The GRACE Project

GRid enabled seArch and Categorization Engine

http://www.grace-ist.org/

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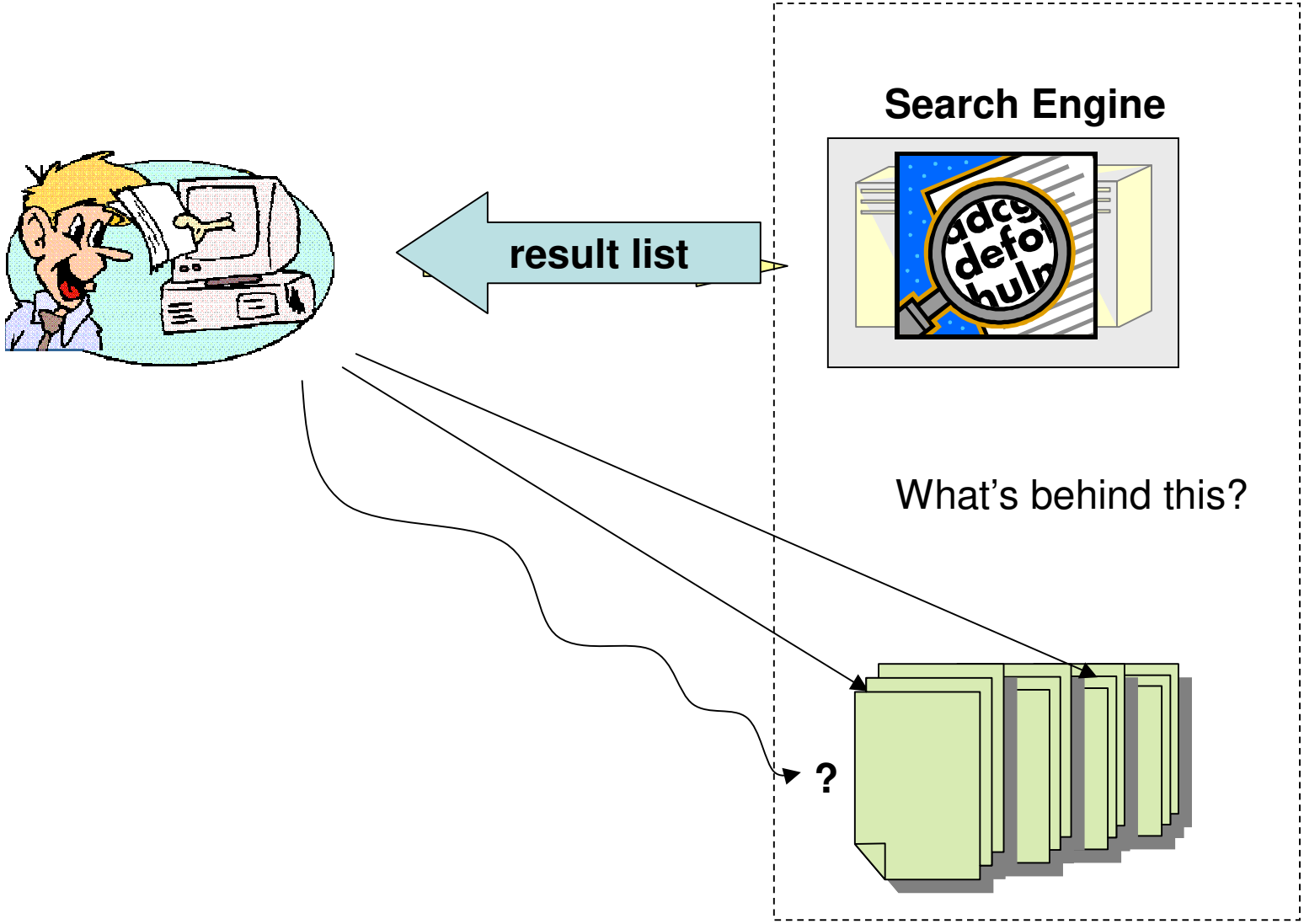
GRid enabled seArch and Categorization Engine

GRACE proposes the development of a distributed **search and categorization engine** that will enable just-in-time, flexible allocation of data and computational resources.

GRACE handles structured and unstructured **textual information** (text files, documents, Web pages, text stored in databases) in GRID environment.

