

Where did I(t) put it?

A holistic solution to the automatic construction of topic trees for navigation

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Abstract: Managing information based on hierarchical structures is prevailing, be it by storing documents physically in a file structure like MS explorer or virtually in topic trees as in many web applications. The problem is that the structure evolves over time, created individually and hence reflecting individual opinions of how information objects should be grouped. This leads to time consuming searches and error prone retrieval results since relevant documents might be stored elsewhere. Our approach aims at solving the problem by replacing or complementing the manually created navigation structures by automatically created ones. We consider existing approaches for clustering and labelling and focus on yet unrewarding aspects like having information objects in inner nodes (as it is common in folder hierarchies) and cognitively adequate labelling for textual and non-textual resources. Evaluation was done by knowledge experts based on a comparison of retrieval time for finding given documents in manually and automatic generated information structures and showed the advantage of automatically created topic trees.

1. INTRODUCTION

Hierarchical structures of information are prevailing but inefficient for locating information if they become too large (Bruls et al. 2000). The problem is exacerbated if the hierarchical structure emerges unsupervised and is created individually reflecting personal opinions on how information objects should be grouped – not necessarily shared by others. This leads to time consuming search and error prone retrieval results: one might find the document searched for – but how to be sure that a later version isn't stored elsewhere?

In our work we investigate if the manually created hierarchies can be replaced – or complemented – by automatically created structures in order to reduce time for searching and to increase the recall and precision. Our hypothesis is that information is found much quicker navigating in an automatically created structure since its grouping of information is impartial based on automatic clustering.

Our work considers existing approaches for clustering and labelling but focusses on yet unrewarding aspects like cognitively adequate labelling for textual and non-textual resources. The research was carried out within the SEEK!sem project, funded by the Swiss Confederation

(Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI. Project no 14604.1 PFES-ES). The work complements previous work on automatically identifying related information objects regardless of their format (Lutz et al. 2013). Evaluation was done by knowledge experts based on a comparison of retrieval time for finding given documents in manually and automatic generated information structures.

2. APPLICATION SCENARIO

The SEEK!sem project is a Swiss national funded research project. Business partner in the project is a Swiss software vendor who offers a web-based information management system called SEEK!SDM (<http://www.bdh.ch/datamanagement/seeksdm.html>). Electronic documents (i.e. text but also images) can be uploaded into an Enterprise Portal and filed manually into folders. When SEEK!SDM is installed the folder structure is empty, i.e. consists of a root node only. Building up the hierarchical structure as well as defining tags for classifying information objects is to be done manually. As described by (Thönssen 2013) in general, if any then no more than the upper two to three levels of such structures are defined on

company level, for example organized by products, clients or temporal aspects. All deeper structures are created individually leading to the well-known problems of incomprehensible folder structure and hence long search times and the danger of missing of relevant information. The SEEK!SDM system allows for storing information resources on all nodes.

These resources are folders, called ‘dossiers’ containing the actual information objects which might be of various formats, e.g. text, image but also personal or organisational data. The topics (nodes) of the topic tree, the dossiers and the structure of the dossiers are created manually guided by personal opinions.

Hence, different versions of the same information object but also the very same information object might be stored in different dossiers (and different nodes) increasing the problem of finding all relevant information objects.

Searching for information is time consuming; adding the risk of not finding relevant documents at all or finding the relevant but not the latest document provides the motivation for coming up with a hierarchical structure of information which is (a) independent from personal opinions and (b) complete with respect to filing related information objects (e.g. all versions, all formats of a document) in the same node.

Rather than searching blindly in inexplicable hierarchical structures, always uncertain if the right information object has been found, search in an objectively comprehensible structure may decrease retrieval time and the risk of not finding everything. With our approach of automatically clustering information objects, we provide such an objectively comprehensible structure.

3. RELATED WORK

3.1 Hierarchical Clustering of documents

Hierarchical agglomerative clustering (HAC) (Cios et al. 1998) is a very well-known and popular method for grouping data objects by similarity. HAC is initialized by assigning each object to its own cluster and then, in each iteration, merging the two most similar clusters into a new cluster. This procedure results in a so-called dendrogram, a binary tree of clusters where each branching reflects the fact that two child nodes were merged to a parent node in a given iteration of the algorithm.

