

# An architecture for non-Linear discovery of aggregated multimedia document web search results (#54923)

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First submission

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# An architecture for non-Linear discovery of aggregated multimedia document web search results

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The recent proliferation of multimedia information on the web enhances user information need from simple textual lookup to multi-modal exploration activities. The current search engines act as major gateways to access the immense amount of multimedia data. However, access to the multimedia content is provided by aggregating disjoint multimedia search verticals. The aggregation of the multimedia search results cannot consider relationships in them and partially blended. Additionally, the search results' presentation is via linear lists, which cannot support the users' non-linear navigation patterns to explore the multimedia search results. Contrarily, users' are demanding more services from search engines. It includes adequate access to navigate, explore, and discover multimedia information. Our discovery approach allows users to explore and discover multimedia information by semantically aggregating disjoint verticals using sentence embeddings and transforming snippets into conceptually similar multimedia document groups. The proposed aggregation approach retains the relationship in the retrieved multimedia search results. A non-linear graph is instantiated to augment the users' non-linear information navigation and exploration patterns, which leads to discovering new and interesting search results at various aggregated granularity levels. Our method's empirical evaluation results achieve 99% accuracy in the aggregation of disjoint search results at different aggregated search granularity levels. Our approach provides a standard baseline for the exploration of multimedia aggregation search results.

# 1 An Architecture for Non-Linear Discovery 2 of Aggregated Multimedia Document Web 3 Search Results

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## 9 **ABSTRACT**

10 The recent proliferation of multimedia information on the web enhances user information need from simple  
11 textual lookup to multi-modal exploration activities. The current search engines act as major gateways to  
12 access the immense amount of multimedia data. However, access to the multimedia content is provided  
13 by aggregating disjoint multimedia search verticals. The aggregation of the multimedia search results  
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20 proposed aggregation approach retains the relationship in the retrieved multimedia search results. A  
21 non-linear graph is instantiated to augment the users' non-linear information navigation and exploration  
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24 search results at different aggregated search granularity levels. Our approach provides a standard  
25 baseline for the exploration of multimedia aggregation search results.

## 26 **INTRODUCTION**

27 Traditionally, the web contains only the textual content (10). The progressive easy access to the internet  
28 has transformed the web into an infinitely complex virtual organism consisting of immense multimedia  
29 content (8). The format of the information is now extremely varied. The individual bits of data coming  
30 from blogs, articles, web services, picture galleries, etc., are resulting in exponential growth of multimedia  
31 data on the web (8; 42). The web is becoming the most ubiquitous platform ever since its birth and has  
32 increased in both quantity and quality (56). In 2009, less than 1 petabyte of digital data was created daily  
33 (34). It grew to approximately 2.5 exabytes in 2012 and reached 4.4 zettabytes in 2013. On the web, the  
34 digital data in different formats created, replicated, and consumed exponentially (40). It is doubling every  
35 2 years. By 2015, digital data grew to 8 zettabytes, and the volume of data will reach 40 zettabytes by the  
36 end of 2020 (40).

37 Keywords-based general web search engines have made early efforts to provide access to multimedia  
38 information (35). These search engines required a user to enter one or a few keywords, and the search  
39 engines produced the relevant results in a short time (35). Kerne et al. (26) first discussed a new search  
40 paradigm called information discovery. They elaborated discovery as a long journey of search that  
41 begins with a vague description of a problem, may have an articulated set of criteria during which a  
42 searcher specify a query and evaluate the returned information surrogates, and may continue iteratively by  
43 re-evaluating the result sets and forming a sense of desired results. Marchioni (39) gives the same idea in  
44 a broader perspective by categorizing the search paradigm into an exploratory by incorporating not only  
45 lookup searches but learning and investigation activities. Adequate support in the users' search leads to

46 the discovery of new information items.

47 In contrast, many current search systems assume an exploratory search process as a series of ho-  
48 mogeneous steps of submitting a query and consulting search results. Research in information seeking  
49 has shown that users go through discrete phases in their search journey, from exploring and identifying  
50 preliminary information to refining and narrowing their information needs and search strategies to finalize  
51 the search. It is reported as a highly complex problem bridging the different areas of information seeking,  
52 interactive information retrieval, and user interface design (21). Moreover, the increasing amount of  
53 heterogeneous content on the web has transformed user needs from simple lookup-based queries to broader  
54 exploratory queries, requiring the diverse heterogeneous contents to satisfy the desired information needs  
55 (42).

56 Several studies indicate that more intricate tasks resulted in a diversity of the information sought and  
57 more varied approaches to information seeking (13). Today, to find interesting multimedia content, an  
58 enormous number of users use search engines (17). It has changed users' information need from textual to  
59 multi-modal (audio, image, and video) searching. Approximately 40%-50% of users engage in dynamic  
60 and unplanned nature of web multimedia searches (58). When the information need is ambiguous and  
61 dynamic (e.g., in exploratory search), people often consult more multimedia search results (11). The need  
62 for multimedia documents, in this case, increases to 58% (58).

63 As human information needs and search tasks become complex, the users have to collect and assemble  
64 information from diverse information sources. The goal is to compose the most appropriate responses to  
65 the tasks at hand in the form of multimedia documents (32). A multimedia document is a collection of  
66 co-existing heterogeneous multimedia objects sharing the same semantics (42). Users prefer aggregation  
67 of useful multimedia information residing in diverse sources through unified interfaces (32; 42). Similarly,  
68 the user interface presenting aggregated contents encouraged participants to view more diversified sources  
69 from the search results, and 75% of the participants found this blended approach more comfortable to use  
70 (52). The user, click-through rate analysis, reported approximately 33% on augmented multimedia artifacts  
71 and nearly 55% multimedia artifacts were found relevant and useful during information exploration  
72 activities (53). Overall, users explore the multimedia contents 78% of the time to answer their dynamic  
73 information needs (31). Based on recent user behavior in complex information needs, we can easily  
74 forecast even more increasing multimedia artifacts consumption from the users in satisfaction of complex  
75 information needs and discovering information.

76 Aggregating disjoint verticals provide access to diverse multimedia documents. A vertical is defined  
77 as a specialized assembly of same-typed documents (5). This assembly can be media-specific or domain-  
78 specific. The former may include media types (e.g., video, blog, image, etc.). The latter may consist of  
79 verticals (e.g., travel, shopping, news, etc.). The aggregation process consists of either Cross-vertical  
80 Aggregated Search (cvAS) or Relational Aggregated Search (RAS). The (cvAS) ignores the relation  
81 during retrieval and aggregation of multimedia content. The (RAS) considers the relationships in the  
82 multimedia information. Despite the key-role of aggregation in bridging the modality gap, this area of  
83 research only received limited attention in the past (1). Without substantial creativity, this area of research  
84 will soon be abandoned. Our discovery approach aims to bring innovation and creativity in this area of  
85 search. We envision bridging the modality gap and shortcomings of current search engines, allowing  
86 users to discover multimedia information by aggregating disjoint verticals.

87 Contributions of our solution have three-folds. Firstly, we presented a creative search results aggrega-  
88 tion technique using state-of-the-art semantic analysis. Secondly, we enhanced the current search engine  
89 shortcomings in information exploration and discovery activities by augmenting non-linear information  
90 seeking patterns. Thirdly, we bridged the information modality gap by encoding the search results in  
91 various representations. Our proposed solution is the first to address all of the stated challenges of  
92 information aggregation, exploration, and discovery.

93 The rest of the discussion is organized as follows. We discuss the related work in Section 2. We  
94 highlight the deficiencies in the existing approaches and motivation behind this research in section 3. We  
95 provide the theoretical foundation and formalization of our proposed approach in Section 4. We present  
96 the implementation of the architecture in Section 5. We discuss the experimental results in Section 6.  
97 Finally, we compare our approach with state-of-the-art and conclude our discussion in Sections 7 and 8,  
98 respectively.

