BCS IRSG Research Colloquium  5 Machine readable information systems of learning opp Allred, J  6 Semantics of user interface for image retrieval: pos Crehange, M  7 Image progressive retrieval from a videodisk: a mach Crehange, M  8 Machine learning for 'intelligent' information retri Goker, A  9 Automatic thesaurus construction by machine learning Guntzer, U	1990 1990 1990 1989 1989 1989 1989 1989
Down (next)  Type its number to see if a publication is relevant  Type More to look for items similar to the ones you chose  Type Options to see other things you can do   CTRL-Y   to qui	1

## Appendix B

# Okapi transaction logs

Log text is in Roman, annotations in italic

```
I User special_no Database city.feb91 Date Wed Jun 19 13:12:32 1991
Program /usr/local/bin/s.city.3.1.3 Description Okapi rf
Version 3.1.3 Rev date 31 Jan 1991 Pid 12278
```

Identification

T 910619131232

Timestamp. The E lines hereafter are elapsed times in seconds from the previous E or T.

```
U s
C ** start
T 910619131239
S SCR7.1
```

SCR7.1 is the search input screen.

```
U strucu<LEFT>ture<LEFT>al vibta<LEFT><LEFT>ration<RET>
E +16
L structural (744), vibration (232),
E +0
```

User has typed a search with corrections, taking 16 seconds to type it. The system found 744 postings for "structural" and 232 for "vibration[s]".

```
O NMPW = 10 NGW = 10 NAW = 10
```

System has reported "10 books match your search well." User types d for Display and looks at a screen of brief records for 27 seconds.

```
Ud.
S BRIEFS
    Sound and structural vibration: radiation, tran.. FAHY F J
                                                                          1985
    Structural vibration analysis: modelling, analy.. BEARDS C F
                                                                          1983
    Structural vibrations due to wind. Wind tunnel .. (FLINT A R)
                                                                          1980
    Stresses, vibrations, structural integration and.. BEITCH \boldsymbol{L}
                                                                          1979
    Formulas for natural frequency and mode shape.
                                                                          1979
                                                        BLEVINS R D
    Flow-induced vibration
                                                        BLEVINS R D
                                                                          1977
    Vibrations of engineering structures.
                                                        (BREBBIA C A)
                                                                          1976
    Free vibration analysis of beams and shafts.
                                                        GORMAN D J
                                                                          1975
    Flow-induced structural vibrations : proceedings.. (NAUDASCHER E)
                                                                          1974
U 5
E +27
S FULL
  AUTHOR(S): Blevins R D
   TITLE(S): Formulas for natural frequency and mode shape.
PUBLICATION: Van Nostrand Reinhold, c1979.
 SUBJECT(S): Structures. Vibration. Formulae. Structural dynamics.
             Vibration.
                          Shelved at: 624.171 BLE
Uу
E +33
User has looked at the fifth record in full and answered "y" to the relevance question.
S BRIEFS
U 7
E +6
S FULL
  AUTHOR(S): (Brebbia C A)
   TITLE(S): Vibrations of engineering structures.
PUBLICATION: Computational Mechanics Ltd, 1976.
 SUBJECT(S): Structures. Vibration. Structural dynamics. Vibration.
                          Shelved at: 624.171 BRE
Uу
E +7
S BRIEFS
U d
E +12
S BRIEFS
1 Structure-borne sound; structural vibrations and.. CREMER L
                                                                          1973
    ** END OF LIST **
Uо
E +9
S OPTIONS
Uv
```

```
E +12
S VIEWING
S BRIEFS
1** Formulas for natural frequency and mode shape.
                                                        BLEVINS R D
                                                                          1979
2** Vibrations of engineering structures.
                                                        (BREBBIA C A)
                                                                          1976
    ** END OF LIST **
Reviewing chosen records
Uο
E +4
S OPTIONS
Uе
E + 14
User chooses to edit the search, adding the term "aircraft".
S SCR7.2 (edit)
U structural vibration aircraft<RET>
L @0023 (430), structur (2433), vibration (232),
O NMPW = O NGW = 1 NAW = 50
U d
S BRIEFS
  Introduction to the study of aircraft vibration .. SCANLAN R H
                                                                          1951
THE REST OF THE BOOKS MAY NOT MATCH YOUR SEARCH VERY WELL
    Mechanics of flow-induced sound and vibration.
                                                                          1986
                                                        BLAKE W K
    Mathematics of random phenomena: random vibrati.. KREE P
                                                                          1986
    Blast vibration monitoring and control.
                                                       DOWDING C H
                                                                          1985
    Sound and structural vibration : radiation, tran.. FAHY F J
                                                                          1985
    Dynamics and vibration of structures.
                                                        FERTIS D G
                                                                          1984
    Structural vibration analysis : modelling, analy.. BEARDS C F
                                                                          1983
    Vibrational spectra and structure : a series of .. (MARTIN A E)
                                                                          1980
                                                                          1979
    Formulas for natural frequency and mode shape.
                                                       BLEVINS R D
U 1
E +37
S FULL
  AUTHOR(S): Scanlan R H; (Rosenbaum R)
   TITLE(S): Introduction to the study of aircraft vibration and flutter.
PUBLICATION: Macmillan, 1951.
                          Shelved at: 629.132362 SCA
Uу
E +7
S BRIEFS
U 6
E +6
S FULL
  AUTHOR(S): Fertis D G
   TITLE(S): Dynamics and vibration of structures.
PUBLICATION: Krieger, 1984.
```