Project's lifetime: September 2002-February 2005

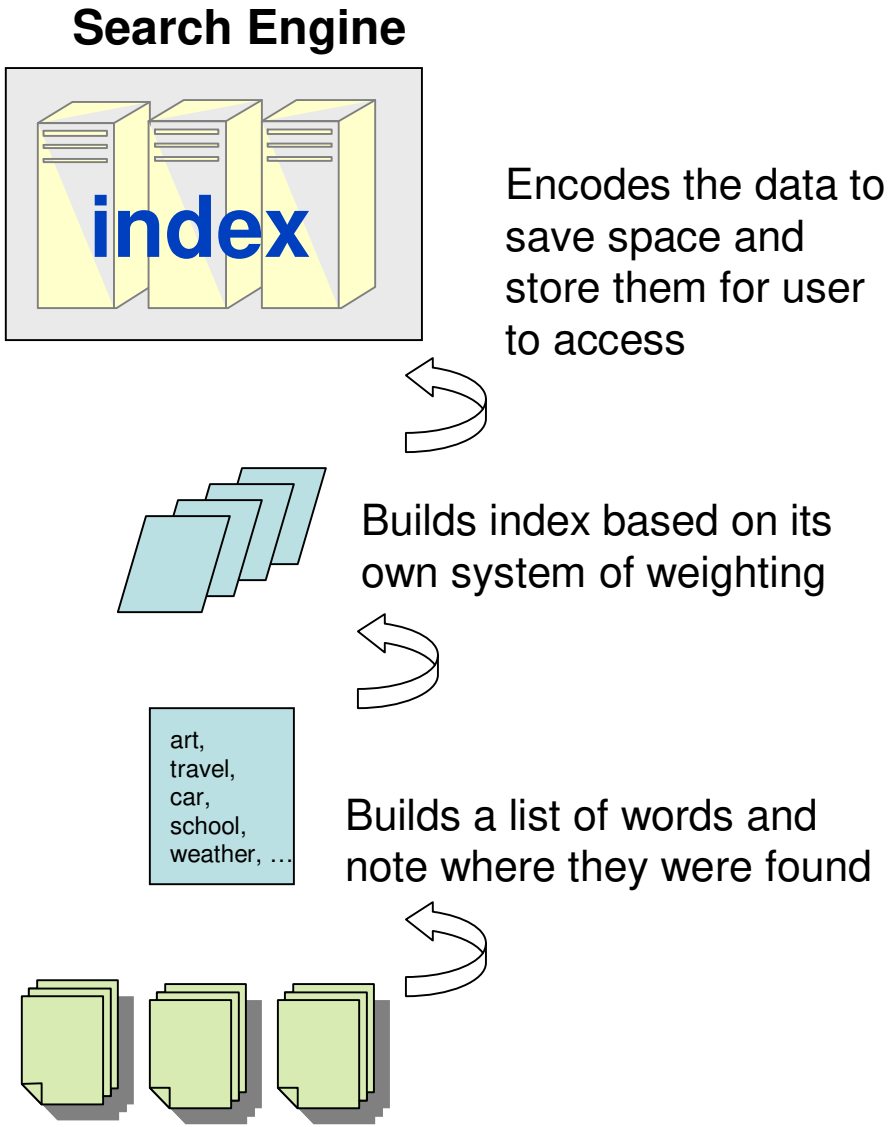
Why a Search Engine ?



What is behind the Search Engine interface?

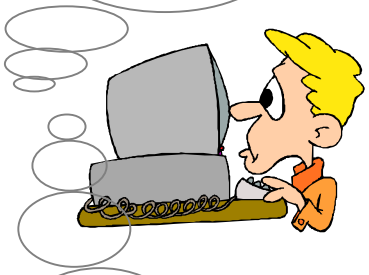
There are differences in the ways various search engines work, but they all perform three basic tasks:

- They periodically **search for information**.
- They **keep an index** of the words they find, and where they find them.
- They **allow users to look for words** or combinations of words found in that index.



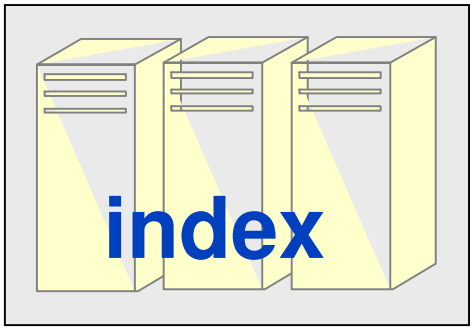
Which are the problems ?

Can search engine keep up with the expanding number of documents?