## 99 RELATED WORK

100 **Theoretical Background and Frameworks** According to Kerne et al., information discovery tasks  
101 require finding and collecting relevant information elements; filtering the collected elements; developing  
102 an understanding of the found elements and their relationships (27). The overall goal is assembling  
103 information and connecting answers to open-ended questions (27). It is a multidisciplinary approach and  
104 is built on anomalous states of knowledge (9), berry-picking (7), psychological relevance (23), exploratory  
105 search (60), information foraging (41), information seeking (38) and sensemaking (6; 48).

106 During a task performed by a user, the lack of information triggers the requisite for the information  
107 needs. The recognized information needs refer to as an anomalous state of knowledge (9). During the  
108 recognized anomalous state of knowledge, the users refer to the information retrieval systems to initiate  
109 the information seeking journey (38). During this journey, the user picks relevant information analogous  
110 to an organism picking berries in the forest scattered on the bushes; they do not come in bunches. One  
111 must select them one at a time (7). Similar to this analogy, the user has to forage for the information and  
112 pick items from information patches giving information scent the most (41). Information scents are the  
113 cues that help the user in making sense of the provided information. It can be augmented by sensemaking  
114 activity. It involves making sense of the data during data analysis, searching for representation, and  
115 encoding the data to answer specific task-oriented questions (48). This whole journey can incorporate  
116 lookup search, learning, and investigation activities, resulting in a non-linear search pattern.

117 To do this non-linear search of the information successfully, researchers must leverage their skills and  
118 experience to develop search systems that actively engage searchers using semantics, inherent structure,  
119 and meaningful categorization (61). In general, the user cannot precisely specify what is needed to resolve  
120 recognized information anomaly (9). It often results in the shortcomings of the existing retrieval systems  
121 in a scenario where the user cannot correctly formulate information need expression resulted in low  
122 precision of the retrieval systems (9). In such case, the users' information needs are not fully satisfied by  
123 a single final retrieved set, but by a series of selections of individual bits of information at each stage of  
124 the ever-modifying search strategies (7). Hence, these tasks require more recall over precision (55). We  
125 must consider the user perspective of information relevance, taking into account how effective the topic of  
126 the information retrieved matches the subject of interest and how to represent a piece of information that  
127 induces a change in the users' cognitive state (23).

128 Our proposed solution encodes the multimedia search results semantically by aggregating them in  
129 multimedia documents. These documents allow users to pick the most suitable collection of informa-  
130 tion sufficing their information need the most. Furthermore, we provide multimedia document groups,  
131 analogous to patches of information, allowing the user to forage for the information patches giving the  
132 most information scent. We increased the information scent for multimedia documents and groups by  
133 summarizing the data inside them. Semantically aggregating disjoint multimedia verticals provide the  
134 conceptualization of multimedia documents and groups. Furthermore, we augment the non-linear infor-  
135 mation searching and seeking pattern by instantiating a non-linear graph comprising various granularity  
136 levels of search results and proximally similar multimedia content links.

137 **From Federation To Aggregation & Diversification** Traditional research mostly centered on assisting  
138 users in providing relevant multimedia information federated from various sources and information  
139 providers. Kerne et al. (25) provided discovery of search results by dispatching the user query to multiple  
140 search engines and extracting the relevant pieces of text snippets and images snapshot on the user interface.  
141 Similarly, Sushmita et al. (54) provided a digest-based information exploration approach by collecting  
142 various pieces of multimedia information from a variety of sources and encapsulating them in the form of  
143 a digest. Afterward, researchers identified the modality gap of information with enormously increasing  
144 heterogeneous content on the web, which hindered the information exploration. Hence, the first idea  
145 of search results aggregation was presented in a workshop at ACM SIGIR 08 conference (30). Later  
146 on, Sushmita et al. (52) advanced this idea towards the blending and evaluation of disjoint multimedia  
147 verticals into the web search results (53).

148 Information aggregation is now widely recognized, considered a bridge that narrows the information  
149 modality gap and fosters information exploration. Meanwhile, search engines are also starting to adopt  
150 a similar approach in their presentation of the search results (5). The progress in multimedia retrieval  
151 presented another challenge in deciding the optimal choice and position of vertical in the search engine  
152 result page and was explicitly labeled as a vertical prediction problem. Bakrola et al. (5) provided a

153 solution to this challenge by using implicit feedback of the user in the form of several clicks and then  
154 using a support vector machine classifier to predict the most suitable vertical sufficing the given user  
155 information needs.

156 Nowadays, the most common and popular commercial web search engines such as Baidu<sup>1</sup>, Bing<sup>2</sup>,  
157 Google<sup>3</sup>, Yahoo!<sup>4</sup>, Yandex<sup>5</sup> etc, are blending some vertical-specific results, assembled from the other data  
158 sources into the linear ranked list of standard results. Moreover, a recent trend focuses on the information  
159 diversification aspects of the information (57). It usually involves integrating more diverse verticals (e.g.,  
160 other than image, news, video, and web). This diversification may include the integration of verticals from  
161 social media, shopping, movies & dramas, maps, songs, etc. However, this integration of the verticals  
162 is mostly partial-blended (42). The relationship between the multimedia artifacts inside each disjoint  
163 vertical is often ignored.

164 The aggregation of the multimedia artifacts demands a better solution to enhance user interaction  
165 with the search results. It is essentially a very broad problem and answered by (RAS) techniques. The  
166 researchers leveraged some effort in (42), they performed (RAS) using textual, visual, and acoustic  
167 descriptors of the multimedia contents. However, this aggregation was provided using a generic similarity  
168 measure for each modality and ignored the semantics relationships in aggregated multimedia documents.  
169 In (2), researchers presented a stacked auto-encoders model for aggregation of the disjoint verticals.  
170 However, their research addresses a small aspect of the aggregation and ignores information exploration  
171 perspectives.

172 **Renovation in Information Exploration Data-Models & Semantic Web** The current practices for  
173 information exploration include presenting the aggregated verticals as a linear list (55). It is due to a lack  
174 of data-model flexibility. Initially, using the semantic web techniques and ontologies was perceived as a  
175 promising start. For instance, Tablan et al. (55) presented an open-source semantic framework providing  
176 indexes and searches using document structure, metadata, annotations, and semantics through linked open  
177 data. The architecture supported both; information seeking and exploration & discovery tasks by two  
178 distinct user interfaces designed, respectively.

179 Similarly, Lisena et al. (37) developed a modern web application for music exploration and discovery  
180 using semantic RDF graphs to establish links between entities and relationships among them. Khalil et al.  
181 (28) used inference techniques on the semantic linked open data to produce notably unique information  
182 fostering discovery. However, due to scalability challenges in exploiting the whole web of Linked Data  
183 limits the practicality of this aspect (19).

184 Similarly, in (24), researchers provided semantic data representation in a hyperbolic tree format. Their  
185 framework consists of a 3-layers hyperbolic tree-based modal approach that takes the input in the form of  
186 keywords from the user. The information is then presented in the form of a graph. The 3-layer approach  
187 divides the complexity of information in each layer. It reduces the confusion caused by information  
188 overload and enhances significant interaction and navigation. Similar to our proposed approach, their  
189 graph data-model provides highlighting, node describing, zooming, panning, and linking functionalities.

190 More researchers are presently making an effort to provide a generalized approach to exploring and  
191 discovering multimedia artifacts on the web. It includes mixing different aspects of data-model, diverse  
192 information aggregation, and visualization. For instance, in (42), researchers provide a generalized  
193 framework for relational aggregation of the multimedia artifacts belonging to disjoint sets using a graph-  
194 based visualization and exploration of a multimedia search result space. Similarly, in (62), researchers  
195 developed a discovery engine for artificial intelligence research. Their architecture crawls the web,  
196 downloads the research papers from various journal websites, and performs full-text indexing using a  
197 cosine similarity measure. It builds a similarity-based network having similarity links in documents.  
198 Users' stars, clicks, and tweets are primarily used to reinforce the graph's essential connections.

