

A Prototype of FIG Surveying Education Portal

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ABSTRACT

FIG's Commission II has long been active in developing a Surveying Education Database (SEDB) for world-wide educational data in the field. The database is available on the web and it includes generic information about the degrees offered, list of courses, contact information and the like. In recent years it has been observed that the major obstacle is keeping the data up-to-date.

Combining the efforts to solve this problem and adding a functionality to find information on distance education, this paper presents a prototype of a new WWW portal for surveying education. The portal's main task is to find information on Surveying Education and visualize it in a partly graphical output, without having to maintain a specific-purpose database.

There are two major concerns in such a project: the method for finding the necessary information (*data acquisition/mining*) and the method for visualizing this information (*information visualization*).

To acquire the data, in this implementation we will present you a *specific-purpose search engine* that is programmed to look for information in defined web sites. That way, eventually if any update is needed, it will be the list of mentioned web sites. These sites are updated for the course information for local students, therefore, it doesn't require a special attention for our purpose. We would be utilizing the existing data.

To visualize the information, we tried to *map* the curricula of the studied fields by designing a graphic which suits the purpose of this work. Eventually we are interested in developing this to a *self organizing map*. Currently, this graphic shows some extract from the main and sub fields of Surveying Education and presents a primitive hierarchy between them.

As the search engine finds our specified keywords in the specified web sites, it will light up the relevant *surveying morpheme(s)* which are represented in the initial graphic. Each morpheme then is linked to the sites that indexes the relevant set of keywords, and user is allowed to "dig deeper".

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