When the data objects are documents, a dendrogram can be used as a means of navigation

within a document collection (see e.g. (Alfred et al. 2014)).

Alternative hierarchical clustering methods have also been proposed for navigation, e.g. scatter/gather (Cutting et al. 1993), where the user can influence the clustering through interaction at run-time.

It has been recognized by many researchers that binary trees are not an adequate representation of the similarities and latent hierarchical relationships between elements and clusters (Blundell et al. 2010).

Therefore, a number of approaches have been proposed that cluster elements into multi-way trees. Many of these approaches come from the area of probabilistic latent semantic analysis, e.g. based on Latent Dirichlet processes (Zavitsanos et al. 2011). Other probabilistic approaches are based on greedy algorithms, e.g. Bayesian Rose Trees (Blundell et al. 2010).

Another approach, similar to ours, uses a partitioning of the dendrogram resulting from HAC to derive a non-binary tree (Chuang & Chien 2004). In this approach, for a current (sub-)tree, an optimal cut level for the corresponding dendrogram is chosen in a way that maximizes the coherence and minimizes the overlap of the resulting clusters. Then, this procedure is applied to the (binary) subtrees of the resulting clusters. The approach has been shown to be effective, but it has a number of free parameters that are hard to understand for end users.

It is a problem of all these approaches that data elements are not allowed to reside within inner nodes of the tree – something that users usually expect and that will happen when hierarchies are created manually.

3.2 Learning topic trees

Hierarchical structures for organizing document collections only become useful when each node in such a structure has a meaningful label – only then it is possible for users to navigate and locate desired content. We call a hierarchical organization of documents (a tree) a *topic tree* if the nodes of the tree have labels.

A number of researchers have explored the challenge of labeling clusters in a flat (i.e. non-hierarchical) clustering of textual documents (Popescul & Ungar 2000), (Radev et al. 2004), (Muller et al. 1999). These approaches are based on term frequency statistics, selecting descriptors that are both representative for a given cluster and discriminative w.r.t. the other clusters.

However, as will be argued below, labeling hierarchical clusterings is a task with additional challenges, e.g. the desire to avoid redundancies in labels between parent and child nodes of the hierarchy.

Learning to organize natural language terms hierarchically out of text (often termed taxonomy or ontology learning, see e.g. (Caraballo 1999)) is a topic that is closely related to labeling topic trees, and that has received much research attention. It has also been explicitly related to hierarchical document structures, see e.g. (Lawrie et al. 2001),(Glover et al. 2002).

There is considerably less research on how to label hierarchical clusterings. The work in (Treeratpituk & Callan 2006), as a notable example of such research, focuses on providing cluster labels based on term frequency distributions such that labels both summarise a cluster and help to differentiate it from its parent and sibling nodes.

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Questions

Our contribution is a holistic solution to building a topic tree, in which we address the following, yet unanswered research questions that arise when applying clustering techniques to topic tree induction in practice:

- **How can a topic tree be built in such a way that it naturally allows data elements to reside within inner nodes of the tree?** In most practical applications of topic trees - consider for instance a folder hierarchy in a file system - inner nodes can contain data elements. This is not possible in any of the above-mentioned approaches where data elements can only reside in the leaves.
- **How can a hierarchy of clusters be labelled in a cognitively adequate way?** The labels of the topic tree nodes are crucial for orientation of the navigating user. Yet, labeling a hierarchical set of clusters is fundamentally different from labeling a flat clustering. That is because redundancy needs to be avoided: a parent node's label should only refer to those characteristics that are *shared among all* of the child nodes. And, even more importantly and to avoid redundant information while browsing a tree from the root towards the leaves, each child node should be labeled using only those characteristics that discriminate it from the others and from its parent.
- **How to enable such labeling not only for textual documents, but also other kinds of resources (e.g. images or persons)?** In real-life applications, the elements to be clustered are not only text, but can be multimedia elements,

contacts (i.e. persons) etc. Most existing cluster labeling approaches work only for text. What adaptations are needed for labeling corresponding clusters?