199 However, the past approaches focus on using a domain-specific dataset and data-model using generic  
200 textual and visual similarity metrics. We establish a data-model using the semantics that exists inside the  
201 data. Specifically, we semantically found part-of or containment relationships in the multimedia artifacts.  
202 Moreover, we also instantiate similarity links among the multimedia artifacts that allow navigation to

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.baidu.com/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.bing.com/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.google.com/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.yahoo.com/>

<sup>5</sup><https://yandex.com/>

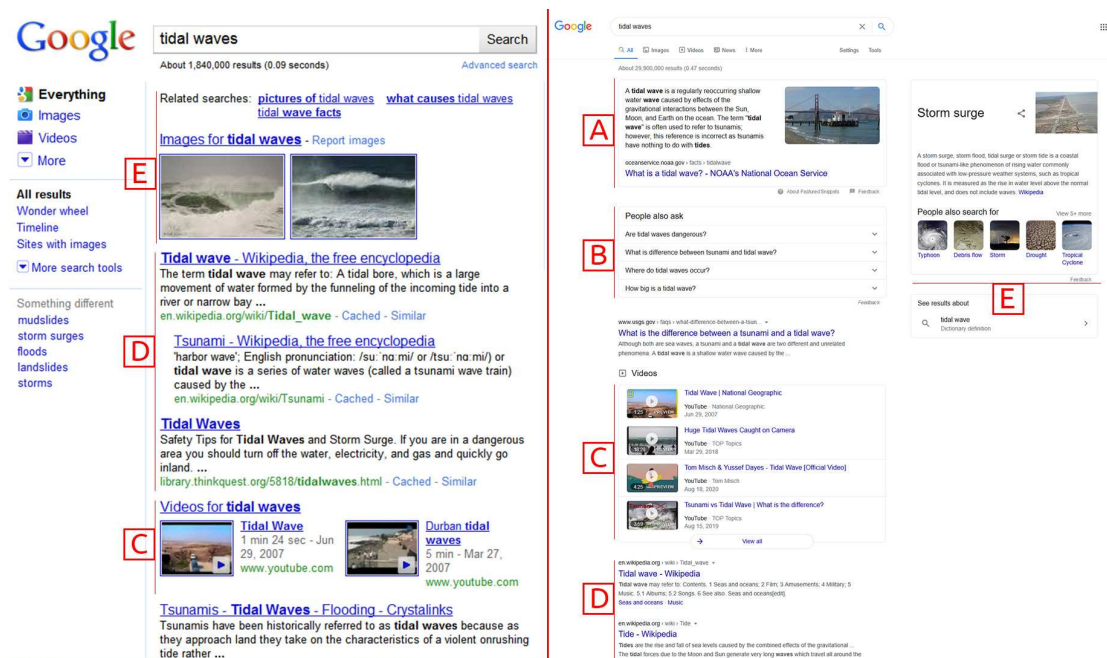


203 similar multimedia artifacts. We opt to keep the data-model as generic as possible without relying on  
 204 domain knowledge and explicit feedback, making our solution implementable on a wide range of domains.

## 205 PROBLEM & MOTIVATION

206 The users' complex information-seeking behavior is modeled as a non-linear journey requiring adequate  
 207 support during the navigation of the information space (45). Users' forage for the information (7). Their  
 208 complex information needs are not sufficed through the current ideology of returning the most precise  
 209 information in response to the given queries (49). Instead, users picking the most interesting items like  
 210 barriers from various patches of information, providing more information scent ratio to the effort required  
 211 for examining the information. It results in a non-linear information searching pattern of users (49).

212 The search engines are more tuned towards simple lookup searches favoring precision over recall  
 213 (55). However, even though they have recognized the users' multimedia information needs and started  
 214 to blend some vertical-specific results assembled from the other data sources (5). The current practices  
 215 of presenting information in a linear ranked list of standard results limit information exploration (42).  
 216 Furthermore, the integration of the verticals is mostly partial-blended (42), which may suffice in simple  
 217 lookup searches when a user knows what to look for; however, this strategy inadequately support complex  
 218 information exploration and discovery tasks (55). These tasks go beyond simple keyword-based queries.  
 219 Users often have difficulties in information need expression, and they usually are dynamic (44). Such  
 220 tasks require more recall over precision and diversity of information sources (55). It challenges the current  
 221 practices of displaying the search results belonging to different verticals as disjoint sets (42).

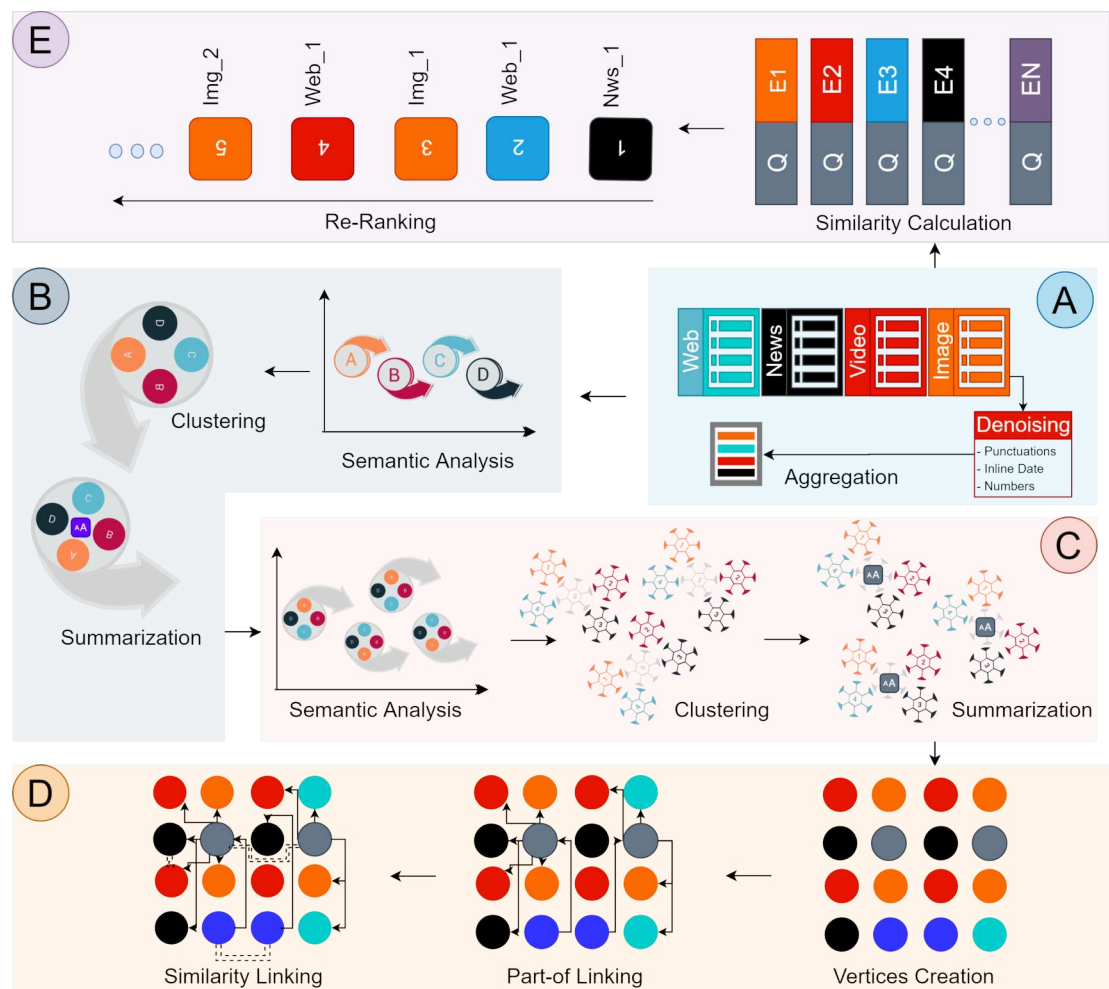


**Figure 1.** Comparison of Google SERP between 2010 (left) and 2020 (right). (A) Enhanced Snippet, (B) Question Answer Vertical, (C) Videos Vertical, (D) Web Vertical, (E) Images and Related Searchers

222 On the other hand, the search engines remain almost the same as they were about a decade ago. There  
 223 exist numerous problems (P) with current search engines. The figure 1 shows the difference between the  
 224 Google Search Engine Results Page (SERP) back in 2010 (51) and now in 2020 (22). The verticals are  
 225 integrated as disjoint components ( $P_1$ ). The relationships between multimedia objects are ignored ( $P_2$ ).  
 226 The information presented is still displayed as linear lists ( $P_3$ ). This presentation of the general search  
 227 engines' information may suffice for simple lookup tasks but lacks adequacy for complex exploratory  
 228 and discovery tasks (29). These tasks require increased recall over precision ( $P_4$ ), information scent ( $P_5$ ),  
 229 and sensemaking ( $P_6$ ). The existing exploration approaches' deficiencies demand a better mechanism to  
 230 encode and present the multimedia information for discovery ( $P_7$ ).

