

Maximizing the Value of Information Assets

Stanford University is recognized as one of the world's leading research and teaching institutions. Stanford's interdisciplinary approach to learning and discovery reaches across its schools, departments, independent laboratories, research centers, and institutes. At the core of the University's research efforts is the Stanford University Libraries and Academic Information Resources (SULAIR). SULAIR's mission is to develop and deliver resources, collections, and services in Stanford's libraries and academic technology units to support instruction and research.



The Challenge

SULAIR's collection, comprised of books, journals, scores, recordings and premium digital subscription content, numbers more than 8 million volumes and grows at a rate of about 110,000 volumes annually. The result is that Stanford has more data and information resources than ever before; but disparate user interfaces, reporting structures, and multiple points of access pose significant barriers to full utilization.

Michael Keller, Stanford's University Librarian and Director of Academic Information Resources, sought to simplify the delivery of SULAIR's resources in a way that would facilitate broader, deeper exploration of resources and stronger understanding of the materials.

The Solution

To address this challenge, SULAIR and Groxis formed an innovative partnership that resulted in the development of Stanford Grokker. Stanford Grokker provides every member of the Stanford community with a federated point of access to much of SULAIR's vast collection. Stanford Grokker is an information management and research tool that simultaneously retrieves information from multiple sources, analyzes each returned document, and presents results in a topically organized visual map or outline view. Grokker's concise visual presentation enables the user to discover the connections among data sources, explore previously underutilized resources, share results with others for collaborative learning, and come to a deeper understanding of the research topic.

The Benefits of Grokker

- Federated search gives users simultaneous access to multiple information sources and a single set of query results.
- Powerful filtering tools allow the researcher to quickly and efficiently explore and analyze results based on the content of each returned document or link.
- Working List enable researchers to save results across multiple searches.
- Document summaries and previews allow the researcher to quickly assess the content of returned documents and web links.

Grokker ESM

The Results

Phase I of Stanford Grokker launched on budget and on time for the start of the 2004– 2005 academic year. In the first semester, Stanford Grokker saw over 1,200 unique users, a number that grew to more than 2,600 the following semester. In Phase 2, Stanford Grokker was transitioned from the original downloadable desktop application to a web-based delivery system that included more features and information sources, as well as the inherent extensibility that comes with delivering solutions via the internet.

The image displays three screenshots of the Grokker ESM interface. The top screenshot shows a search results page for 'cancer' with 243 total results. It features a search bar, a 'Working List' on the left, and a central map view showing clusters of results from different sources like Google and MedLine. A callout bubble explains that federated search of internal data, premium subscription content, and the Web speeds access and maximizes the value of all information assets. Another callout notes that the working list allows users to cull the best results from across multiple queries. A third callout states that email, export, and posting functions enable 'on-the-fly' collaboration and knowledge sharing. The middle screenshot shows 'The Outline View' with a hierarchical list of results categorized by source and topic, such as 'Sex Factors (20)' and 'Cancer Mortality (37)'. A callout explains that intelligent clustering capabilities provide context and dimension to results from disparate sources. The bottom screenshot shows 'The Map View' with dynamic filters for date, source, and domain. A callout notes that dynamic filters help the user quickly discover data. A final callout states that typically organized visual results provide an efficient way to scan large sets of data.

Contact the Grokker Sales Team
800 YOU GROK
sales@groxis.com

www.grokker.com