

Book review

Information Retrieval, Einführung in Grundlagen und Methoden, 2nd ed., Eleonore Poetzsch, Verlag für Berlin-Brandenburg, Potsdam, Germany, 2001, 238 pp., US\$ 25, ISBN 3-935035-16-0

Information retrieval is an urgent topic in information science. It gains more and more importance with the increasing possibilities for end-users to retrieve data on the Internet. The author puts a main focus on the Internet offers of online hosts and the corresponding Web search possibilities. This book "Information Retrieval: An Introduction to Basic Principles and Methods" is a compilation on the subject information retrieval. It is a textbook mainly for students of information science. This book is divided into two parts.

Part I: Basic principles of information retrieval. In this part main topics of information retrieval with respect to their practical searches are considered. These topics of comprise steps of a database search, prerequisites of a search, overview on the types of databases, overview on online hosts, user aids, software tools, retrieval languages and costs.

Part II: Methods of information retrieval. In this section an introduction to the methods of information retrieval is given using examples of retrieval languages, window-based retrieval tools and Web-based search possibilities with host-specific tools. In this section the command retrieval language and Web retrieval of DSO (DataStarOnline) is described. The corresponding command retrieval language and Web retrieval search possibilities of DIALOG will be published in a forthcoming book entitled "Information Retrieval: Economic Information". The retrieval possibilities of STN (command retrieval language MESSENGER and the Web-based search functionalities) will be discussed in the forthcoming book "Information Retrieval: Scientific-technical and Patent Information". Each section comprises a sub-section entitled "repetition" with questions regarding the content of the chapter.

This book is well-structured and worked up didactically. Several examples are given to support the theoretical background. Unfortunately it is written in German. Hence it can mainly serve only the German-speaking community. It might be a good idea to encourage the author to write the next edition in English in order to enhance the readership to the international community. This idea is supported by the fact that this work can be regarded not only as a textbook for students of information sciences but also for librarians, information specialists and all interested scientists who want to get a deeper knowledge in the methodology of information retrieval concerning databases.

Kristina Voigt

GSF – National Research Center for Environment and Health

Institute of Biomathematics and Biometry

Ingolstaedter Landstrasse 1

85764 Neuherberg, Germany

Tel.: +49 89 3187 4029; Fax: +49 89 3187 3127; E-mail: kvoigt@gsf.de