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Getting the job done

RSS feeds give us title, link, and summary of events. From there we use custom built regular expressions to extract relevant information about the event linked to by the RSS feed. The data is then put into a standard format and entered into the database.

Users can search for events in two ways, good old fashioned drop downs + keyword search, and using a novel Natural Language Search (NLS). NLS extracts frequent patterns from the user query and translates them into SQL statements. The patterns are simply a huge list of regular expressions. The problem doesn't end there because often queries will be ambiguous or crucial information will be omitted. For Example: "concerts on Monday," which Monday does the user want? Or "lobsters dinners near green & lincoln" Where is green and lincoln? How near is near? Domain knowledge and the fact that we have a small domain allows us to make some very good assumptions in the face of ambiguity.

Search results are ranked with a linear combination of TF/IDF, distance from query location, edit distance, etc.

Tools

Database: MySQL

Data Intertaces: MySQLdb, feedparser, django, urllib2

Geocoding: GoogleMapsAPI, geopy

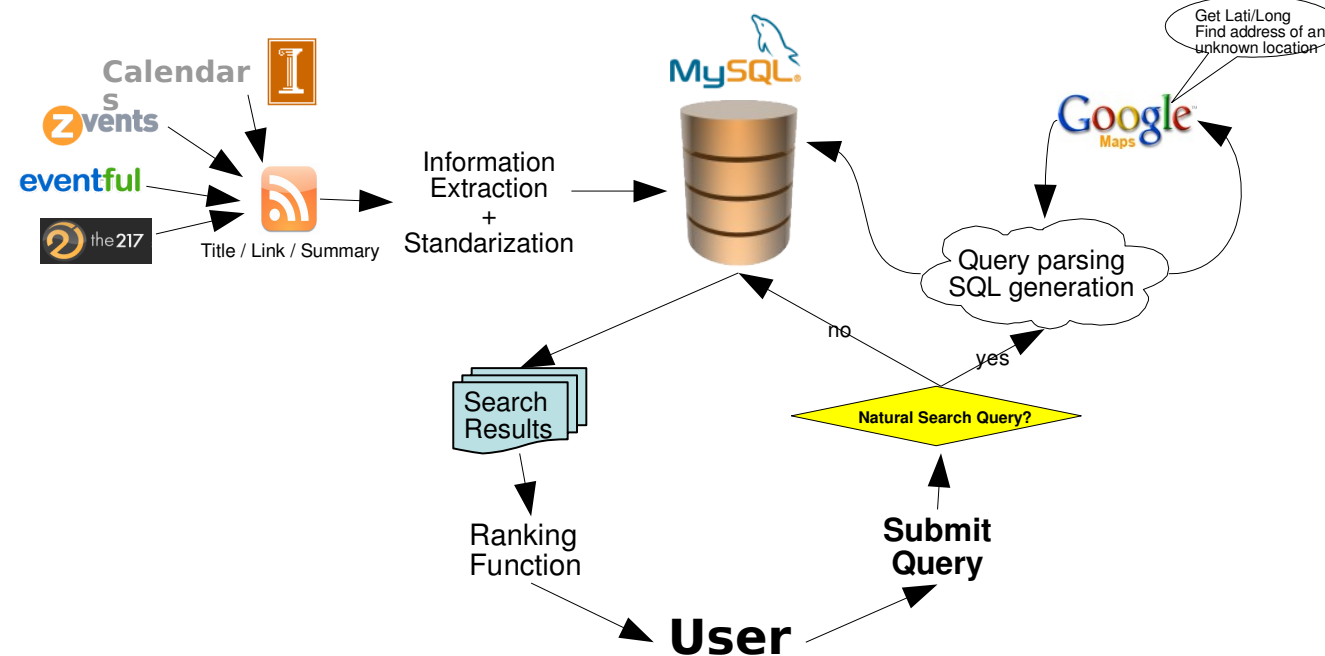
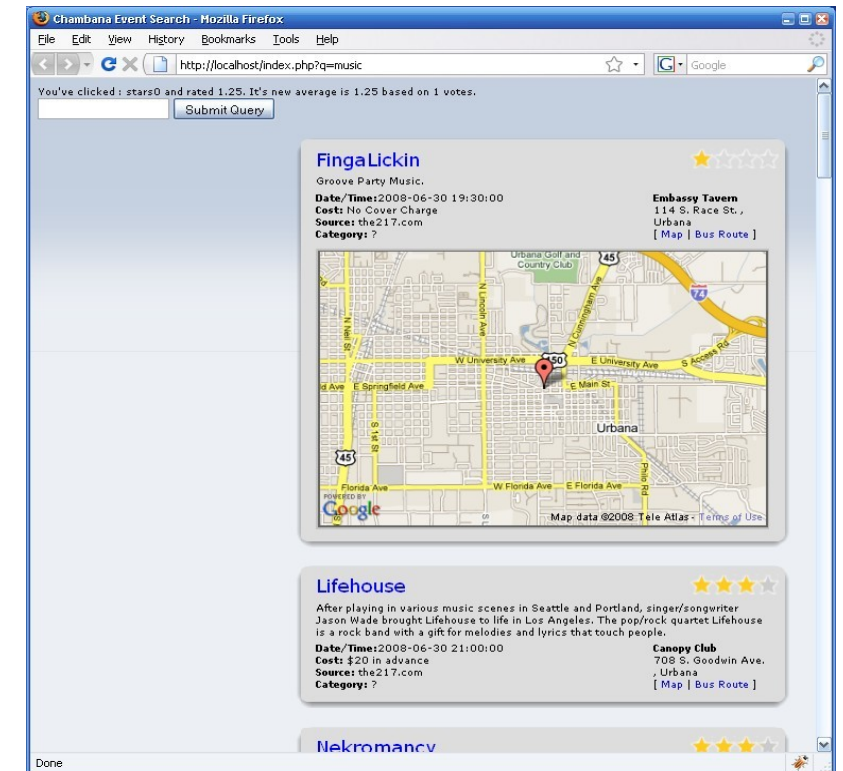
Interface: script.aculo.us

Misc: re

The iChambana Events Search is a vertical events search application. By crawling and processing the events data available from different events websites serving the Champaign-Urbana communities, we create a database of events. A front-end application webpage allows the user to search for events by date, category, venue, and presents a list of matching events with their locations marked on a map. Users are also given the option to search in Natural language.

<http://people.cis.ksu.edu/~welshamy/dssi08/latest/>

Interface



Future Work

New presentation of events (not just a linear ranking)

The ability to add and RSS feed and have the information automatically extracted.

A user-based system, events offer an interesting domain for recommendation systems.

The addition of Facebook Events.