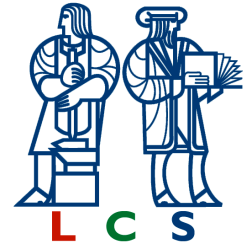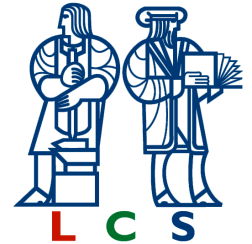# Project Overview

- We wish to fundamentally improve the search for relevant information from large relatively unstructured databases

- Our goal is to develop an optimal interactive retrieval system

  - We extend existing machine learning methods to solve the associated challenges

  - We design and develop proof of concept tools

Progress Through June 2001

- Information theoretic formulation and the associated algorithms for optimally eliciting user feed-back at multiple levels of abstraction

- A new approach for combining multiple incomplete sources of information in a stable and accurate manner

- New representations and classification algorithms for exploiting sparse similarity assessments in large unannotated databases
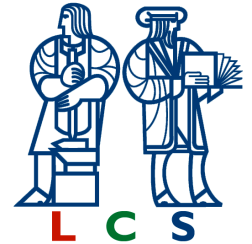
Research Plan for the Next Six Months

- Focus gradually shifting towards implementation and testing

- Specific tasks:
  - Design and development of a flexible user interface to support active learning
  - Expanding query flexibility
  - Active learning extension of robust multi-source allocation
  - Formulation of transfer across multiple tasks