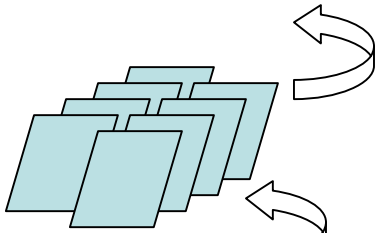


result list

Search Engine



Can search engine regularly update its databases to detect modified, deleted and relocated information?



art, travel, car, school, weather, …

art, travel, car, school, weather, …

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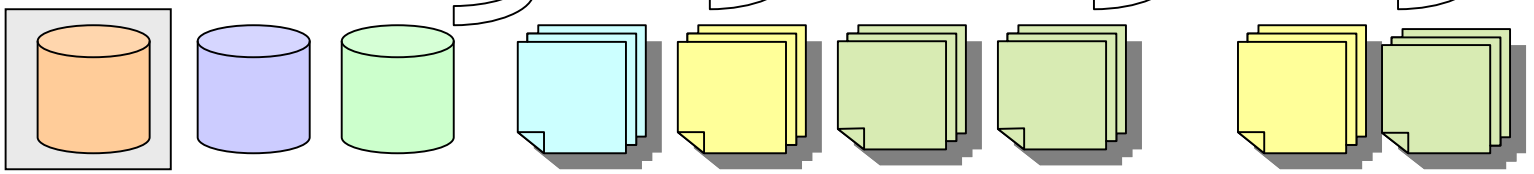
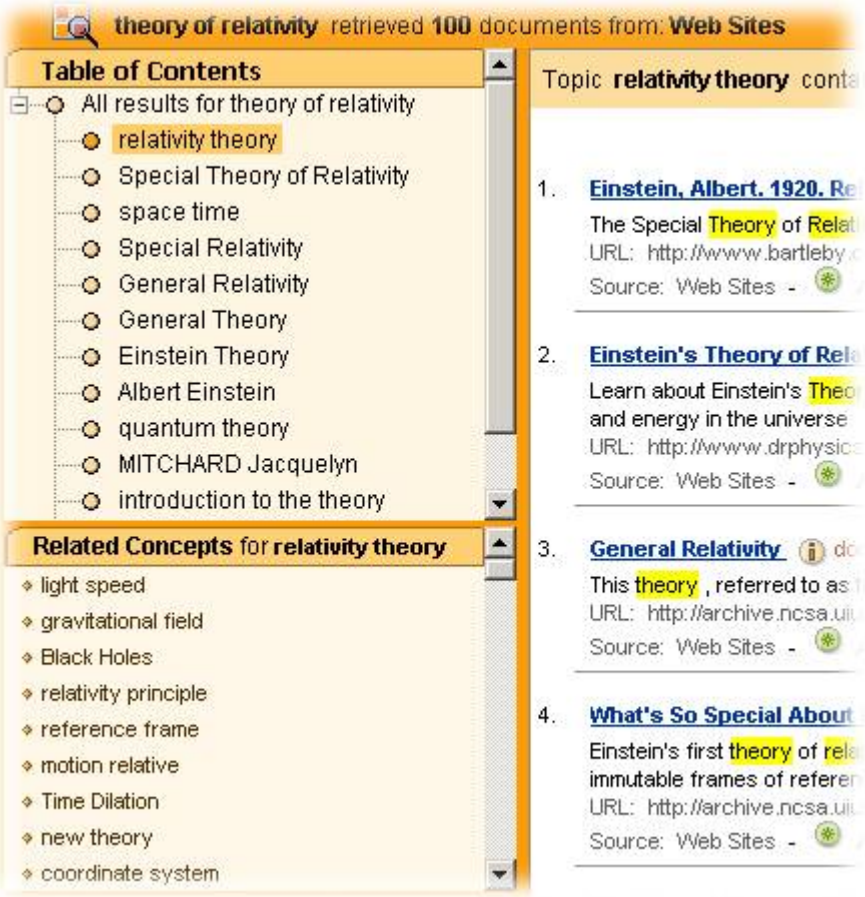


Project Objectives

GRACE specifically addresses the situations in which a centralized index is simply unfeasible, and a distributed search-and-retrieval is necessitated.

