Query Track

Six groups participated in the TREC-9 Query Track, with each group running each of 43 different querysets using one or more variants of their retrieval system. A queryset consists of one query for each of 50 topics (TREC topics 51-100) where each query is from the same category of queries. Three different query categories were used.

1. Short: 2-4 words selected by reading the topic statement.
2. Sentence: a sentence—normally less than one line—developed after reading the topic statement.
3. Sentence-Rel: a sentence developed after reading a handful of relevant documents. The topic statement was *not* used for this category of query.

Twenty-one of the querysets were used last year in the TREC-8 query track; the remaining 22 querysets were developed for this year's track.

(Table describing querysets on next page.)

Query Track

Queryset	Group	Category
APL1a	Johns Hopkins/APL	Short
APL2a	Johns Hopkins/APL	Sentence
INQ1a	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1b	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1c	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1d	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1e	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1f	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1g	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1h	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1i	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ1j	U. Massachusetts	Short
INQ2a	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2b	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2c	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2d	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2e	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2f	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2g	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2h	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2i	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ2j	U. Massachusetts	Sentence
INQ3a	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3b	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3c	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3d	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3e	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3f	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3g	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3h	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3i	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
INQ3j	U. Massachusetts	Sentence-Rel
Sab1a	Sabir Research	Short
Sab1b	Sabir Research	Short
Sab1c	Sabir Research	Short
Sab1d	Sabir Research	Short
Sab2a	Sabir Research	Sentence
Sab3a	Sabir Research	Sentence-Rel
UoM1a	U. Melbourne	Short
UoM1b	U. Melbourne	Short
UoM2	U. Melbourne	Sentence
acs1a	ACSys Project	Short
pir1a	Queens College, CUNY	Short

Query Track

Eighteen runsets were submitted (a runset is the results of running one version of a retrieval system for all 43 querysets).

Runset	Group	Description
IN7a	U. Massachusetts	INQUERY, words only
IN7e	U. Massachusetts	INQUERY, words+structure+expansion
IN7p	U. Massachusetts	INQUERY, words+structure
SUN	Sun Microsystems	modified Nova without query formulation
Sunl	Sun Microsystems	modified Nova with query formulation
Saba	Sabir Research	SMART, words only
Sabe	Sabir Research	SMART, words+full expansion
Sabm	Sabir Research	SMART, words+modest expansion
UoMd	U. Melbourne	MG, document-based
UoMl	U. Melbourne	MG, locality-based
hum4	Hummingbird	SearchServer 4.0 which used an older linguistic package
humA	Hummingbird	approximate text searching for misspelling correction
humB	Hummingbird	baseline run with emphasis on document length & IDF
humD	Hummingbird	document length de-emphasized
humI	Hummingbird	terms in more than 15% of rows not discarded
humK	Hummingbird	keyword fields not indexed
humV	Hummingbird	normal emphasis on IDF
ok9u	Microsoft	Okapi, words only, no expansion

Query Track

Mean and standard deviation of the average precision scores for each query in a queryset further averaged over the 18 runsets. This average gives gives an indication of the quality of a queryset as a whole.

QuerySet	Average	Standard Deviation
APL1a	0.1737	0.1814
APL2a	0.1618	0.1654
INQ1a	0.1587	0.1863
INQ1b	0.1887	0.1961
INQ1c	0.2054	0.2046
INQ1d	0.1731	0.2015
INQ1e	0.2041	0.2304
INQ1f	0.2142	0.2248
INQ1g	0.1911	0.1837
INQ1h	0.1769	0.1941
INQ1i	0.1907	0.2054
INQ1j	0.1745	0.1808
INQ2a	0.1310	0.1426
INQ2b	0.1470	0.1368
INQ2c	0.2021	0.1888
INQ2d	0.1659	0.1681
INQ2e	0.2023	0.1858
INQ2f	0.1859	0.1844
INQ2g	0.1711	0.1657
INQ2h	0.1558	0.1765
INQ2i	0.1494	0.1388
INQ2j	0.1485	0.1681
INQ3a	0.1023	0.1247
INQ3b	0.1003	0.1279
INQ3c	0.1053	0.1233
INQ3d	0.1311	0.1567
INQ3e	0.1559	0.1777
INQ3f	0.1182	0.1446
INQ3g	0.1115	0.1555
INQ3h	0.1000	0.1134
INQ3i	0.1135	0.1271
INQ3j	0.1385	0.1565
Sab1a	0.2123	0.2063
Sab1b	0.2244	0.2035
Sab1c	0.2327	0.2144
Sab1d	0.2095	0.1980
Sab2a	0.2187	0.1704
Sab3a	0.2077	0.1849
UoM1a	0.2089	0.2091
UoM1b	0.1969	0.1936
UoM2	0.2299	0.1795
acs1a	0.2186	0.2065
pir1a	0.2127	0.1840

Query Track

Mean and standard deviation of the average precision scores for each query over all querysets and runsets. This average gives an indication of the difficulty of a topic.

Query	Average	Standard Deviation	Query	Average	Standard Deviation
51	0.4356	0.1531	76	0.1020	0.0604
52	0.4779	0.2089	77	0.2447	0.1426
53	0.1781	0.1248	78	0.4651	0.2718
54	0.3136	0.1813	79	0.1214	0.0829
55	0.4308	0.1842	80	0.0436	0.0318
56	0.3388	0.2220	81	0.1292	0.0683
57	0.2418	0.1498	82	0.3744	0.1070
58	0.4668	0.2134	83	0.0647	0.0708
59	0.0939	0.1057	84	0.0139	0.0104
60	0.0403	0.0301	85	0.1295	0.0781
61	0.2838	0.1370	86	0.2181	0.1351
62	0.2459	0.0879	87	0.0301	0.0356
63	0.1198	0.0417	88	0.1214	0.0992
64	0.1680	0.0489	89	0.0576	0.0561
65	0.1455	0.0764	90	0.1935	0.1265
66	0.1614	0.1396	91	0.0189	0.0232
67	0.0503	0.0695	92	0.0240	0.0219
68	0.1022	0.1097	93	0.3336	0.1204
69	0.1426	0.1295	94	0.0980	0.0635
70	0.5126	0.1824	95	0.0321	0.0189
71	0.0736	0.0797	96	0.0375	0.0338
72	0.0425	0.0435	97	0.0590	0.0270
73	0.0463	0.0544	98	0.1706	0.0489
74	0.0045	0.0124	99	0.2842	0.0598
75	0.0166	0.0170	100	0.1260	0.1479

Mean of Mean Average Precision over all the querysets in a run set. This average gives an indication of the quality of each system version.

Runset	Average	Runset	Average
IN7a	0.179944	UoMl	0.153868
IN7e	0.228798	hum4	0.171264
IN7p	0.184818	humA	0.174064
SUN	0.057144	humB	0.173220
Sunl	0.067650	humD	0.177120
Saba	0.192354	humI	0.173596
Sabe	0.251604	humK	0.171252
Sabm	0.232126	humV	0.164798
UoMd	0.161174	ok9u	0.191674