4.2 Research Methodology

We will propose a new algorithm for topic tree induction that works on textual documents, but also other kind of resources and that results in a non-binary tree with labeled nodes.

We will explore two labeling methods: one results directly from a new concept ("similarity explanation") introduced as part of the new clustering algorithm. The other is an adaptation of a classical frequency-based cluster description method for the case of arbitrary (i.e. possibly non-textual) resources and for the purpose of avoiding redundancy of cluster descriptions.

Our evaluation will be based on an experiment where test persons have to search for a given file within several versions of a topic tree. The time needed to locate the file will be used as an indication of the cognitive adequacy of the tree representation.

This is fundamentally different from the evaluation methodologies used in previous work, most of which used a gold standard topic tree and measured the overlap between the automatically computed tree with the gold standard. We believe that our methodology is more appropriate: it does not rule out the possibility that the automatically computed tree is cognitively more adequate than the manually created gold standard.

5. A NEW ALGORITHM FOR BUILDING TOPIC TREES

In hierarchical agglomerative clustering (HAC), the two closest clusters are merged in each step, resulting in a binary tree of clusters, a so-called dendrogram.

Our approach to learning a multi-branched topic tree is based on the insight that HAC merge operations happen for a certain *reason*, namely because two clusters share certain characteristics. If a dendrogram node v is created out of several consecutive cluster merges that happened *for the same (or a very similar) reason* we can collapse all the involved nodes into their parent node v because they all share the same characteristics.

Hence, we first need to provide a concise definition of the "reason" why two clusters are merged or, more generally, why they are similar. We call this notion *similarity explanation*.

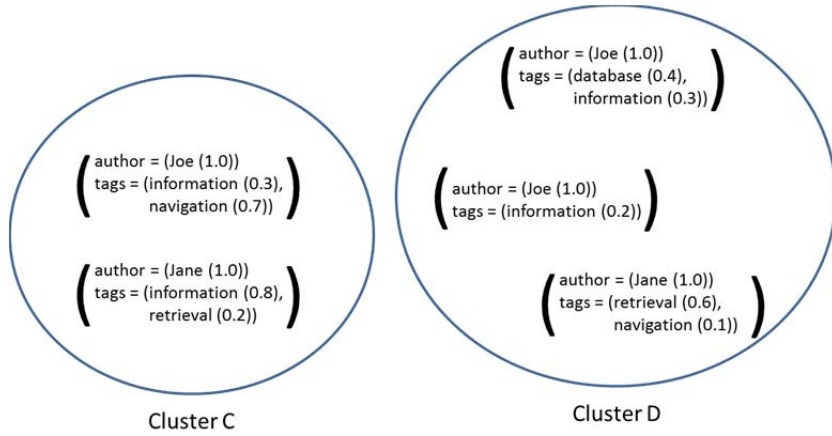


Figure 1: Two clusters with resource representations

5.1 Resource representation

We first choose a way of representing resources – our aim is to formulate it as generically as possible such that it will work for all kinds of resources and collections.

We assume that resources in an information system can be described through a set of attributes $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, each of which is defined over a set of elements that form the basis of a vector space $VS(a_i)$.

This assumption presumes that all string attributes can be broken into sub-structures that will form the basis of a vector space – in most cases these structures will be words, but for shorter string attributes, they could also be characters or character n-grams.

A resource is described by a list of vectors $V = [v(a_1), \dots, v(a_n)]$, where vector $v(a_i)$ describes the resource in terms of attribute a_i and where the j th entry of that vector, denoted $v(a_i)_j$, expresses the importance of the j th element for that resource. In the case of a content attribute, the weights $v(a_i)_j$ can be computed e.g. as the tf.idf of term j .

As an example, consider the five resource representations in the two clusters depicted in Figure 1: each of them has the two attributes “author” and “tags”. The vector space for the author attribute is spanned by the elements “Joe” and “Jane”, the vector space for the “tags” attribute is spanned by “information”, “navigation”, “retrieval” and “database”. For better readability, the figure shows only the non-zero elements of the vectors

$v(author)$ and $v(tags)$, with the weights $v(author)_j$ and $v(tags)_j$ in brackets behind the corresponding element.

