

## **Focused Information Access**

**Borkur Sigurbjornsson**  
**University of Amsterdam**

Abstract:

State-of-the-art Internet search engines use a simple---yet powerful---interface. The user describes her information need by a few keywords and the search engine returns a list of documents that are likely to answer her information need. When the user is presented with a ranked list of relevant documents her search task is usually not over. The next step for her is to dive into the documents themselves in search for the precise piece of information she is looking for. When searching long documents this can be a tedious and time consuming task. The central question that I will address in this talk is: can we give the user a more focused type of access to the relevant information in this scenario?

I will talk about a focused retrieval system I developed as a part of my PhD thesis research. The system uses an XML element retrieval system to give focused access to the most relevant parts of relevant documents. I will discuss the system architecture, the design issues that needed to be addressed when implementing such a system and the result of evaluating the system in two interactive experiments.