A Pluggable Work-bench for Creating Interactive IR Interfaces

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Evaluating IR

- IR has benefited from sharing processes, software components, and evaluation methods
Evaluating IIR

• Interactive IR has benefited less from this approach
  – Most experiments use bespoke processes
  – Most experiments use bespoke interfaces
• Makes it harder to compare experiment results
• Makes it harder to replicate experiments
Sharing?

• What can be done about this?

• We propose an IIR evaluation work-bench that allows for the re-use and sharing of IIR UI components
Advantages

• Reduce the resource requirement for setting up IIR experiments
  – Only need to implement / adapt those components that are the focus of the experiment

• Improve the comparability of IIR experiments
  – Component reuse reduces the number of influences on the experiment results

• Improve the reproducibility of IIR experiments
  – Experiment-specific components can easily be shared and re-used in comparative studies
Does it work?

- CLEF CHiC Interactive Task UI
Does it work?

• TREC Session Track UI
Where next?

• Can be combined with an experiment support system that handles the acquisition of participant responses (will be presented at CLEF 2013)

• Use it in lots of different experiments
  – https://bitbucket.org/mhall/pyire
Questions!

• Would you use something the work-bench?
• What would you need to use it?

• Would there be interest in an IIR evaluation task for exploration interface?