231 **ARCHITECTURE DESIGN: DEFINITION, FORMALIZATION & INSTANTIATION**  
 232 **TION**

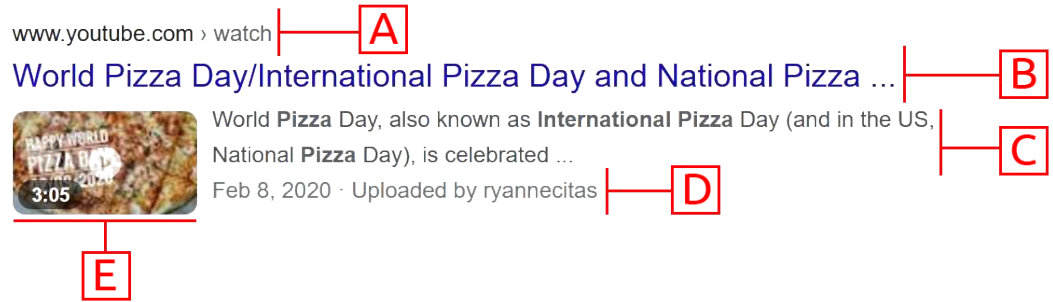
233 Existing techniques are usually specific to a problem and employed on a particular dataset. Many  
 234 researchers consider one side of the discovery, such as information diversification, visualization, data-  
 235 modal etc., and ignore the other factors highlighted in the previous section. To the best of our knowledge,  
 236 a generalized multimedia search results discovery mechanism, particularly in aggregated search, is the  
 237 first to address in this research. Notably, we provided a balanced architectural approach for information  
 238 discovery, emphasizing the dataset, data-model, information diversification equally. We used real-dataset  
 239 retrieved from the search engines in real-time. We instantiated a non-linear graph data modal consisting  
 240 of diverse information while preserving the semantics and similarity relationships. Finally, we provided a  
 241 theoretical background to foster exploration and discovery activities.



**Figure 2.** Discovery Architecture Design. Component (A) Search Results Aggregation, (B) Multimedia Documents Creation, (C) Multimedia Documents Grouping, (D) Graph Instantiation, (E) Semantic Lookup List

Since you are using A, B, C in the image,  
 I would use the same symbols in the description  
 in place of (i), (ii), etc

242 Our component-based architecture design includes sub-components. Each sub-component produces  
 243 a consumable output. There are five main components, referred to (i) Search Results Aggregation; (ii)  
 244 Multimedia Document Creation; (iii) Multimedia Documents Grouping; (iv) Graph Instantiation; (v)  
 245 Semantic Lookup List, components as illustrated in figure 2. Each component is concerned with delegated  
 246 responsibility, and their internal working is separate from each other. A discussion on each component is  
 247 provided in the following sections.



**Figure 3.** Anatomy of search result snippet. (A) URI, (B) Title, (C) Description, (D) Date, (E) Thumbnail

### 248 Search Results Retrieval & Aggregation

249 Search results retrieved from the search engines are presented in the form of disjoint verticals. Adversely,  
250 users' information needs are becoming complex and multi-modal, requiring the employment of multimedia  
251 artifacts for satisfaction. To aggregate scattered disjoint verticals ( $P_1$ ), we introduced a search results  
252 aggregation component. The aggregation process of this component is subdivided into three steps.

#### 253 Vertical Retrieval

254 **Definition:** We define vertical as a specialized assembly of same-typed search results and retrieval as a  
255 process of obtaining them from some external source.

256 **Formalization:** Let  $S$  be the set of  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \lambda$  respectively given as  $S = \{\lambda, \alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$ , where  $\alpha$  is defined  
257 as a set of video snippets  $V$  given as  $\alpha = \{\{V_1^\psi, V_2^\psi, V_3^\psi, \dots, V_n^\psi\}, \{V_1^\Phi, V_2^\Phi, V_3^\Phi, \dots, V_n^\Phi\}\}$ ,  $\beta$  is defined as  
258 a set of news snippets  $N$  given as  $\beta = \{\{N_1^\psi, N_2^\psi, N_3^\psi, \dots, N_n^\psi\}, \{N_1^\Phi, N_2^\Phi, N_3^\Phi, \dots, N_n^\Phi\}\}$ ,  $\gamma$  is defined as a  
259 set of image snippets  $I$  given as  $\gamma = \{\{I_1^\psi, I_2^\psi, I_3^\psi, \dots, I_n^\psi\}, \{I_1^\Phi, I_2^\Phi, I_3^\Phi, \dots, I_n^\Phi\}\}$ , and  $\lambda$  is defined as a set  
260 of web snippets  $W$  given as  $\lambda = \{W_1^\psi, W_2^\psi, W_3^\psi, \dots, W_n^\psi\}$ , where  $\psi$  and  $\Phi$  denotes the textual and visual  
261 modality associated with a snippet respectively.

262 **Instantiation:** We retrieve top hundred search results from each **web, news, image,** and **video** verticals.  
263 Since exploratory and discovery tasks require increased recall over precision ( $P_4$ ), we chose to retrieve  
264 maximum search results from the API provider. With each search result, we preserve the metadata  
265 associate with it, including title, description, date, URL, and thumbnail (where available). The verticals  
266 are retrieved from the Google search engine in real-time because Google is highly preferred by web users  
267 (3). The table 1 shows the vertical retrieval parameters. Figure 3 outlines the title, description, date,  
268 thumbnail, and URI of each snippet.

**Table 1.** Parameters for verticals retrieval

Vertical	# of results (n)	Source	Modality	Feature(s)
Web	$\leq 100$	Google <sup>3</sup>	Textual	Title, Description, URL
Video	$\leq 100$	Google <sup>3</sup>	Textual + Visual	Title, Description, URL, Thumbnail, Date
News	$\leq 100$	Google <sup>3</sup>	Textual + Visual	Title, Description, URL, Thumbnail, Date
Image	$\leq 100$	Google <sup>3</sup>	Textual + Visual	Title, URL, Thumbnail

### 269 Verticals Aggregation

270 **Definition:** We define verticals aggregation as a single container of all the retrieved disjoint verticals.

271 **Formalization:** Let  $X$  be the subset of  $S$  consisting of the all the elements  $\lambda$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  from  $S$ . We  
272 consider only textual modality information given as  $X = \sum_{i=1}^n S_i^\psi$ .

273 **Instantiation:** Each retrieved snippet has unwanted data, including HTML tags, numbers, special  
274 characters, inline date, etc. These impurities add meaning to neither the semantics nor similarity analysis.  
275 We are restraining to perform extra pre-processing steps such as stopwords removal and stemming. It  
276 results in the loss of contextual information necessary for semantic analysis. Afterward, we preserve the  
277 scattered disjoint verticals textual data inside a single container as a linear list.

### 278 **Multimedia Document Creation**

279 Previous studies indicate user interest in exploring multimedia documents encapsulating relevant mul-  
280 timedia objects during information exploration (42). We define a multimedia document as a semantic  
281 container of similar content belonging to multiple modalities. Instead of providing a linear list of snippets,  
282 which forces web users to locate scattered relevant multimedia objects from disjoint verticals, we give  
283 document-based multimedia exploration ( $P_6$ ). The multimedia document semantically gathers the scat-  
284 tered multimedia objects belonging to various disjoint verticals. This process is again sub-divided into  
285 three steps.

