Project Overview

- Electronic infrastructure to Triangulate Knowledge
  - Of individual
  - Of collegial communities
  - Of world at large

- Independent, interacting information repositories, each customized to its individual user
  - Automated data gathering
  - Active observation of user activity
  - Adaptation to individual query needs
  - Inter-haystack collaboration

Progress Through June 2001

- Near-complete reimplementation of data model layer
  - Now a general purpose RDF store
    - resource description framework, a data model from WWW consortium's semantic web project
    - Usable by arbitrary, non haystack applications
  - Tracks attributions (who said what) and allows entities to decide which other entities to pay attention to
- Preliminary exploration of ontologies for describing how information should be presented to users
- Initiation of human-subject study
  - Learn how people structure information using currently available tools (directories, bookmarks)
  - Apply to design of Haystack system
- Creating of adaptive news-filtering system

Research Plan for the Next Six Months

- Continue to study display ontology
  - What attributes of information should be shown to user
  - In what context
  - Multiple interfaces for different activities (search, organize, browse) that share a common display ontology

- Complete user study
  - Videotape and interview human subjects as they work
  - Discover patterns in the way they organize informtion

- User study of news filtering system
  - Prove that it does a better job than previous systems