

**Some Considerations for Implementing  
the SMART Information Retrieval  
System Under UNIX**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction .....	2
2 History of Implementations .....	3
2.1 Early Versions .....	3
2.2 UNIX Implementation .....	4
3 Design .....	5
3.1 IBM SMART System .....	5
3.2 Use of UNIX .....	6
3.3 Design Principles .....	8
3.4 Retrieval Capabilities .....	9
3.5 Data Storage Schemes .....	12
3.6 INGRES Relations .....	4
3.7 Program for Search and Ranking .....	20
3.8 Retrieval Related Programs .....	2
3.9 Indexing Package .....	24
4 Creation and Clustering of Extended Vectors .....	27
4.1 Background .....	27
4.2 Constructing Bibliographic Submatrices .....	29
4.2.1 Input Data .....	29
4.2.2 Initial subvectors .....	0

4.2.3 Updating Subvectors .....	2
4.2.4 Construction Algorithm Complexity .....	35
4.3 Implementation in SMART .....	5
4.4 Clustering and Searching .....	41
4.4.1 Background .....	2
4.4.2 Clustering with Bibliographic Data .....	43
4.4.3 Algorithms .....	3
4.4.4 Clustering .....	44
4.4.4.1 Parameters .....	4
4.4.4.2 Actual Procedures in Outline Form .....	47
4.4.4.3 Linearized Cluster Tree .....	2
4.4.5 Searching .....	53
5 EVALUATION .....	5
5.1 Background .....	55
5.1.1 Recall/Precision .....	5
5.1.2 Summaries Available .....	56
5.1.3 Key Issues .....	7
5.2 Methods Utilized .....	58
5.2.1 Similarity Based Ranking .....	8
5.2.2 Query Statistics .....	59
5.2.3 User Oriented Averages .....	1
5.2.4 Single Value Measure .....	61

5.2.5 Statistical Comparison .....	1
5.2.6 Sample Evaluation Output .....	62
5.3 S Interface .....	0
5.3.1 S Package .....	70
5.3.2 Use of S .....	0
5.4 Discussion and Conclusion .....	73
6 Future Plans .....	5
6.1 Packaging .....	76
6.2 Cornell Projects .....	6
6.2.1 UNIX Retrieval Tools .....	76
6.2.2 Phrase and Thesaurus Construction .....	78
6.2.3 Probabilistic Retrieval .....	78
6.2.4 Office Information Systems .....	9
6.3 Extensions .....	79
6.4 Conclusion .....	2
References .....	83

# SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SMART INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM UNDER UNIX

Edward A. Fox\*

## Abstract

Since the early 1960's the SMART project has tested out new ideas in information science aimed at fully automatic document retrieval. Beginning in 1980 development of an enhanced and generalized version of SMART has progressed at Cornell. The current implementation is in the C language and runs under the UNIX operating system on a VAX 11/780 computer.

The history of SMART is outlined. Considerations that led to the current design are described. Since SMART now allows multiple concept types to be manipulated in connection with an extended vector representation, storage and processing issues are discussed, including use of INGRES relations. Clustering algorithms are presented and run parameters are given for document clustering and subsequent clustered searching. SMART experiments (e.g. with p-norm queries, or probabilistic methods) can be compared using the evaluation package. The S statistical package can be applied to performing other special analysis and descriptive tasks. Finally, to illustrate the usefulness of these facilities, an outline is given of current SMART activities and of future plans.

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