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
MIT9904-08: Haystack: Per-User Information Environments
David R. Karger and Lynn Andrea Stein

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 information

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