Latest developments in European search engines

Tuesday 4 December, 14.00-15.30
Track two: Information search and discovery
Session: What's new in search engines?
Lars Våge
Mid Sweden University
Why use European search engines?

- European search engines often have European focus
- Can offer more in some situations vs US search engines
- Search engines designed for specific countries/languages
- Overlap between search engine indexes is exaggerated
- The danger of using only one search engine (Google)
- Lots of interesting experiments with user interfaces
A little bit of history

- EuroSeek - Swedish 2nd generation search engine
- first European multi-lingual search engine, 1996-2001
- FAST - Norwegian search engine technology company
- created AlltheWeb, competed with Google in 2000-2002
- sells advanced embedded search solutions today
- FAST technology powers Scirus since 2001
European general web search engines

- Exalead - French, has it’s own crawler, 2000-
  - biggest in Europe and one of the five largest web indexes
  - more advanced search features than other search engines
  - also develops Baagz with Web2.0 features
- Seekport - German, has it’s own crawler, 2004-
  - web search for Germany, Spain, Italy, UK, France
European news search engines

- Wikio - French, news portals in 5 languages
- lots of Web2.0 features, many news sources and blogs
- vote on articles, contribute news articles, personalisation
- NewsNow - UK's "biggest" news portal, started in 1997
- indexes 27 000 news sources and blogs
- They have to compete with Google News versions
World

Bush, Turkish PM discuss Kurdish rebels
USA Today - 31 minutes ago | Tags: Kurdistan

President Bush hoped a face-to-face meeting Monday would persuade Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to hold back tens ...

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Big Australian Biodiesel Company Closes, Considers Relocating in US Because of Government Incentives
China Confidential - 12 hours ago | Tags: Bill Richardson, Energy, Government, Hillary Clinton, New Mexico

Bad news for biodiesel Down Under. Good news--maybe--for America. One of Australia's largest biodiesel producers, Australian Renewable Fuels (ARF), has shut two plants because of a surging price for tallow feedstock--the main ingredient that the company used to make the fuel---and so-called government indifference. The Perth company made more than 30 workers redundant on Friday after putting plants...

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Bhutto Calls Musharraf's Martial Law Move a Coup
China Confidential - yesterday

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today called General Pervez Musharraf's decision to impose emergency rule a coup. In an interview with the American television program, Face the Nation, Bhutto said Saturday's move was Musharraf's "second coup", referring to his 1999 overthrow of then Prime...
Image search developments in Europe

- Picsearch - Swedish, has its own crawler, 2001-
  family filters integrated in indexing
- have licensed image search to Ask, MSN, Lycos
- Zydral - French, finds similar images (offline)
- PolarRose - Swedish, facial recognition browser plugin beta
- ImBrowse - Swedish, content-based search
Other specialised search engines

- Kartoo – French, innovative visualisation of results
- Ujiko from the same company, appealing graphic interface
- Quintura – Russian, interactive word cloud for query refining
- TvärSök - scandinavian "universal" search
- search in one language, get results from all
- UK WebArchive - 6000 web sites archived
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**Jazz musicians discography and forum probably the most cont although robert discography the earth similar artists integrated album**
1. **Web 2.0 Summit** • October 17-19, 2007 • San Francisco, California
   Speakers, schedule, and other info for the annual Web 2.0 Conference on innovation in the Internet economy.
   [http://www.web2con.com/](http://www.web2con.com/), 8Kb

2. **Web 2.0 Conference**
   Web 2.0 Conference produced by MediaLive and O'Reilly: a conference on ... The Web 2.0 conference was held October 5-7, 2004 at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco. ...
   [http://www.web2con.com/web2con/](http://www.web2con.com/web2con/), 31Kb

3. **O'Reilly -- What Is Web 2.0**
   ... meant by Web 2.0, the term first coined at a conference brainstorming session ... We agreed that it did, and so the Web 2.0 Conference was born. ...
   [http://www.oreillynet.com/.../09/30/what-is-web-20.html](http://www.oreillynet.com/.../09/30/what-is-web-20.html), 32Kb

4. **Events - Web 2.0 Half Day Conference**
   It supports businesses that depend on Information Technology, through the ... Viewing Past Event. Web 2.0 Half Day Conference. Thursday 08 June 2006 at 02:00 PM ...
European Union involvement in Search Engine Projects

- EU contributes funding to search engine projects
- Joint French-German project failed 2006
- Quaero - French, multimedia search, seeks funding
- THESEUS - German, semantic web, receives 120 Million Euro
- PHAROS - Search of Audiovisual Resources, EU co-financing
- CHORUS - cross-fertilisation between European SE projects
European Union and search engine privacy issues

- Article 29 Working Party for the protection of personal data
- Intl Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners Conference adopts resolution on Privacy Protection and SEs nov 2006
- Working Party sends letter to Google in May 2007
- June 2007 Google adopts new privacy policy
- Microsoft, Yahoo, Ask follow shortly after
Search Engines and European legal battles

- Use of copyrighted texts in news search engines controversial
- French newswire AFP sues Google in March 2005
- Settles April 2007, Google now host AFP articles
- Fall 2006 Belgian Copiepresse sues Google
- Google loses in Belgian court in February 2007
- In Dec 2006 Google News Norway forced to remove images
European libraries joining Google Books

- European concerns about English language dominance
- Lausanne University Library, Switzerland
- Ghent University Library, Belgium
- Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (since 1558)
- Biblioteca de Catalunya, Barcelona
- Microsoft scans British Library for Open Content Alliance
Keeping up with European search engine development

- Read the specialised search engine blogs
- Pandia - from Norway, in English 1998-
- AltSearchEngines - US blog on alternative search engines
- @-Web - in German 1999-
- Abondance - in French 1998-
- Internetbrus - in Swedish 2001-
In conclusion

- Run your search in multiple search engines
- Different ranking algorithms = different results in the top 10
- Search engine indexes don’t overlap as much as we think
- Try out the European search engines, you might be surprised
- News search engines is a good place to start
- Web2.0 features not so prevalent yet in Europe