### 286 **Semantic Analysis**

287 **Definition:** We define semantic analysis as a process of obtaining semantic information (relatedness and  
288 containment) from transformed multidimensional vector representation of search results textual data ( $P_2$ ).

289 **Formalization:**  $\forall x \in X$  let  $E_x$  be the set of sentence embedding given as  $E_x = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_n\}$ , Where  
290 each element in  $E_x$  is represented by  $e = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots, r_{768}\}$  and  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ .

291 **Instantiation:** Firstly, we transformed each multimedia snippet in the aggregated list into sentence  
292 embeddings. This transforms each snippet into a multidimensional vector space for semantic analysis.  
293 Since each snippet contains minimal textual description, sentence embedding is deemed a better choice  
294 over the Doc2Vec technique.

### 295 **Clustering**

296 **Definition:** We define clustering as a process of grouping the search results, having highly related  
297 intra-group coherence and otherwise for the inter-group search results.

298 **Formalization:**  $E_x = c_1 \cup \dots \cup c_i \cup c_n; c_i \cap c_j = \emptyset (i \neq j)$ , where  $E_x$  denotes original data,  $c_i, c_j$  are clusters  
299 of  $E_x$  and  $n$  is the number of clusters. Let  $C$  be the set of clusters of  $E_x$  given as  $C = \{c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots, c_n\}$ ,  
300 where each cluster contains a set of coherent text  $t$  and  $c = \{t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_n\}; t \in C$ .

301 **Instantiation:** We performed the agglomerative clustering on all the semantic search results vectors.  
302 Agglomerative clustering is chosen for due to flexibility in the clustering process as it allows the clusters  
303 to be obtained using cut-off criteria instead of predefined number of clusters. This process groups similar  
304 search results in various buckets, called multimedia document.

### 305 **Summarization**

306 **Definition:** We define summarization as a process of extracting the most representative words from the  
307 bucket of search results.

308 **Formalization:** Let  $K$  be a set of words sequence  $k$  from  $c \in C$ , generated by text summarizer represent-  
309 ing the collection of text given in  $c$  as  $K = \{k_1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_n\}$ , let  $M_d$  be the multimedia document, we  
310 formed  $M_d$  by mapping function  $M_d = \forall (C) \forall (K) (f(C) = f(K) \rightarrow C = K)$ , where  $\forall x \in X, \exists \kappa \in K, f(K) = X$ .

311 **Instantiation:** To enhance sensemaking ( $P_6$ ), instead of merely labeling a multimedia document by  
312 assigning predefined categories, we are performing summarization based on the text of the snippets inside  
313 the multimedia document. Specifically, we perform extractive text summarization techniques to extract  
314 the combination of the most representing text inside the multimedia document for its representation.

### 315 **Multimedia Document Grouping**

316 Prior research has shown that web user information exploration behavior is analogous to a foraging animal  
 317 in the forest (41). They look for the patches containing more information scent as compared to the effort  
 318 performed. In traditional linear list presentation of the search results, a user has extreme difficulty locating  
 319 the appropriate patches of information and comprehending search results space (47). In this component,  
 320 we grouped multimedia documents to provide patches of information and enhance search results in space  
 321 comprehension ( $P_5$ ). This process is sub-divided into three steps.

### 322 **Semantic Analysis**

323 **Definition:** We define semantic analysis as a process of obtaining semantic information (relatedness  
 324 and containment) from transformed multidimensional vector representation of multimedia documents.

325 **Formalization:** We take the  $K$  which is the set consisting of text summarized from each multimedia  
 326 document.  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n K_i$ , we produce the set  $Y$  from  $K$  to perform semantic analysis.  $\forall y \in Y$  let  $M_x$  be the  
 327 set of sentence embedding given as  $M_x = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_n\}$ , where each element in  $M_x$  is represented by  
 328  $e = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots, r_{768}\}; r \in (\mathbb{R})$ .

329 **Instantiation:** Firstly, we extract summaries of multimedia documents and aggregated them inside a  
 330 linear list. Then we performed semantic analysis on each multimedia document summary using sentence  
 331 embeddings. This transformed each multimedia document to a multidimensional vector space for semantic  
 332 analysis. Similarly, since each multimedia document contains minimal textual description, sentence  
 333 embedding is deemed a better choice over the Doc2Vec technique.

### 334 **Clustering**

335 **Definition:** We define clustering as a process of grouping the multimedia documents having high  
 336 intra-group relatedness and otherwise for the inter-group multimedia documents.

337 **Formalization:** Let  $M_x = c_1 \cup \dots \cup c_i \cup c_n; c_i \cap c_j = \emptyset (i \neq j)$ , where  $M_x$  denotes original data,  $c_i, c_j$  are  
 338 clusters of  $M_x$  and  $n$  is the number of clusters.

339 **Instantiation:** We performed the agglomerative clustering on all the semantic vectors of multimedia  
 340 document summaries. Similarly, agglomerative clustering is chosen for provided flexibility creation  
 341 process of clusters using a cut-off criteria. This process groups similar multimedia documents in various  
 342 buckets.

### 343 **Summarization**

344 **Definition:** We define summarization as a process of extracting the most representative words from the  
 345 bucket of multimedia documents.

346 **Formalization:** Let  $\mathcal{J}$  be the set of clusters of  $M_x$  given as  $\mathcal{J} = \{c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots, c_n\}$ , where each cluster  
 347 contains a set of similar text  $t \in c = \{t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_n\}; t \in \mathcal{J}$ . Text summarizer  $\mathfrak{R}$  produces a set of words  
 348 sequence  $j$  from  $c \in \mathcal{J}$  representing the collection of text given in  $c$  as  $\mathfrak{R} = \{j_1, j_2, j_3, \dots, j_n\}$ . Similarly,  
 349 Let  $M_c$  be the multimedia document cluster, we formed  $M_c$  by mapping function  $M_c = \forall(\mathcal{J})\forall(\mathfrak{R})(f(\mathcal{J}) =$   
 350  $f(\mathfrak{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{J} = \mathfrak{R})$ , where  $\forall y \in Y, \exists j \in \mathfrak{R}, f(\mathfrak{R}) = Y$ .

351 **Instantiation:** We call each generated bucket of multimedia documents from the clustering process a  
 352 multimedia document group. To enhance sensemaking, instead of merely labeling a multimedia document  
 353 group by arranging them in taxonomic order, we perform summarization based on the multimedia  
 354 document summary. The summarization process is performed using extractive text summarization  
 355 technique. This extracts the most representing text inside the multimedia document group.

### 356 **Graph Instantiation**

357 Present search engines display the search results in a linear list and often ignores the relationship between  
 358 multimedia content. As a result, users have to navigate the results space and berry-pick the relevant  
 359 items of interest (7). This results in a non-linear searching pattern of a user in the exploration of  
 360 information (7). To overcome these challenges, we instantiated a non-linear graph augmenting the users'  
 361 non-linear exploratory information-seeking behavior while preserving the relationships ( $P_2$ ). This process  
 362 is sub-divided into three steps, as well.

363 **Vertices Creation**

364 **Definition:** We define vertex as an atomic data structure encapsulating the complete details of the  
365 representing entity.

366 **Formalization:** Let a graph  $G$  be a set of vertices  $V$  and edges  $E$ , given as  $G = (V, E)$  and vertices  $V$   
367 represent all the vertical snippets, multimedia documents and clusters given as  $V = \{S, M_d, M_c\}$ .

368 **Instantiation:** Firstly, we represented each multimedia document group, multimedia document, and  
369 multimedia snippet as a vertex. We associate with each vertex the metadata. It includes a text summary for  
370 the multimedia documents and multimedia documents. Similarly, metadata belonging to the multimedia  
371 snippet include their title, description, URI, date, and thumbnail (where available).

372 **Part-of Linking**

373 **Definition:** We define part-of linking as a process of establishing containment relationship between  
374 vertices.

