

MedioVis

WG Human-Computer Interaction
University of Konstanz

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Keywords:

- Visual search and exploration in digital libraries, catalogues or multimedia databases
- User-centred document- and knowledge retrieval
- Multiple application scenarios: libraries, e-commerce, desktop or intranet search, video-on-demand, media asset management ...
- Visual interface and new zoomable user interface components (e.g. the HyperGrid) for accessing multimedia metadata or fulltext (e.g. JPG, PDF, AVI, MP3, ...)
- MedioVis explores innovative solutions for multimedia document storage and retrieval in cooperation with the AG DBIS (Prof. Scholl, University of Konstanz) and the BaseX project (<http://www.inf.uni-konstanz.de/dbis/>)

Description:

MedioVis is concerned with the user-centred development of next generation visual information seeking systems for novice and non-expert users. A central design goal of the MedioVis interface is to offer interaction focussed on supporting realistic human search behaviour: Not only analytical queries but also browsing-oriented strategies shall be supported, for example by allowing a quick overview, filtering, zooming into details, and "surfing" of search results.

Additional multimedia metadata will be automatically collected from Web resources to support the user's decision for or against contained objects. For example the plain-text meta data of a library catalogue can be enhanced with multimedia content like book covers, film trailers, plot summaries, biographies or sound files, which are gathered from available data sources on the Web. Therefore MedioVis functions as an integrative visual interface to multiple heterogeneous databases, which offers a remarkable added value compared to conventional systems. To offer a highly usable interface to this complex and heterogeneous information space, different visualizations, filters and interaction concepts are integrated into MedioVis (e.g. the zoomable table visualization HyperGrid or zoomable scatter plots).

Fully operational Java prototypes of MedioVis are currently field tested in different application domains, such as searching and exploring the Mediothek of the library of the University of Konstanz. This part of the library contains numerous VHS, DVD, CD-ROM, CDDA, ... media.

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The screenshot shows the MedioVis 0.70m interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'animation' entered and a 'Find!' button. Below the search bar, there are navigation icons for home, mail, print, and to web. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Film' (listing 'Kaze no tani no Naushika'), 'Content' (showing plot, user comment, trivia, and recommendations for 'Kaze no tani no Naushika'), and 'People Involved' (listing 'Hayao Miyazaki' and 'Eddie Murphy'). At the bottom, there's a 'Rating' section with a grid showing ratings for various films over time. A legend in the bottom right corner explains navigation controls: 'Zoom: left and right mouse button' and 'Selection: click on the symbols'.