

Comparison the Efficiency of Some Search Engines on Arabic Keywords and Roots

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Abstract

This paper presents an attempt to show the efficiency of some search engines in dealing with Arabic keywords. This can be achieved by comparing the number of retrieved pages, retrieving time, and stability (in both the number of retrieved pages and the order for each retrieved page) for each one of the selected 20 Arabic keywords (with its roots) that were entered to the selected four search engines at the same time. Google, Yahoo, Al-hoodhood and Ayna were selected as a test bed for the experiment. The obtained results showed that Google was the best search engine among the four selected search engines, the experiments for the results of the stability of the selected search engines took 10 weeks to be obtained.

Keywords: Search engines, Internet, information retrieval, World Wide Web

Most of available electronic databases were in English, search and retrieval software, indexing methods, and user interfaces were designed specifically for this language. As this is no longer the case, Information Retrieval (IR) systems have been developed for languages other than English, and search engines have increasingly been modified to handle these languages [3][4][5].

Arabic is one language that is likely to present challenges in a traditional IR environment and in popular search engines, because its morphology and words formation rules are radically different from those of English. These rules are based on a root – and – pattern system that has been long thought to be a major factor in hindering IR operations. Finding all possible words that are derived from an Arabic root might not necessarily lead to better IR performance. While researchers on Arabic IR advocated the use of advanced word stemming and root extraction algorithms, the limited scope of their research leave many questions unanswered [6].

This paper explores the handling of Arabic words

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