375 **Formalization:** The edge ( $\delta$ ) between the  $S$  and  $M_d$  denotes the part-of relationship given as  $\delta :$   
376  $\forall x \in S, \exists d \in M_d, f(M_d) = S$ . Similarly, edge ( $\delta$ ) between the  $M_d$  and  $M_c$  denotes the part-of relationship  
377 given as  $\delta : \forall m \in M_d, \exists c \in M_c, f(M_c) = M_d$ .

378 **Instantiation:** Since a multimedia document is a part of some multimedia documents group, similarly, a  
379 multimedia snippet is a part of some multimedia document, the edges established between them represents  
380 the part-of (or containment) relationship.

381 **Similarity Linking**

382 **Definition:** We define similarity linking a process of establishing proximally similarity-based relation-  
383 ship between vertices.

384 **Formalization:** Edges ( $\delta$ ) among  $M_c$  denotes the similarity relationship based on Cartesian product of  
385  $M_c$  given as

$$\delta : \begin{cases} M_c \times M_c = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i+1}^n J(M_i^c, M_j^c), & \text{if } J > \theta \\ \emptyset, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

386 Similarly, edges ( $\delta$ ) among  $M_d$  in each  $M_c$  denotes the similarity relationship based on Cartesian  
387 product of  $M_d$  within  $M_c$  given as

$$\delta : \begin{cases} \sum_{k=1}^n M_k^c \forall M_d \in M_k^c : M_d \times M_d = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i+1}^n J(M_i^d, M_j^d), & \text{if } J > \theta \\ \emptyset, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

388 Where  $J$  is the Jaccard similarity defined as  $J(A, B) = \frac{|A \cap B|}{|A \cup B|}$  and  $\theta$  is the average similarity score of all  
389 the selected vertices pairs in the graph.

390 **Instantiation:** Exploratory search also involves navigation of proximally similar multimedia documents  
391 in the collection (50). It helps a user explore the environment to understand better how to exploit it,  
392 selectively seek and implicitly obtain cues about coming steps (50). Hence, we provide navigational links  
393 to proximally similar multimedia document groups and multimedia documents. These links are established  
394 on the Cartesian pairs of multimedia documents groups if there is a high proximal similarity between the  
395 source and destination vertices. The same procedure is performed for multimedia documents inside each  
396 multimedia document group. We chose the Jaccard similarity measure because it is computationally less  
397 expensive than other similarity techniques (42).

### 398 Semantic Lookup List

399 At present, the aggregation of the verticals on the major search engines is provided as partially-blended.  
400 The relationship between the multimedia snippets in those retrieved disjoint verticals is ignored (42). On  
401 the other hand, information lookup is an eminent component of information exploration and discovery,  
402 and linear lookup lists have proven to be effective in information lookup (55). To overcome this challenge  
403 of disjoint verticals relation-less aggregation of the verticals and provide ease in lookup searches, we  
404 introduce a semantic lookup list component that fully-blends the disjoint verticals semantics of the  
405 multimedia snippets ( $P_1$ ). This component is divided into two sub-components.

### 406 Similarity Calculation

407 **Definition:** We define similarity calculation a process of extracting numeric similarity score between  
408 pairs of text using a textual similarity measure.

409 **Formalization:** Let the  $E_x$  be the same set of sentence described previously, we also transformed user  
410 query  $Q$  as a sentence embedding  $Q_x$  represented by  $Q_x = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots, r_{768}\} : r \in (\mathbb{R})$ .

411 **Instantiation:** In this part, we transform the user query itself into the sentence embeddings. This  
412 transformation eliminates the data representation gap.

### 413 Re-Ranking

414 **Definition:** We define re-ranking as a process of arranging search results in descending order of query  
415 and search results embedding pairwise intra-similarity scores.

416 **Formalization:** We define  $SIM(Q_x, e)$  as cosine similarity function, calculating pairwise vectors simi-  
417 larity of  $Q_x$  and  $e$ , given as  $SIM(Q, e) = \frac{Q_x \cdot e}{\|Q_x\| \times \|e\|}$ , where  $L_s = \sum_{i=1}^N 0 \leq SIM(Q, e_i) \leq 1$ . Using similarity  
418 scores  $L_s$ , we define  $L_r$  the ranked linear search results list, sorted in descending order of similarity, given  
419 as  $L_r = \{l_i \leq l_{i+1} \leq l_{i+2} \leq \dots \leq l_N\}$ , where  $l \in S$  &  $N = |S|$ .

420 **Instantiation:** In lookup searches, the ordering of information is mandatory. The most relevant informa-  
421 tion must be present on the most top. The search engines return disjoint ranked verticals. To calculate the  
422 ranking order for snippets belonging to aggregated disjoint verticals, we perform a re-ranking operation on  
423 the pair-wise (query and each snippet embedding) obtained semantics using a cosine similarity measure.  
424 We use cosine similarity because our query and search results are in vector representation. We re-rank  
425 each multimedia snippet in their descending order of similarity, allowing the most relevant snippet to  
426 appear first on the linear list.

## 427 ARCHITECTURAL IMPLEMENTATION

428 We implemented our architecture in *Python3* programming language using publicly available libraries.  
429 Search results are retrieved using freely available APIs to fetch the verticals from a search engine in  
430 real-time. We used Google<sup>3</sup> search engine to retrieve the search results belonging to the web, news, image,  
431 and video verticals. We preserved the metadata associated with each snippet, such as the URL, title, date,  
432 length, description, and thumbnail, where available. For text summarization, we used *LexRank*<sup>6</sup> extractive  
433 text summarization algorithm. Semantic analysis is done using *SBERT*'s<sup>7</sup> sentence embedding on pre-  
434 optimized *bert - base - nli - mean - tokens*<sup>8</sup> pre-trained modal and agglomerative clustering using the  
435 ward's linkage method from the *sklearn*<sup>9</sup> python library to obtain the clusters. We used *Networkx*<sup>10</sup>  
436 python library to instantiate an undirected network to build the graph. Each node represented either a web  
437 snippet, multimedia document, or a multimedia document cluster. The snippet nodes attribute includes  
438 their metadata. The multimedia document and multimedia document cluster nodes attribute include their  
439 summarized text. Figure 4 shows the visualization of the instantiated graph generated from *Cytoscape*<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>6</sup><https://gist.github.com/rodricios/fee45381356c8fb36004>

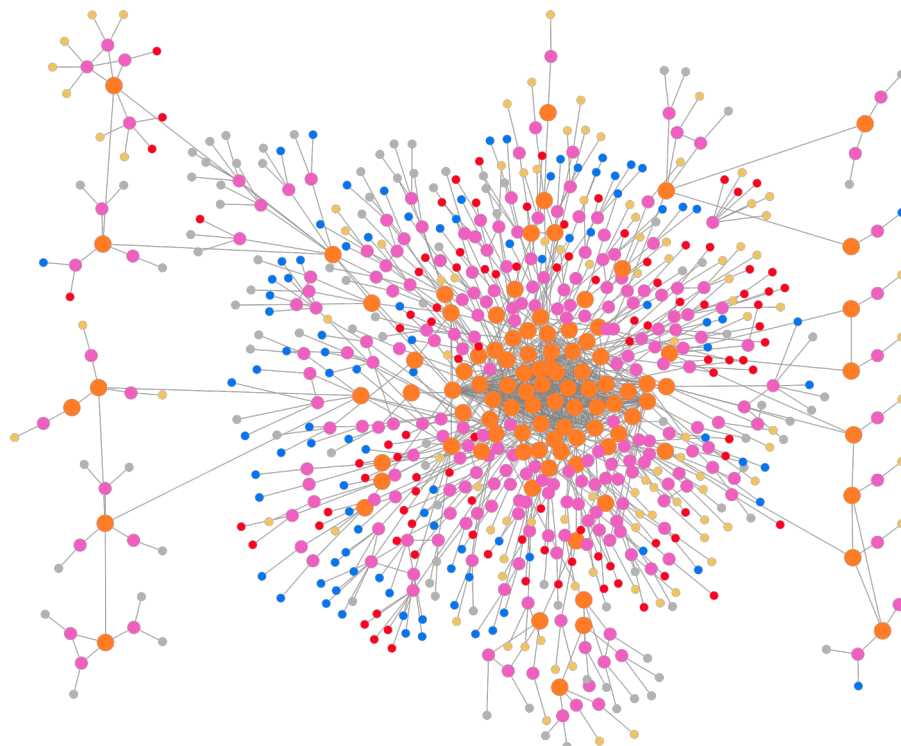
<sup>7</sup><https://pytorch.org/project/sentence-transformers/>

<sup>8</sup><https://github.com/UKPLab/sentence-transformers/blob/master/docs/pretrained-models/nli-models.md>

<sup>9</sup><https://scikit-learn.org/>

<sup>10</sup><https://networkx.github.io/>

<sup>11</sup><https://cytoscape.org/>



**Figure 4.** Visualization of the instantiated graph, the orange and pink color represents cluster and multimedia document respectively. The rest denotes snippets belonging to disjoint verticals.

