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Browsing Around a Digital Library

Presented By: **Dr Ian Witten**, The University of Lethbridge

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Wednesday, September 24, 4 pm

Three interactive videolinked locations
1) Host location: **PE256, University of Lethbridge** (reception to follow)
2) Biosciences 587, University of Calgary
3) Tiered Classroom, University of Alberta

Abstract

What will it be like to work in a digital library? We begin by browsing around the newly-formed Southern Alberta Digital Library Centre, which includes many international collections created by the New Zealand Digital Library project, looking at the material they contain and how it is organized. Then we turn to the Greenstone digital library software on which all these collections are based. This allows the facilities that a collection provides, including the user interface for searching and browsing, to be customized at many different levels based on whatever document formats and metadata is available. We briefly illustrate how browsing around a digital library can be supported by structures derived from automatic analysis of the contents of the library--not just the catalog, or abstracts, but the full text of the books and journals. Greenstone is widely used in many different countries, including developing countries, and interfaces and collections exist in many of the world's languages. It is open source software, distributed by UNESCO.

Biography

Ian H. Witten is professor of computer science at the University of Waikato in New Zealand where he directs the New Zealand Digital Library research project; he is presently an iCORE visiting professor at the University of Lethbridge. His research interests include information retrieval, machine learning, text compression, and programming by demonstration. He received degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Electrical Engineering from Cambridge University, England; the University of Calgary, Canada; and Essex University, England. He is a fellow of the ACM and of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He has published widely on digital libraries, machine learning, text compression, hypertext, speech synthesis and signal processing, and computer typography. He has authored and co-authored several books, the latest being Managing Gigabytes (1999), Data Mining (2000) and How to build a digital library (2003), all from Morgan Kaufmann. He will receive the 2004 IFIP Namur Award, a biennial honour accorded for outstanding contribution with international impact to the awareness of social implications of information and communication technology.

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