Other attributes are of course thinkable, e.g. title, content, creation and/or modification dates or anchor texts for hyperlinked collections.

5.2 A generic distance measure for resources

The distance measure that we propose is a simple linear convex combination of partial distances, one for each attribute. More precisely, the distance between two resources, described by lists of vectors U and V is computed as

$$d(U, V) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i d_i(u(a_i), v(a_i))$$

Where α_i are weights to be chosen freely, but under the condition that $\sum \alpha_i = 1$. The partial distances d_i need to be suitable to compare vectors for attribute a_i – e.g. cosine-based distance for content.

5.3 Similarity explanations

As outlined above, we now want to introduce the concept of *similarity explanation* – essentially a summary of the characteristics shared by two clusters.

A similarity explanation is similar to a resource representation as outlined in section 5.1, i.e. it consists of several explanations, one for each attribute, and each explanation is a vector over the same vector space as defined above – only that now the vector weights express to what degree a certain element is shared among the two clusters.

Formally, this can be captured as follows: for two clusters, i.e. sets of resources $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ and $D = \{d_1, \dots, d_n\}$, the similarity explanation is defined as:

$$SE(C, D) = [e_{C,D}(a_1), \dots, e_{C,D}(a_n)]$$

where each $e_{C,D}(a_i)$ denotes the vector of shared characteristics for attribute a_i , defined over the vector space $VS(a_i)$.

The weights of these vectors are defined by looking at all possible pairs that can be formed out of the resources in clusters C and D and seeing how many of these pairs share the given element (e.g. tag or keyword):

$$e_{C,D}(a_i)_j = \frac{|\{(c_k, d_l) \in C \times D \mid c_k(a_i)_j > 0 \text{ and } d_l(a_i)_j > 0\}|}{|C| \cdot |D|}$$

As an example, consider again the two clusters in Figure 1: their similarity explanation is given in Figure 2 at the top. For instance, we see that $e_{C,D}(\text{author})_{\text{Joe}} = 0.33$. This is because there is a total of six pairs that can be formed out of the resources in C and D (denominator) and 2 of these pairs share the author ‘‘Joe’’ (numerator). Thus, we can say that if we merged the two clusters, the ‘‘reason’’ for this would be mainly that they share the keyword ‘‘information’’ and that ‘‘Joe’’ is rather often a shared author.

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{author} = (\text{Joe } (0.33), \text{Jane } (0.17)) \\ \text{tags} = (\text{information } (0.67), \text{retrieval } (0.17), \\ \quad \text{navigation } (0.17)) \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{author} = (\text{Joe } (0.25), \text{Jane } (0.75)) \\ \text{tags} = (\text{information } (0.75), \text{retrieval } (0.25)) \end{array} \right)$$

Figure 2: Similarity explanation for the two clusters from Figure 1 (top) and another similarity explanation (bottom)

Finally, we need to capture the notion of two cluster merges happening for ‘‘nearly the same reason’’, i.e. we need to find a way to test if two similarity explanations are very similar. We therefore define a measure of similarity between two explanations as follows: let $SE(C, D)$ and $SE(E, F)$ be two similarity explanations. Then, their similarity is defined as a weighted sum of partial similarities for the different attributes (using the same weights α_i as in the distance function in section 0):

$$SESim(SE(C, D), SE(E, F)) = \sum_i \alpha_i \text{sesim}_i(SE(C, D), SE(E, F))$$

The partial similarities are defined as follows:

$$\text{sesim}_i(SE(C, D), SE(E, F)) = \prod_j \text{sim}_j$$

$$\text{sim}_j = \begin{cases} 1 - |SE(C, D)(a_i)_j - SE(E, F)(a_i)_j| & \text{if } > 0 \\ 0.01 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Here, $|SE(C, D)(a_i)_j - SE(E, F)(a_i)_j|$ captures in how far the two explanations differ regarding element j . A constant smoothing factor of 0.01 is

used when that difference becomes maximal. The rationale of using a product here is that two explanations must show a good overlap in *all* elements in order to be considered as ‘‘nearly the same reason’’.