## RESULTS

There is still no standard empirical evaluation measures for evaluating the aggregated search approach effectiveness (36). These approaches are mostly considered in terms of the achieved precision & recall (42) and judgment reports from the human experts (46). Calculating precision and recall in our case is a non-trivial task. It is mainly due to the nature of the data. Therefore, we used a real dataset with no prior labeling by human experts. Our empirical evaluation measures mostly depend on metrics requiring no initial labeling of data. We used internal clustering stability measures to evaluate the internal cluster model stability (59), and clustering accuracy based on the judgment of the human experts (45). We obtained accuracy and stability scores by dispatching pre-defined queries on Google's real dataset.

We collected queries from the recently published ORCAS (14) dataset consisting of 10 million distinct records. Selecting all queries in the dataset for evaluation purposes was not practical. Hence, we performed bi-gram and tri-gram query analysis on the ORCAS dataset. Afterward, we selected 25 queries from the top 100 most repeating bi-gram and tri-gram combinations. The average query length for this evaluation was set to 2.5 words. The chosen length was due to a recent study in (16) indicating average user query length between 2.44 and 2.67 words, which confirms that users' information needs are becoming exploratory. Since in exploratory search, user needs are ambiguous, and the primary objective is to gain an overview of the information. Users type short queries instead of well-articulated longer queries as in the lookup search scenarios (4). We selected queries covering broad aspects. Therefore, an average query length of 2.5 words was considered based on the average of 2.44 and 2.67 words.

### Internal Clustering Parameterizing

We used agglomerative clustering for the creation of multimedia documents and multimedia documents groups. We specified cut-off threshold criteria for the cluster creation process  $\theta$  to form the desired number of clusters. We chose  $\theta$  empirically by determining the best possible average mean value of internal cluster stability measures. We used a well-known Silhouette Coefficient (43), Calinski-Harabasz (12) and Davies-Bouldin (Davies) index to calculate internal cluster stability. We calculated the mean average



**Table 2.** Empirical multimedia documents grouping via clustering results

Experiment	Iteration	Optimal $\theta_2$	# of Clusters	Silhouette Coefficient	Calinski-Harabasz index	Davies-Bouldin Index
1	1	17	79	0.08	4.97	1.79
	2	19	5	0.05	3.15	2.00
	3	14	90	0.05	2.28	1.06
	4	17	54	0.05	2.66	1.47
	5	13	54	0.07	3.32	1.08
	Mean	16	56.4	0.06	3.28	1.48
2	1	17	76	0.04	2.83	1.81
	2	16	81	0.04	2.61	1.42
	3	15	113	0.05	2.51	1.21
	4	15	93	0.05	2.54	1.24
	5	16	97	0.06	2.73	1.28
	Mean	15.8	92	0.04	2.65	1.39
3	1	15	61	0.05	2.93	1.58
	2	16	106	0.06	2.57	1.33
	3	15	69	0.05	2.84	1.27
	4	15	77	0.04	2.69	1.24
	5	16	103	0.05	2.54	1.29
	Mean	15.4	83.2	0.05	2.71	1.34
4	1	16	82	0.06	2.63	1.39
	2	16	55	0.06	2.86	1.56
	3	16	85	0.04	2.64	1.43
	4	15	114	0.04	2.30	1.16
	5	15	78	0.05	2.58	1.18
	Mean	15.6	82.8	0.05	2.60	1.34
5	1	15	78	0.04	2.76	1.27
	2	16	50	0.05	3.01	1.62
	3	15	58	0.05	2.78	1.40
	4	14	60	0.06	3.01	1.13
	5	14	64	0.05	2.74	1.14
	Mean	14.8	62	0.05	2.86	1.31
Mean Average	15.52	75.28	0.05	2.82	1.37	

465 value of  $\theta_1$  by performing five experiments and taking their mean value to create multimedia documents,  
 466 as displayed in the table 2. Based on the obtained  $\theta_1$  threshold, we again repeated the same procedure  
 467 for multimedia documents clustering as displayed in table 3 to obtain  $\theta_2$ . Finally, we parameterized the  
 468 clustering model for multimedia documents and multimedia documents clusters based on empirically  
 469 obtained values, as displayed in table 4 and table 5 respectively.

### 470 Clustering Precision

471 Precision is referred to as a fraction of relevant retrieved out of total relevant results (42). In clustering,  
 472 precision is a fraction of relevant results out of total results inside a cluster. Precision is mostly calculated  
 473 by cross-matching obtained cluster results with correct labeled data. In a real dataset, the labeling of  
 474 data is unavailable. We logged the search results retrieved from the pre-defined queries during the  
 475 empirical internal clustering model parameterization process to overcome this challenge. These logged  
 476 search results were then presented to two human experts to label relevant and irrelevant search results  
 477 inside each cluster. The first human expert is a graduate in education and had no prior knowledge about  
 478 computing-related technical aspects. The second human expert is a graduate in computer science and  
 479 had substantial knowledge about computing technical aspects, including the concept of clustering. This  
 480 diversity in the background helps in obtaining unbiased validation of our clustering approach.

481 Table 6 show the results obtained from the human experts. We run a total of 25 experiments, divided  
 482 into 5 iterations. From each iteration, we obtained the mean results. Afterward, we took the mean average  
 483 of 5 iterations. This process was repeated for both; the multimedia documents and multimedia documents  
 484 groups. The results show no significant change in the relevancy judgment scores from both the novice  
 485 judge (99.53%) and the expert judge (99.13%) for multimedia documents. Similar results were achieved  
 486 for multimedia documents groups from the novice judge (99.80%) and expert judge (99.61%). There  
 487 is a moderate amount of agreement ( $\kappa = 0.474$ ) between the novice and expert judges for multimedia  
 488 documents. Similarly, there is a fair amount of agreement ( $\kappa = 0.398$ ) between the novice and expert  
 489 judges for multimedia documents.

**Table 3.** Empirical multimedia documents creation via clustering results

Experiment	Iteration	Optimal $\theta_1$	# of Clusters	Silhouette Coefficient	Calinski-Harabasz index	Davies-Bouldin Index
1	1	15	174	0.11	3.40	1.15
	2	9	200	0.15	5.88	0.88
	3	12	240	0.12	3.82	0.83
	4	14	148	0.11	3.59	0.98
	5	10	248	0.15	5.60	0.75
	Mean	12	202	0.13	4.46	0.92
2	1	14	209	0.10	3.39	0.97
	2	15	157	0.09	3.56	1.27
	3	15	160	0.11	3.36	1.28
	4	16	123	0.08	3.62	1.50
	5	13	255	0.15	4.08	0.74
	Mean	14.6	180.8	0.11	3.60	1.15
3	1	13	187	0.08	3.49	1.08
	2	15	180	0.10	3.36	1.11
	3	13	191	0.10	4.01	1.01
	4	16	102	0.09	4.51	1.59
	5	15	178	0.12	3.48	1.12
	Mean	14.4	167.6	0.10	3.77	1.18
4	1	14	190	0.12	3.94	1.01
	2	14	160	0.10	3.80	1.20
	3	14	205	0.09	3.06	1.06
	4	13	249	0.12	3.22	0.81
	5	13	186	0.17	4.47	0.88
	Mean	13.6	198	0.12	3.70	0.99
5	1	14	166	0.10	4.04	1.16
	2	13	192	0.09	3.85	1.00
	3	13	182	0.10	3.58	1.09
	4	12	204	0.10	4.06	0.96
	5	12	192	0.14	5.46	0.92
	Mean	12.8	187.2	0.11	4.20	1.03
Mean Average	13.48	187.12	0.11	3.95	1.06	