Centralised solution limitations	GRACE solution
Scalability: the amount of documents may overwhelm any centric search engine (limited by network bandwidth, disk storage, computational power)	**Decentralized Index and Processing:** documents are indexed locally in each Grid-node. The resulting index will be also stored locally and will allow querying on-demand from other nodes in the Grid
Frequency of Update: the rate of update cannot be too frequent, this may prove too slow for some content sources (dynamic data, "real time" information)	**Smaller indexes:** faster update
Access and integration: not all content sources are accessible to an external crawler (local search, authentication, heterogeneous databases…)	**Personalized Interfaces** according to user/organization profile, access rights, subscription, etc.
Accuracy: central indexing only approaches the least common denominator in documents, it cannot support accurate search	**Domain Specific Metadata Search:** greater accuracy

The Categorization Engine



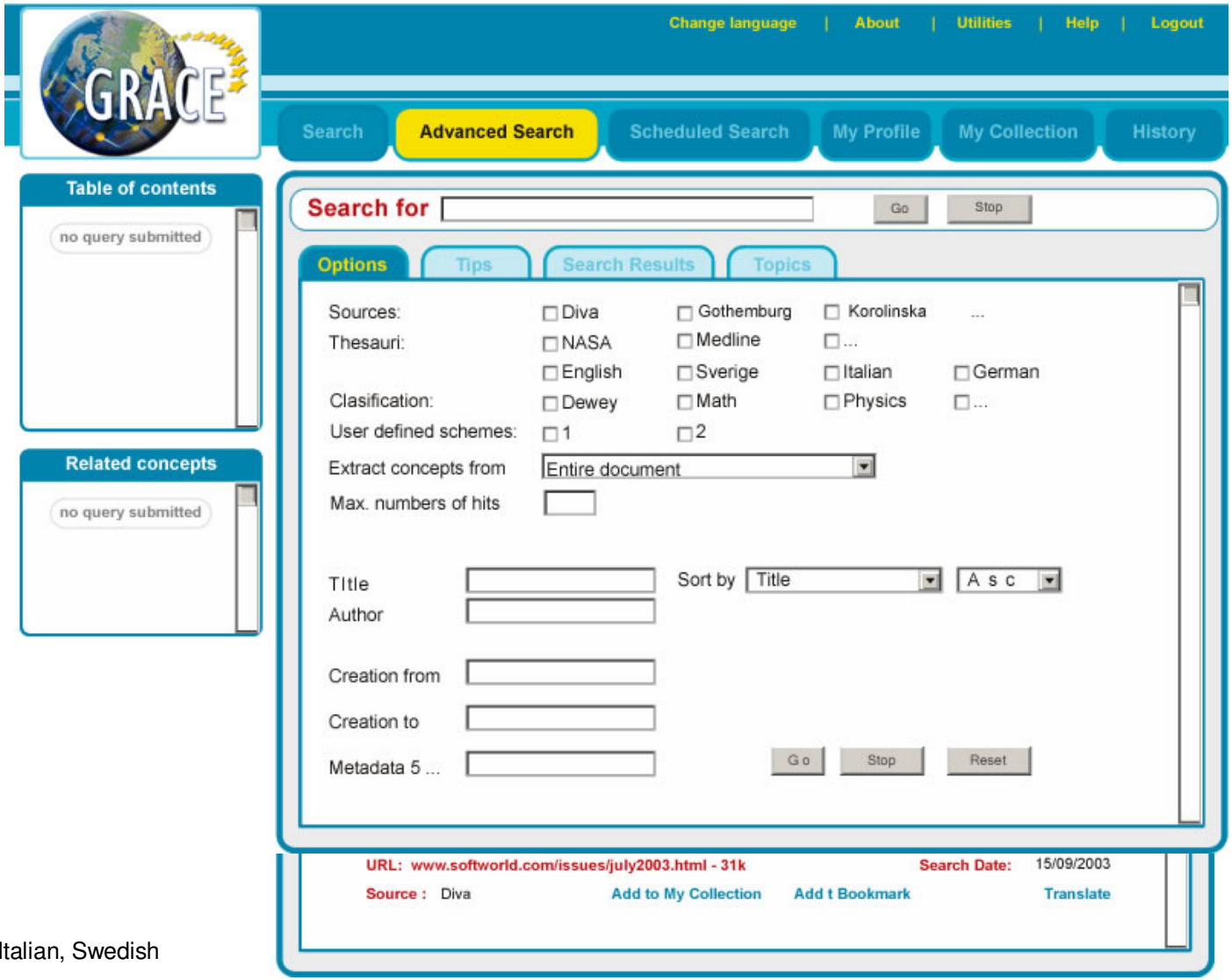
Virtual Self: http://www.vself.com/

- By analyzing all of the text in real-time, the Categorization Engine autonomously **infers the relevant key phrases** (idioms) in a document.
- Classes are built on-the-fly.
- The Categorization Engine **creates a "Real-Time" hierarchical Concept map** associate pages to each class, and orders them.