Let us consider the two similarity explanations given in Figure 2, and focus on the author attribute as an example. We get $\text{sesim}_{\text{author}} = (1 - |0.33 - 0.25|) \cdot (1 - |0.17 - 0.75|) = 0.92 \cdot 0.42 = 0.39$. Note that this value is fairly small since Jane plays a much higher role in the second explanation than in the first – we therefore regard the two explanations as only slightly similar, i.e. the two merges did not happen for ‘‘nearly the same reason’’.

5.4 Inferring a multi-branch tree from a binary one

We are now ready to define our topic tree building algorithm. It proceeds as follows:

- All the resources in the collection are clustered with hierarchical agglomerative clustering (HAC, (Cios et al. 1998)). The resulting dendrogram is cut at a certain level (given by a user-defined distance threshold) – the resulting flat clustering defines the set of dossiers (see section 2). After that cut, the upper part of the dendrogram – with the dossiers as leaf nodes – will be further processed. We call this tree T .
- A new tree T' – the future topic tree – is initialized. Its new root node is mapped to the root node of T .
- Starting from the root node, a breadth-first search (BFS) is performed on T .
- For each inner node $w \in T$ – with children u and v and sibling node y – that is processed during BFS, the similarity explanations $SE(w, y)$ and $SE(u, v)$ are compared (see example in Figure 3). That is, we check whether clusters u and v were merged into w for the same reason as w and y were merged into x .
- If this is the case, i.e. if $SESim(SE(w, y), SE(u, v)) > \theta$ for some threshold θ , then w is mapped to the same node as x – we call this node x' .
- Otherwise, a new node w' is created in T' , w is mapped to w' , and w' is attached as a child to x' .
- Finally, leaf nodes of T (dossiers) are mapped to the same node as their parent.

After completion of BFS, each node in T is mapped to a node in T' (where many nodes of T can be mapped to the same node in T'). Together with this mapping, T' constitutes the new topic tree. Note that, with this algorithm, dossiers can be mapped to inner nodes (even the root node) of T' .

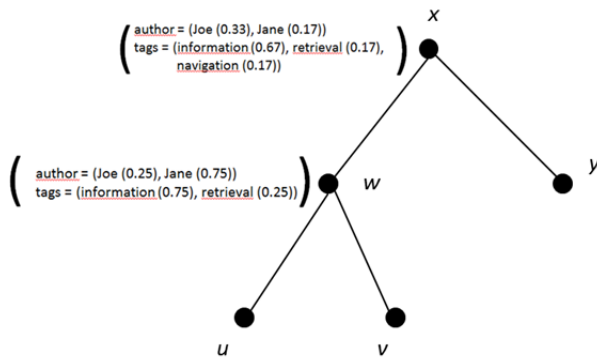


Figure 3: Example comparison in dendrogram search

5.5 Cluster labeling

To support proper navigation, topic tree nodes need meaningful labels. As outlined in section 4, the label of a parent node should express what characteristics are shared by all its children and the labels of the children should express individual characteristics, but should not repeat characteristics already used to describe the parent (assuming that users navigate a tree top-down).

Our hypothesis is that such labels can be derived from our similarity explanations: when a set of dendrogram nodes is mapped to a topic tree node $w' \in T'$, then this is because these nodes were created for the same reason during clustering. This “reason” (i.e. similarity explanation) must be different from the reasons for which the child nodes of w' were created in T' – otherwise the child nodes would have been mapped to w' , too. However, this does not mean that the similarity explanation vectors of a parent node are orthogonal to those of its children – usually, child nodes “inherit” the characteristics of the parent node’s similarity explanation, and exhibit some additional characteristics that differentiate from the parent.

We hence propose the following labeling algorithm:

- For each node $w' \in T'$, fetch the first node $w \in T$ such that w is mapped to w' . Let u and v be the children of w in T .
- Generate a preliminary label for w' that consists of all the elements with non-zero weights in $SE(u, v)$. For instance the label of the node to which node w in Figure 3 is mapped, will be “Joe, Jane, information, retrieval”
- Iterate again over all nodes $w' \in T'$ and remove all elements from the label of w' which are already contained in the label of its parent node.

The last step of this procedure ensures that descriptions of child nodes do not repeat characteristics already present in their parent nodes.