Shelved at: 624.171 FER

U ^I U y E +9

User requests information, which at this point informs user that the system can look for more records similar to the ones which have been chosen.

```
S BRIEFS
U 7
E +7
S FULL
AUTHOR(S): Beards C F
TITLE(S): Structural vibration analysis: modelling, analysis and damping of vibrating structures.
Ellis Horwood series in engineering science.
PUBLICATION: Ellis Horwood, 1983.
SUBJECT(S): Structures. Vibration. Structural dynamics.
Shelved at: 624.171 BEA
```

```
U y
E +4
S BRIEFS
U m
E +1
S MORE
E +1
O NMPW = 0 NGW = 58 NAW = 58
```

User has chosen three records and now requests query expansion ("MORE"). System reports that some records have been found. It doesn't say how many unless there are less than a screenful.

```
U d
S BRIEFS
    Formulas for natural frequency and mode shape.
                                                       BLEVINS R D
                                                                          1979
    Vibrations of engineering structures.
                                                       (BREBBIA C A)
                                                                          1976
    Flutter suppression and structural load alleviat.. (Agard. Structu..
4
    Stochastic methods in structural dynamics.
                                                       (SCHUELLER G I)
                                                                         1987
5
    Schaum's outline of theory and problems of dynam.. TUMA J J
                                                                         1983
    Analysis of structures by the force-displacement.. SMOLIRA M
                                                                         1980
7
    Sound and structural vibration : radiation, tran.. FAHY F J
                                                                         1985
    Flow-induced vibration
                                                       BLEVINS R D
                                                                         1977
    Several techniques for flight flutter testing: .. (Agard. Structur. 1960
U 9
E +21
S FULL
  AUTHOR(S): (Agard. Structures and Materials Panel); (Agard)
```

```
presented at a special symposium during the eleventh
             meeting of the AGARD Structures and Materials Panel held
             in Athens, Greece... 1960.
             Agard AG56.
PUBLICATION: Agard, 1960.
                          Shelved at: 629.132362 AGA
Uу
E +23
S BRIEFS
U d
E +11
S BRIEFS
                                                                         1979
1
   Stresses, vibrations, structural integration and.. BEITCH L
   Structural dynamics for the practising engineer.
                                                                         1986
                                                       IRVINE H M
   Dynamics of structures and machinery: problems .. SZULADZINSKI G
                                                                         1982
4
   Advanced structural dynamics.
                                                       (DONEA J)
                                                                         1980
5
   Structural dynamics: theory and computation.
                                                       PAZ M
                                                                         1980
   The component element method in dynamics : with .. LEVY S
                                                                         1976
6
7
   The dynamical behaviour of structures.
                                                       WARBURTON G B
                                                                         1976
8
   Dynamics of structures.
                                                       CLOUGH R W
                                                                         1975
   Dynamics in engineering structures.
                                                       KOLOUSEK V
                                                                         1973
U 8
E +20
S FULL
  AUTHOR(S): Clough R W; (Penzien J)
  TITLE(S): Dynamics of structures.
PUBLICATION: McGraw-Hill, [1975].
 SUBJECT(S): Structural dynamics
                          Shelved at : 624.171 CLO
Uу
E +4
S BRIEFS
Uо
E +5
S OPTIONS
Uν
E + 3
S VIEWING
S BRIEFS
1 \!\!\!\! ** Introduction to the study of aircraft vibration .. SCANLAN R H
                                                                          1951
                                                                          1984
2** Dynamics and vibration of structures.
                                                       FERTIS D G
3** Structural vibration analysis : modelling, analy.. BEARDS C F
                                                                          1983
4** Several techniques for flight flutter testing: .. (Agard. Structu.. 1960
                                                       CLOUGH R W
                                                                          1975
5** Dynamics of structures.
    ** END OF LIST **
```

