

The XLDB Group at CLEF 2004

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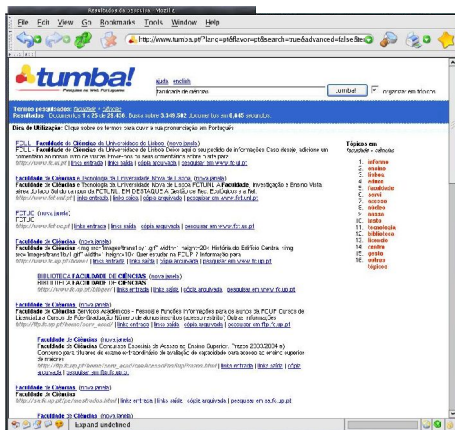


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Screenshots

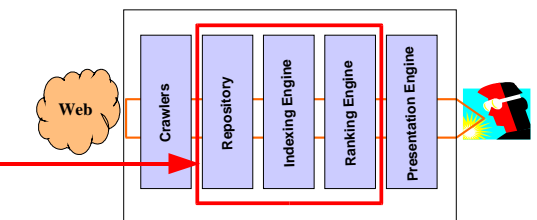
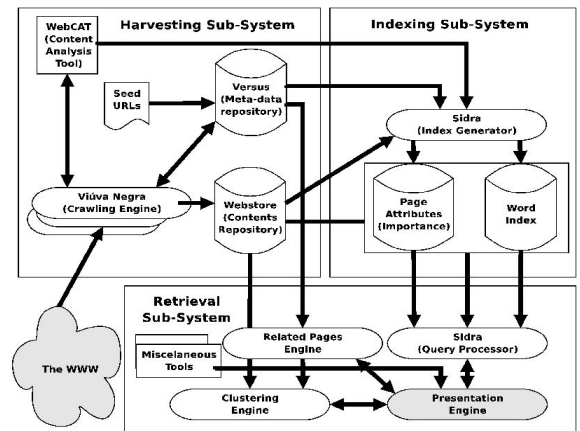
<http://www.tumba.pt>



Features

- The **XLDB Group** is a research unit of **LaSIGE** (Large Scale Information Systems Laboratory) at **FCUL** - Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa.
- The XLDB Group recently joined **Linguateca** (www.linguateca.pt), a distributed resource center for Portuguese language processing, which aims at fostering Portuguese-aware systems and applications and increase R&D on Portuguese
- One of our main projects was **tumba!**, a Fully-Functional specialized Search Engine for the Community of Portuguese Web users, offered as a public service since November 2002.
- Indexing over 3.5 million pages from the "Portuguese Web" and serving 20.000 daily queries.
- Similar architecture to global search engines and adopts many algorithms. However, **tumba!** has a better knowledge of the location and organization of Portuguese Web sites.
- Tumba!** profits from annotations extracted from web documents, such as links, anchor texts, titles and headings. They weren't available on the document collection.
- Components of **tumba!** used in CLEF: Web Repository, Indexing System and Ranking Engine.
- We used the Web search engine **tumba!** in our first participation in CLEF: Portuguese Monolingual Task

Architecture



CLEF Portuguese Monolingual Task

Overview

Unconventional task approach! - **Tumba!** is designed for Web Search, it is not optimized for CLEF tasks. **Tumba!** doesn't use stemmers nor blind feedback / query expansion, and the weighting is tuned for Web documents.

Manual Run: XLDBTumba01

- We created several different queries related to each topic and we used them to retrieve documents matching the query terms.
- The returned results were manually examined and classified as irrelevant and relevant according to topic criteria.
- This run showed us how difficult it is to formulate queries that correctly match an information need.**
- This was our manual baseline run.**

Flat Ranking Run: XLDBTumba02

- For each topic, we chose a single query from the different queries used for the XLDBTumba01 run.
- Note that we didn't use more than one query per topic, neither we did any kind of query expansion.
- The Indexing and ranking Engine were configured to perform an exact match (flat-ranking algorithm), returning only the documents that match all the query terms.
- This run was our automatic baseline run.**

Distances + Titles Run: XLDBTumba04

Created using *distMinTerms* and the following algorithm, *termsInTitles*:

$$termsInTitle(d, q) = \frac{|T \cap Q|}{\max(|T|, |Q|)}$$

- this is a similarity function between the terms in the title of each document *d*, denoted *T*, and the query terms in a query *d*, denoted *Q*.
- This run evaluated the importance of the title in the document ranking**, but resulted in the worst performance.
- This was probably due to the naive heuristic approach to extract titles from documents, which might mislead the ranking engine.

Distances Run: XLDBTumba05

Created using the *distMinTerms* algorithm:

$$distMinTerms(d, q) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{minDist} = 1 \\ 1 - \frac{minDist - 1}{9} & 1 < minDist < 10 \\ 0 & minDist \geq 10 \end{cases}$$

uses the minimum distances between any pair of query terms *q* in documents *d*, *minDist*, to increase the ranking of documents whose query terms are closer on the document.

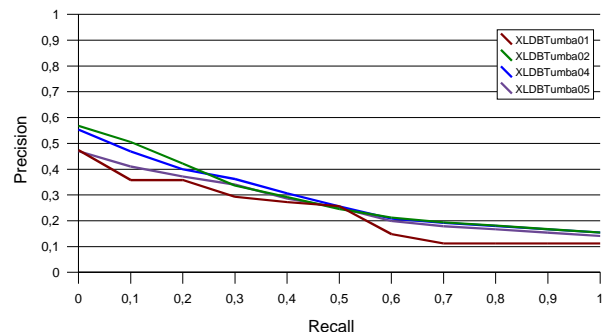
- This function indeed improved the results, as the queries with more than one term we used for the topic tend to be adjacent.**

Results

Portuguese Monolingual Task results

Run	Manual Run (XLDBTumba01)	Flat Ranking (XLDBTumba02)	Distances (XLDBTumba05)	Distances+Titles (XLDBTumba04)
Nr. Docs retrieved	209	2350	2350	2350
Nr. relevant Docs	678	678	678	678
Relevant Docs retrieved	79	168	168	168
Overall Precision	37,8%	7,1%	7,1%	7,1%
Overall Recall	11,6%	24,8%	24,8%	24,8%
Average Precision	21,8%	28,1%	25,1%	27,8%
R-Precision	22,4%	26,3%	26,7%	27,3%

XLDB Tumba Recall-Precision Values



Conclusion

- Our main objective: test, compare and improve the quality of **tumba!**'s results, and gather ideas on how to do it.
- The environment that we work on, the Web, is different from the flat and small collections of document texts that we used on the CLEF task.
- Tumba!** does not perform stemming or query expansion and relies heavily on detecting the presence of query terms in document titles and URLs; as these weren't available for this evaluation, our results had to reflect that. **Tumba!** is effective on named-page finding tasks, in particular when these have properly chosen titles and multiple links.
- We intend to extend our Web Search system to provide better results in situations where the documents are not rich in HTML features, such as hyper links and meta-tags.

<http://xldb.di.fc.ul.pt>