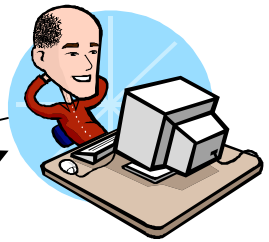
e.g.: Categories, automatically generated from an external search engine results for "theory of relativity".

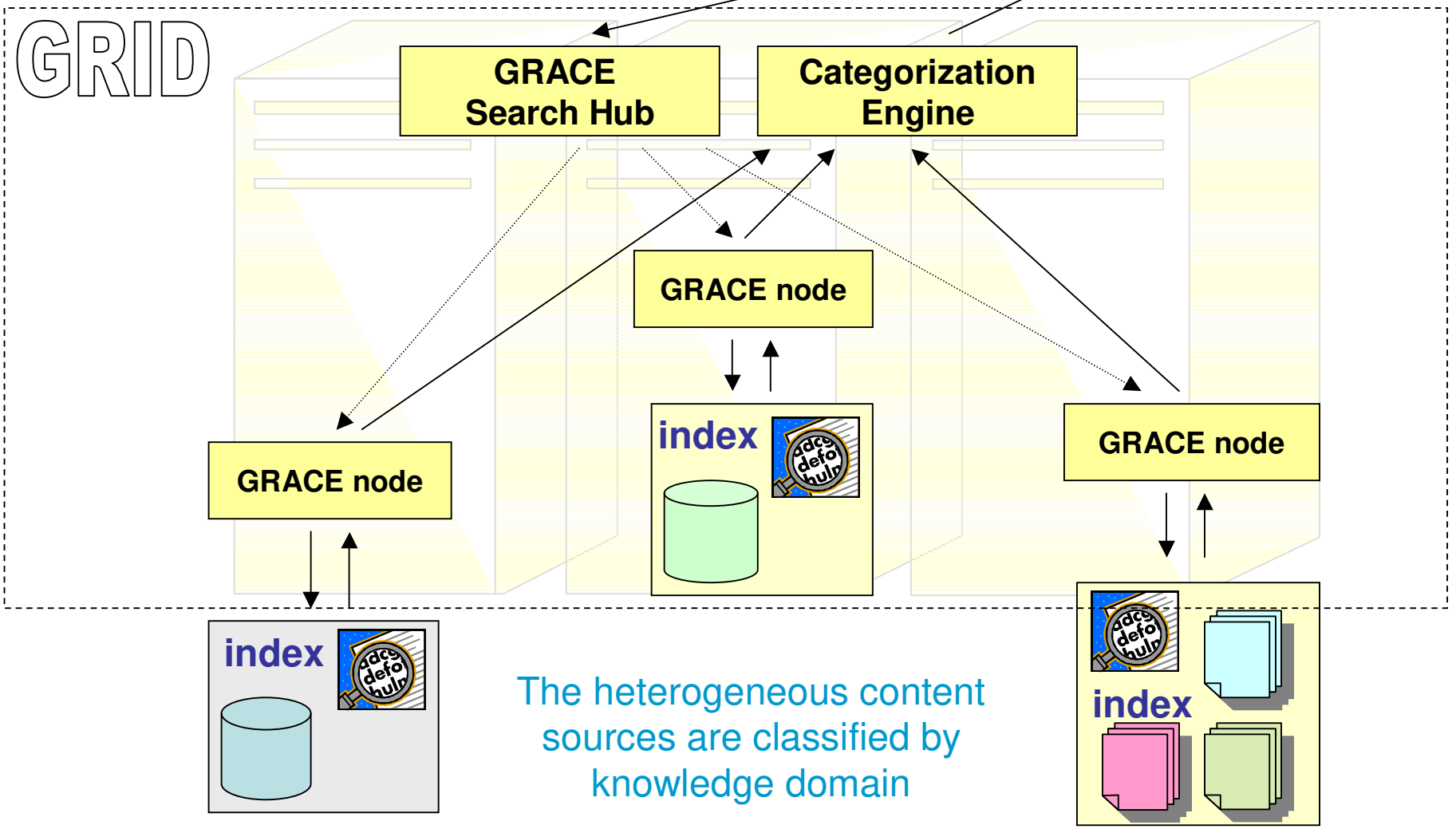
The User Interface

- API and Web interface
- Selection on Content Sources
- Thesauri-based categorization
- User defined classification schema
- Search limit
- Accurate research fields
- Personalization
- Search history
- Scheduled queries and alert
- "My Collection" of documents
- Interface support English, German, Italian, Swedish

