Mediation in Collaborative Search

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What’s in a collaborative search system?

• Interfaces for exploration
  – Search
  – Browsing
  – Filtering
  – Etc.

• Tools that mediate communication
  – Explicit
  – Implicit (awareness)

• Tools that mediate collaborative retrieval
  – Combine input from multiple users
  – Produce output unique to collaboration
Can you spot the opportunity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Exploratory interfaces</th>
<th>Communication</th>
<th>Awareness</th>
<th>Algorithmic mediation</th>
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<td>OK</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Good</td>
<td>OK</td>
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<td>CIRLab</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In short...

• Many Systems facilitate communication and awareness

• Few systems support exploratory search
  – Facets, filtering, etc.

• Few systems support algorithmic mediation
  – Most treat search engine as an external service