TITLE(S): Several techniques for flight flutter testing: papers

```
U 4
E +10
S FULL
AUTHOR(S): (Agard. Structures and Materials Panel); (Agard)
TITLE(S): Several techniques for flight flutter testing: papers
presented at a special symposium during the eleventh
meeting of the AGARD Structures and Materials Panel held
in Athens, Greece... 1960.
Agard AG56.
PUBLICATION: Agard, 1960.

Shelved at: 629.132362 AGA
```

Quit, finished.

S BRIEFS U ~Y

E +3
C \*\* Record display summary - this search
Total unique briefs: 25
Fulls 5, chosen 5, rejected 0

## Appendix C

# Questionnaires

#### C.1 Questionnaires for library users

#### C.1.1 Exhaustiveness of search

To determine the level of exhaustiveness of search intended by the user. Not introduced until quite late in the experimental period.

Are you looking for:

- 1. One or two books on a subject
- 2. A reasonable selection of books
- 3. As many books as possible
- 4. Just one particular title
- 5. None of the above—please say what you do want

#### C.1.2 Previous experience

To determine what, if any, previous experience users had of computerised catalogue systems.

- 1. Have you ever used the other computer catalogue in this library? (i.e. CLSI)
- 2. Have you ever used any other computer catalogues? If so, which ones?
- 3. Have you ever used this one before?

#### C.1.3 Post-search questionnaire

For users who declined to have a structured interview, a short questionnaire to determine level of satisfaction with the system.

- 1. Did you find the system easy to use? (on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very easy)
- Do you think the system is easier/less easy to use than the other library system?
   (this was only asked were the users had indicated use of the other system)
- 3. Did you need help anywhere where it was not provided?
- 4. Were you pleased with the results of your search? (on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very pleased)
- 5. Did you have to look at a lot of books in order to find the useful ones?
- 6. Did you use the "MORE" option?
- 7. Did you find it useful?

#### C.1.4 Structured interview

If user had used the "MORE" option then the following questionnaire was used to structure the interview. Questions were asked in conjunction with the printed log of the user's search. A sheet was completed for each search in the session.

If the user had not used the "MORE" option the search was replayed from the log with the user, and query expansion was carried out. The questionnaire used was the same as the one below as far as question 5. Users were asked why they had not used "MORE". They then looked at the results of the query expansion and were asked for relevance judgments on additional items found. Questions 8, 9 and 10 were the same as the questionnaire below.

- 1. Did you find the system easy to use?
- 2. Do you think this system is easier/less easy to use than the other library system?
- 3. Were you pleased with the results of your search?
- 4. Why were some of the books in your not looked at in full?
- 5. How did you decide the ones you chose were relevant?
- 6. Why did you decide to do "MORE" here?

