David R. Karger
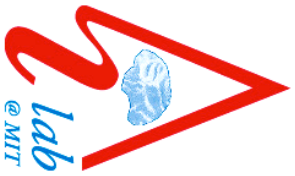
Project Overview

- Electronic infrastructure to triangulate knowledge
  - Of individual
  - Of colleagues
  - Of world

- Independent, interacting information repositories, customized to each user
  - Automated data gathering
  - Active observation of user activity
  - Adaptation to individual query needs
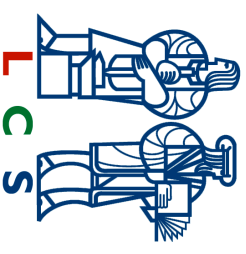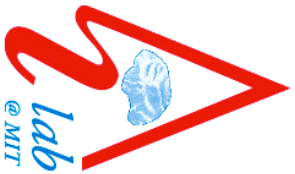 - Inter-haystack collaboration
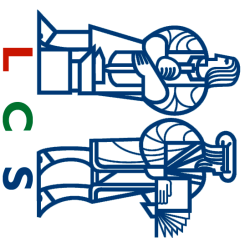
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Progress Through June 2002

- Development of user interface
  - Data "self describes" how it should look
  - Ontology for representing such descriptions
  - Rendered translates data to screen
  - All data stored in data model
  - Display rules for new types can be edited or shared
- Applied ontology to viewing numerous types
  - People, documents, music, calendars
  - Collections: new techniques for navigating and refining
- Applications using object views
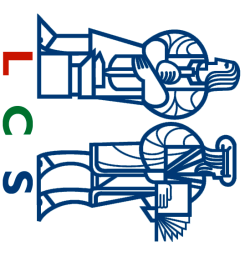 - Photo organizer, music organizer, meeting planner

Research Plan for the Next Six Months

- Focused user studies
  - Examine how people manage collections
  - Compare different interfaces for performance, ease of use
- Broad user studies
  - Provide Haystack to a small number of users
  - Observe usage, refine system
- Machine learning agents
  - Develop data extractors, mail classifiers, recommenders
  - Incorporate semistructured data in learning process