

HCSNet 2008 Speed Paper submission
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Title: In-Browser Summarisation

Knowledge workers spend a significant portion of their time looking for information in documents – and are unsuccessful up to 50% of the time. Automatic Text Summarisation tools are a type of technology that could potentially aid such users find the information they are looking for. However, a summary is only particularly useful if it supports the underlying task of the user, which can be difficult to capture and represent.

To make summaries more responsive to user needs, a system must collect information about that need. One of the key observations in this work is that the content currently displayed in document browser (*the reading context*) is an approximate snapshot of the user's current interest and is easily obtainable. This reading context can be exploited to generate a summary of a linked document. Based on this observation, we have developed IBES, a contextually-aware text summarisation tool built into an internet browser (Firefox). It can be characterised as follows:

User Need: Tell me **more** about the sentence that I have just read with content from the *Linked* document.

Possible User Tasks: Justify/Dismiss the sentence just read; Learn more about proposition in the *Linking* sentence; Decide if the *Linked* document is worth reading.

Interaction: The user moves the mouse over the hyperlink. This sets the *Linking* sentence as the user focus. This user focus is passed to the summariser.

System Output: IBES pops up a window containing the summary of the linked document. This summary is created dynamically taking the user focus into account.

We are experimenting with a number of ways to use the reading context in order to find the appropriate sentences in the linked document.