- 7. Did it work as you hoped it would? (here the interviewer looked at the results of query expansion on the printed log with the user)
- 8. (A general question about the use/non-use of the Options)
- 9. If this is not the first search how is it related to the previous one? (The categories, allocated by the interviewer, were Not related, Broader, Synonymous, Narrower, Other relationship)
- 10. If a further search was carried out was it related to this one?

  (The categories were the same as for the previous question—again allocated by the interviewer)

#### C.2 Questionnaire for network users

#### 1. Context

- (a) What is your field of work, and what is the aim of your work?
- (b) What stage are you at?
- (c) Do you belong to a particular research group?

#### 2. Okapi—general

- (a) Did you find the system easy to use? Why?/why not?
- (b) Did you try all the databases?
- (c) Which did you find most useful?
- (d) Did you find that you had to adapt or change you search behaviour or expectations over time?

#### 3. Search—details

- (a) How did you decide which brief records to look at in full?
- (b) How did you decide whether the full records were relevant?
- (c) Did you notice any indication in the list of brief records when they became less relevant?
- (d) Did you have to look at a lot of references to find the useful ones?
- (e) Did you use the "MORE" option? Why?/Why not?
- (f) Did you find it useful?

#### 4. Conclusion

- (a) Have you ever performed similar searches manually or other online or CD-ROM sources?
- (b) Are there any features about the system you particularly liked or disliked?

## Appendix D

## Notes on a frequent user

The following is a slightly edited transcription of the experimenter's notes on one of the frequent Okapi users discussed in Chapter 4.

#### Frequent User: NET-D

Last Log: 12/10/90, Day Printed: 27/11/90, Logs: 1-25, Total Bytes: 293 K, Total Online Time: 1 hr 38 mins 38 secs

#### SUBJECTS:

- Hi-fis, sound.
- Bartok, Bach, St. Matthew passion, celesta, concerto, post horn serenade
- Unix, OS.
- Robot vision.
- Environmental geology, chemistry.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Searches INSPEC and City Databases.
- Used "MORE" in early sessions.
- Views after choosing references and then Prints.
- Quite a few short sessions with resulting short reference list from query. Possibly screen dumps or makes notes of references.

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- Seems to read most of the references on the screen when looking at brief records.
- Has few sessions with quite several "new" searches which are contextually new as well.
- Repeats some searches.

#### SPECIFICS:

- When typed in "sound" spent 1-6 secs looking at the brief record screens called by Up and/or Down (there was no "THE REST OF ..." point). Chose audio related references on whole and then did "MORE". From the list generated after the query expansion the user then chose "hi-fi" and "speaker" related topics. Perhaps some savings could have been made if a link was formed with previous usage of hi-fi.
- Log 2 and 9: Again seemingly looking through a lot of screens (Downs) to find the "THE REST OF..." point. In log 9, however, the user chose a few of the records to be relevant and did "MORE" twice for the same query. Most of the ones that the user looked at in full were generally chosen to be relevant (query: "robot vision" and subsequently "robot vision control motion").
- Log 13: Would have been possible to detect the most likely context of the query "speaker" from previous searches i.e. "loud speakers" as opposed to "Mr. Speaker" and so on. The references could have been presented in the appropriate order of the context identified, for example.
- Logs 14, 15, 16 and 17 can be disregarded. "CTRL-S" seems to be repeated not just in start of session but in mid of a session as well (log 16).
- Log 18: As per log 13 could have reordered the brief reference list for the query "transmission speaker" for the same search.
- Searches on "loud speaker" repeated in form of short sessions.
- Log 21: One very good match of a reference title to a query. Again, perhaps putting such a reference at top of list might be an improvement.
- Log 25: An author search ("Bartok") on the City database. However, as the system does not enable an author search on the City database the user was presented with a list of biographies of Bartok. Hence, the user then typed in the query "celesta" as this is part of the title of Bartok's books.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Presumably communication problems. CTRL-S is a flow control "X-OFF" code, not a command in the Okapi system.

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