Search Engine Evaluation

Assignment C

A. Look in your search history for a query you did yesterday and record it here:

B. Enter this query in two search engines (e.g. google.com, yahoo.com, ask.com, search.msn.com,), and print out the top results page for each.

C. For each of the top 6 results, rank its relevance/utility to you on a scale from 1 (worst) to 5 (best).

D. Which result would you have liked to see in the number 1 position? If it wasn't there, how might the search engine(s) be improved to put that result in the top position?

E. What type of goal was behind your query (for example, which category in the Rose-Levinson taxonomy)? Would that information have been useful in predicting what results you wanted?

F. Overall, which search engine did a better job? Why? Was this judgment predictable from your rankings of the individual results?

G. Looking through the results, circle one which seems to show evidence of ranking based on something other than the vector space model. What other factors or methods do you think might have been involved here?