In order to evaluate the quality of labels generated from similarity explanations (henceforth called *SE labels*), we implemented a second labeling method for comparison. That method is a special case of the labeling method proposed in (Treeratpituk & Callan 2006). There, a so-called DScore is assigned to each candidate keyphrase. The DScore is a linear combination of 11 factors, combined using weights c_i . In our implementation, we used $c_i = 0$, except for c_2 and c_{10} . This means that a keyphrase receives a high score if it appears in many resources of the cluster to be labeled and if it is ranked higher in the top terms of that cluster (where top terms are again ranked by number of cluster resources containing them) than in the top terms of the parent cluster.

6. EVALUATION

6.1 Experimental setup

For our evaluation, we used a test collection from our application scenario, as described in section 2, comprising 1474 documents. A manually created topic tree exists for this collection and was used in the experiment.

Resources in this collection have the attributes title, author, tags and (often) unstructured textual content. Each of these fields can be empty for a resource. We prepared the experiment as follows:

- Each resource in the collection was represented using sets of vectors for all attributes, as described in section 5.1. For distance computations, weights were set to 0.3 (title), 0.2 (content) and 0.5 (tags) based on preliminary experiments.
- A topic tree was built following the algorithm in section 5.4. The parameter θ was set to 0.6.
- The nodes of the resulting tree were labeled, firstly with the method based on similarity explanations (*SE-labels*) and, secondly with our variant of DScore (*DScore-labels*), see section 5.5. For DScore, we set $c_2 = 0.6$ and $c_{10} = 0.4$.
- All three trees – i.e. the manually created one, the one with SE-labels and the one with DScore-labels – were transformed into a hierarchy of folders on a file system, where the inner nodes of the topic tree became folders and the label of those nodes became the folder names. For each resource a text file was created, with the resource title as file name.
- 10 resources were chosen completely at random from the entire collection. Then, 4 of these were selected manually, such that a mixture of different resource types (with and without textual content) was achieved and such that it

was possible to guess roughly from the title, content and tags what the resource was about.

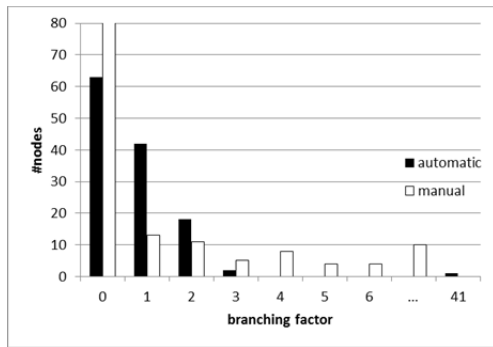
- For each of the 4 chosen resources (henceforth called *test cases*), a description was generated, consisting of the title, author, tags and the most important keywords from the content.

Then, two test persons from our institute – who had no knowledge of the resource collection – were chosen. This simulates a new employee joining a company and starting to get familiar with the collection of resources of that company.

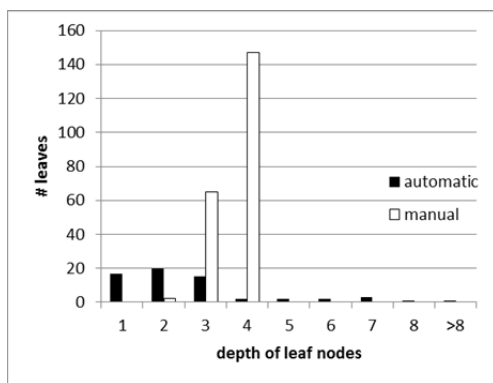
Each test person was given the task to locate the four test cases within each of the three topic trees, based on the description of each test case.

Test person 1 started with the automatically created trees whereas test person 2 first looked at the manually created one. This was done to exclude a bias due to test persons learning about test cases while searching.

We then recorded the search process with a screen capturing software and measured the time needed to locate each test case, as well as the number of “backtracks” during search. Afterwards, the test persons were asked about their impressions of the search process with the different topic trees.



