

Sample Project Ideas

1. I would like a tool to help with finding faculty with similar research/teaching profiles. For example, if the UTEP CS department were to invite the NMSU CS department to dinner, it would be nice to arrange the seating so that adjacent people have things in common. The tool should take two inputs: the homepage of a target faculty member and the homepage of the guest department. The output would be a list of those faculty members in the guest department similar to the target person, ranked by similarity.
2. The Dean would like an intranet search engine, able to search all CS and Engineering web sites, including those which restrict access to UTEP-internal clients.
3. My son would like a search engine which ranks higher pages which are suitable for children, primarily in terms of being easy to read, for example for doing background research for science fair projects.
4. Edith thinks that a search engine probably should give higher weight to terms appearing earlier in the query. Evaluate this idea.
5. Consumers might like a search engine that ranks reliable, unbiased pages more highly. Google, for example, given the query the query “note-taking tablet PC” ranks <http://studenttabletpc.blogs.com/> higher than <http://www.cs.utep.edu/nigel/onenote/> although the former is a site maintained by a student paid by Microsoft marketing funds, and the latter is a page written by a respected (?) academic.
6. The UTEP fundraisers would like a tool that returns lists of officers of companies employing UTEP graduates. For example, given the input <http://www.cs.utep.edu/DeptCS/careers/employers.html> (a list of links), the tool should return a list of every person listed on the “key personnel” (or similar) page for each company.