

Reverse-Engineer a Special Purpose Search Engine

Assignment F

Examine two different sites that incorporate (or should incorporate) a special-purpose search engine.

Write a 2-3 page report. For both sites, describe the targeted user population, the user aims supported, the business model, notable interface features, and special characteristics of the search task. For one site, also explain how you would replicate this service, and include a module diagram and a description of which parts would give the most difficulty.

Suggested Sites:

job search:

indeed.com
monster.com
hotjobs.com

blog search:

technorati

shopping:

pricerunner
froogle

parts:

globalspec,
fixya

recommendations:

flickr
del.icio.us
squidoo,
digg
gnod

dating:

match.com
americansingles.com
eharmony.com

other:

Google scholar

You may also want to examine a social networking site (e.g. myspace, facebook) or a metasearch site (e.g. clusty, kartoo, answers.com, touchgraph).

Due April 2. Come prepared to discuss your findings with the class.