(a)



(b)

Figure 4: Histogram of (a) branching factor and (b) depth of leaf nodes for both trees

6.2 Results

First, we want to characterize the nature of the topic trees. Figure 4 (a) shows a histogram of the branching factors of all nodes in both trees. We can see that most nodes in the automatic tree have between 0 and 2 children. Only the root node has 41 children. Most nodes in the manually created tree are leaves (214, not visible due to cut y-axis) and most inner nodes have between 1 and 6 children (the root node has 5 children).

Figure 4 (b) shows a histogram of the depths of leaf nodes. Here, we can see that 83% of all leaves in the automatic tree reside at a depth between 1 (directly beneath the root) and 3. In the manual tree, virtually all leaves reside at a depth of either 3 or 4. This means that the manually created tree is also quite flat, but much better balanced at all levels.

Table 1 shows the time that the test persons needed to locate each test case in each of the trees. Cases where the search was given up are marked with asterisks (*). In addition, the table lists the number of backtracks (i.e. number of times a dead-end was reached and upward navigation occurred), divided by the length of the search in minutes.

The first observation is that in 7 out of 8 test instances (4 test cases times two persons), the SE-labeled tree led to a faster result than the manual tree. This is rather strong evidence that – for the given search scenario – an automatically constructed and properly labeled tree can lead to more efficient search and browsing than a manually created tree.

The comparison between SE-labels and DScore is more inconclusive: SE-labels are more efficient in only 5 out of 8 cases.

Table 1: Summary of time needed to locate test cases, and number of backtracks per minute. Cases that were given up are marked with *

Test Case	Tree	Testperson 1		Testperson 2	
		Time (sec.)	Back-tracks/min.	Time (sec.)	Back-tracks/min.
1	<i>Manual</i>	595*	2.9	270*	2.7
	<i>SE-labels</i>	202	1.8	173	0.3
	<i>DScore</i>	32	0	58	1.0
2	<i>Manual</i>	65	0.9	191	3.8
	<i>SE-labels</i>	45	0	20	0
	<i>DScore</i>	191	1.3	38	0
3	<i>Manual</i>	96	3.8	310*	7.5
	<i>SE-labels</i>	21	0	58	1.0
	<i>DScore</i>	73	0.8	87	0
4	<i>Manual</i>	329	2.4	131	0.9
	<i>SE-labels</i>	226	1.1	456*	1.4
	<i>DScore</i>	590*	1.5	115	1.0

The analysis of backtracking frequency clearly shows that in the manual tree much time is spent on exploring dead ends (backtrack rate being above 2.4/min. in 6 out of 8 cases), whereas – as expected – the automatically created trees require much time for looking at the (many) top-level nodes, but have much fewer backtracks (well below 2/min. in all cases, often even 0).

We finally summarise the verbal feedback of our two test persons: both of them stated that they were surprised how well they were able to work with the, at first glance, seemingly cryptical automatic tree.

It also became clear – and was remarked by one test person – that our evaluation scenario is only valid under the assumption of a new employee getting familiar with a topic tree. It was apparent that the manually constructed tree required more background knowledge about the way of organizing things in our example company (including e.g. the meaning of abbreviations) – something that an experienced employee might exploit for very fast navigation in the manual tree. For a more general evaluation, it would hence be necessary to elicit real information needs and repeat the search experiment with these. The inconclusiveness of the comparison of the two automatic labeling methods was confirmed by the verbal feedback: one test person preferred the SE-labels, the other the DScore labels.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

We could show that replacing or complementing manually created navigation structures by automatically created ones can significantly fasten retrieval and that automatic clustering can help to decrease the danger of missing relevant information because all versions of the same document are clustered into the same nodes.

Our work is based on existing approaches for clustering and labeling but focuses on yet unrewarding aspects. Evaluation was done by involving test persons and based on a comparison of retrieval time for finding given documents in manually and automatic generated information structures and proved the advantage of automatically created topic trees (either with SE-labels or DScore-labels).

Further research will detail and refine our approach and also investigate alternative methods, e.g. divisive instead of agglomerative clustering and re-evaluation on a broader scale.

Starting point for the next evaluation circle will then be a real information need, e.g. a request for finding a specific offer triggered by the call of a

customer. Evaluators will be persons familiar with the organizational context of the search.

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