

Preface to the Second Edition

Around eight years have passed since I completed the manuscript for the first edition of this book in July 2001. The time span itself spells out the need for a new edition in the rapidly developing field of information representation and retrieval (IRR). In addition, at least two-dozen reviews were written for the previous edition of the book. Those reviews contain many valuable suggestions and comments, which I not only appreciate highly but also would like to incorporate into this book. These two factors combined subsequently became the catalyst for writing the second edition.

While the entire book is updated and revised, the following list details the major changes I made to individual chapters in the present edition:

- Chapter 1: New section §1.1.2.5 Karen Spärck Jones (1935–2007)
- Chapter 2: New sections §2.1.4 Social Tagging and §2.3.1.4 RSS
- Chapter 3: New section §3.1.3.3 Digital Object Identifiers
- Chapter 4: New sections §4.4.1 Taxonomies, §4.4.2 Folksonomies, and §4.4.3 Ontologies
- Chapter 5: Added Search/Retrieve Web Service (SRW) and Search/Retrieve via URL (SRU) into §5.1.2.4 Multiple Database Searching
- Chapter 8: Added next generation of OPACs into §8.3 OPACs: Computerized Library Catalogs as Information Retrieval Systems; Major updates of §8.4.2.4 Ranking Techniques; New section §8.5.2 Web 2.0 and Information Retrieval Systems
- Chapter 9: Major updates of §9.1 Multilingual Information, §9.2.2 Sound Retrieval, and §9.2.3 Moving Image Retrieval
- Chapter 10: New section §10.2.2 Other User-Centered Models of Information Retrieval; Added organic user interface (OUI) into §10.3.1.4 Other Models of User-System Interaction
- Chapter 11: Deleted §11.2.2 Evaluation Criteria for CD-ROM Systems; New sections §11.2.4 Evaluation Criteria for Multimedia Retrieval Systems and §11.2.5 Usability as

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Evaluation Criteria; Major updates of §11.3.2.1.4 Retrieval Tasks

- Chapter 12: Expansion and major revision, including deletion of §12.2.2 The Natural Language Model; new sections §12.2.2 Automatic Summarization, §12.2.3 Question Answering, §12.2.4 Natural Language Searching, and §12.3 The Semantic Web

In addition, I would like to clarify the focus and orientation of this book based on the feedback I received about the previous edition. First, IRR in this book is examined and discussed from the perspective of library and information science rather than from the viewpoint of computer science. Thus, systems design and implementation specifics such as algorithms are not included in this book. Second, information representation is presented as one necessary component in the process of IR and not treated as a domain parallel to information retrieval. Therefore, coverage of information representation in this book is much less than that of IR. Third, certain topics (e.g., information-seeking behavior), are only described briefly in this book for two reasons: 1) This book is not intended to treat them extensively, and 2) excellent coverage of them can be found in other publications that are typically listed as references at the end of related chapters.

Finally, I wish to thank Long Island University for granting me sabbatical leave, without which I would not have been able to write a second edition of this book. The efforts of my graduate assistant, Fenfei Ouyang, in gathering materials for me are also gratefully acknowledged. Furthermore, I truly appreciate the advice and guidance of Samantha Hastings, ASIST Monograph Series Editor, Amy Reeve, Managing Editor of Books, and John B. Bryans, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher, Information Today, Inc., during the course of preparing the current edition. It is a pleasure to work with them all as always.

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