**Table 4.** Multimedia documents clustering model parameters

Parameters	Description	Value
n_clusters	# of clusters to find	None
affinity	Metric to compute linkage	Euclidean
distance_threshold	The linkage distance threshold for merging clusters	13.48
linkage	Distance method between set of observations	Ward

**Table 5.** Multimedia documents grouping clustering model parameters

Parameters	Description	Value
n_clusters	# of clusters to find	None
affinity	Metric to compute linkage	Euclidean
distance_threshold	The linkage distance threshold for merging clusters	15.52
linkage	Distance method between set of observations	Ward

**Table 6.** Clustering precision. Clusters precision for (1) Multimedia documents, (2) Multimedia documents groups, Relevancy scores by (a) Novice judge (b) Expert judge

Experiment	Iteration	Precision %age (1a)	Precision %age (1b)	Precision %age (2a)	Precision %age (2b)
1	1	100.00	100.00	100.00	92.00
	2	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	3	100.00	96.70	100.00	100.00
	4	96.60	88.00	100.00	100.00
	5	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Mean	99.32	96.94	100.00	98.40
2	1	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	2	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	3	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	4	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	5	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Mean	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
3	1	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	2	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	3	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	4	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	5	96.60	100.00	100.00	98.20
	Mean	99.32	100.00	100.00	99.64
4	1	98.10	100.00	98.20	100.00
	2	100.00	100.00	96.90	100.00
	3	96.90	96.90	100.00	100.00
	4	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	5	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Mean	99.00	99.38	99.02	100.00
5	1	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	2	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	3	100.00	96.60	100.00	100.00
	4	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	5	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Mean	100.00	99.32	100.00	100.00
Mean Average		99.53	99.13	99.80	99.61
Average			99.33		99.71
Cohen's Kappa			0.474		0.398

**Table 7.** Comparison of the proposed approach with state-of-the-art

Category	Parameter	Values	State-of-the-Art											Proposed Approach
			(25)	(44)	(55)	(18)	(33)	(28)	(37)	(42)	((57)	(62)	(24)	
Searching	Search Type	Full text	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+		+
		Fielded			+			+	+					
		Semantic			+			+	+					+
	Search Results Granularity	Federated Snippets	+		+		+	+	+		+	+		+
		Document		+	+	+							+	+
		Document Clusters												+
	Search Activity	Lookup								+			+	+
		Exploratory	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
		Discovery	+	+	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+
Information Source	Web	+				+					+	+	+	
	Repository	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	
	Real	+				+					+		+	
Data	Data Model	Linear		+	+	+						+	+	
		Non-linear	+		+			+	+	+		+	+	
		Part-of			+			+	+	+		+	+	
Data Relation	Similarity	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	
	Semantic			+		+	+						+	
	Textual	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	
Information Retrieval	Media Source	Multimedia	+						+	+	+		+	
		Monomodal		+	+	+	+	+				+	+	
	Retrieval Modal	Cross-Modal	+						+	+	+		+	

## COMPARISON & DISCUSSION

Our approach outperforms in terms of accuracy (99%) in comparison to the approach provided by Achsas et al. (89%) (2). It mainly can be due to variations in the data used for model training, choice of deep learning model, and parameterization process. We have performed rigorous and statistically significant empirical evaluation using average scores from human experts having diverse backgrounds and internal clustering stability measures. It presents as a baseline, and a promising start for future search results aggregation approaches.

Each research utilizes different techniques and mechanisms to provide information exploration and discovery. We have extracted the major parameters and their possible values for an in-depth comparison of our approach with existing state-of-the-art. To ease comprehension of these parameters, we have further categorized parameters according to their purpose, as displayed in the table 7. The provided functionalities are marked with the "+" symbol, whereas the missing functionalities are left blank.

Table 7 emphasizes the four significant aspects of discovery techniques. The first aspect is searching for search results, including search type, search results granularity, and searching activity. The second aspect concerns data management, including information sources, instantiation of data-modal, and assembling mechanism. Finally, the third aspect is concerned with technical information retrieval aspects of the discovery and exploratory approaches, including media sources and information retrieval modal.

The most crucial factor in information discovery is flexibility in representing the information to avoid information overload. Most of the existing research solely relies on filtering capabilities but lacks in providing appropriate granularity control of the search results (18). Our approach provides three-level granularity; snippets, multimedia documents, and multimedia documents clusters. The data-modals employed by the existing researches are mostly centered around a specific domain and specific data. They mainly include the scientific domain having millions of literature as a dataset. Approaches providing real datasets were also primarily concerned with integrating a few verticals such as web and image (25). To enable our approach to be generic and applicable to all the domains and datasets, we presently use only real datasets to observe our approach's integrity even in the most variate and uncertain data coming from the search engines in real-time.

Information exploration and discovery is a long, non-trivial, and non-linear journey. To foster non-linear navigation of the search results, existing literature mostly instantiated a graph data-modal using

Only 3 aspects are outlined below in the paragraph

519 either existing domain knowledge, such as ontologies (28; 37; 24), or using some generic similarity  
520 measures (42). Our approach uses domain-independent semantics and similarity measures to construct a  
521 non-linear graph to provide non-linear means of search results exploration and discovery.

522 Information management is also an essential factor in enabling information discovery and a compelling  
523 exploration of the search results. Numerous information management approaches organize and present the  
524 users' search results, increasing their cognitive abilities. These approaches include linear and non-linear  
525 browsing of information and summarization. However, previously, these were implemented as disjoint  
526 components, combined on a single interface (20). Our approach unifies all of the specific techniques  
527 and encapsulates it in a single component. With our generic information discovery architecture based on  
528 a strong theoretical background and promising empirical evaluation results, we hope to provide a new  
529 baseline for future researches on relational aggregated search and search engines alike.

## 530 CONCLUSION & FUTURE WORK

531 In this research, we proposed a generic discovery architecture using multimedia search engine results. A  
532 brief discussion on information exploration and theoretical discovery background was provided, and an  
533 architectural solution was formalized and instantiated. Before this work, the exploration and discovery  
534 of information on the web search engine were leveraged using traditional heuristics. We identified  
535 potential gaps and issues in the current general web search engine approach. To overcome these issues, we  
536 presented a new baseline using search results aggregation. Our approach was employed using state-of-the-  
537 art sentence embeddings. We bridged the gap between the abundant multimedia contents by encapsulating  
538 semantically multimedia artifacts in multimedia documents and summarizing them. Moreover, we eased  
539 the navigation problem in the search results space by grouping multimedia documents in semantically  
540 similar patches.

541 The proposed discovery architecture emphasizes all the aspects of the discovery, including information  
542 exploration and lookup. We supported information exploration by providing the nonlinear proximal  
543 navigation and exploration support through the instantiation of a complex graph and lookup searches  
544 through a semantically fully-blended ordered linear search results list. Finally, a comprehensive empirical  
545 evaluation was presented. The empirical evaluation out-performed previous aggregation approaches at all  
546 granularity levels of aggregation provided in this research. To the best of our knowledge, our approach is  
547 the first to be assessed comprehensively from the system and the user perspective on the dataset and the  
548 queries obtained from the user and the search engine, respectively, in real-time.

549 In the future, we look forward to providing a comprehensive usability perspective of architecture  
550 involving an even broader audience with extremely varied backgrounds and experiences with more focus  
551 on human aspects, including user interfaces. We have intentions to provide the adaptable clustering  
552 of multimedia documents by considering the users' diverse information need and information-seeking  
553 behavior. We are interested in exploiting various nonlinear data models in the enhanced discovery of  
554 aggregated multimedia based document search results in real-time scenarios.

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