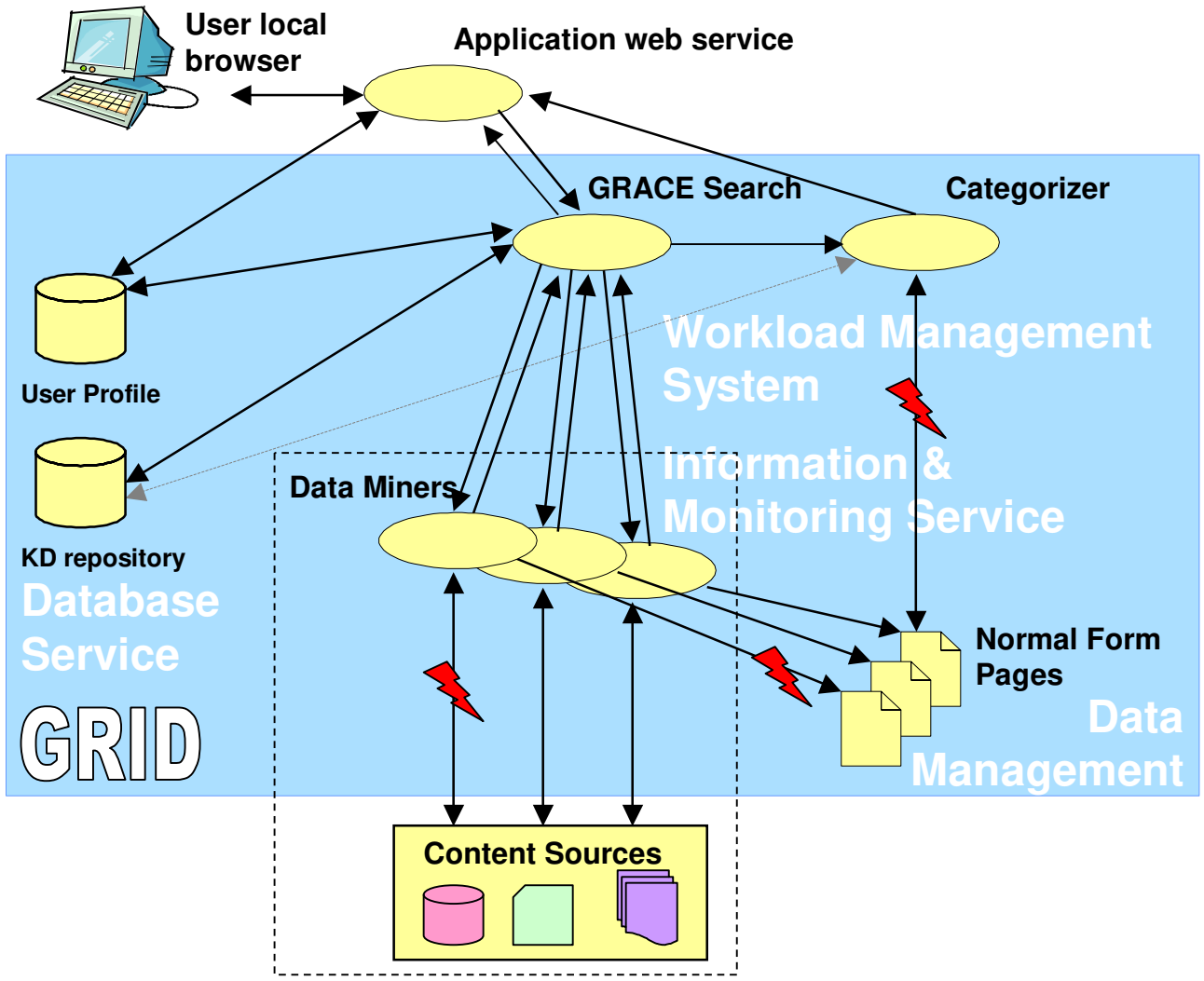


GRACE Architecture





GRACE Architecture



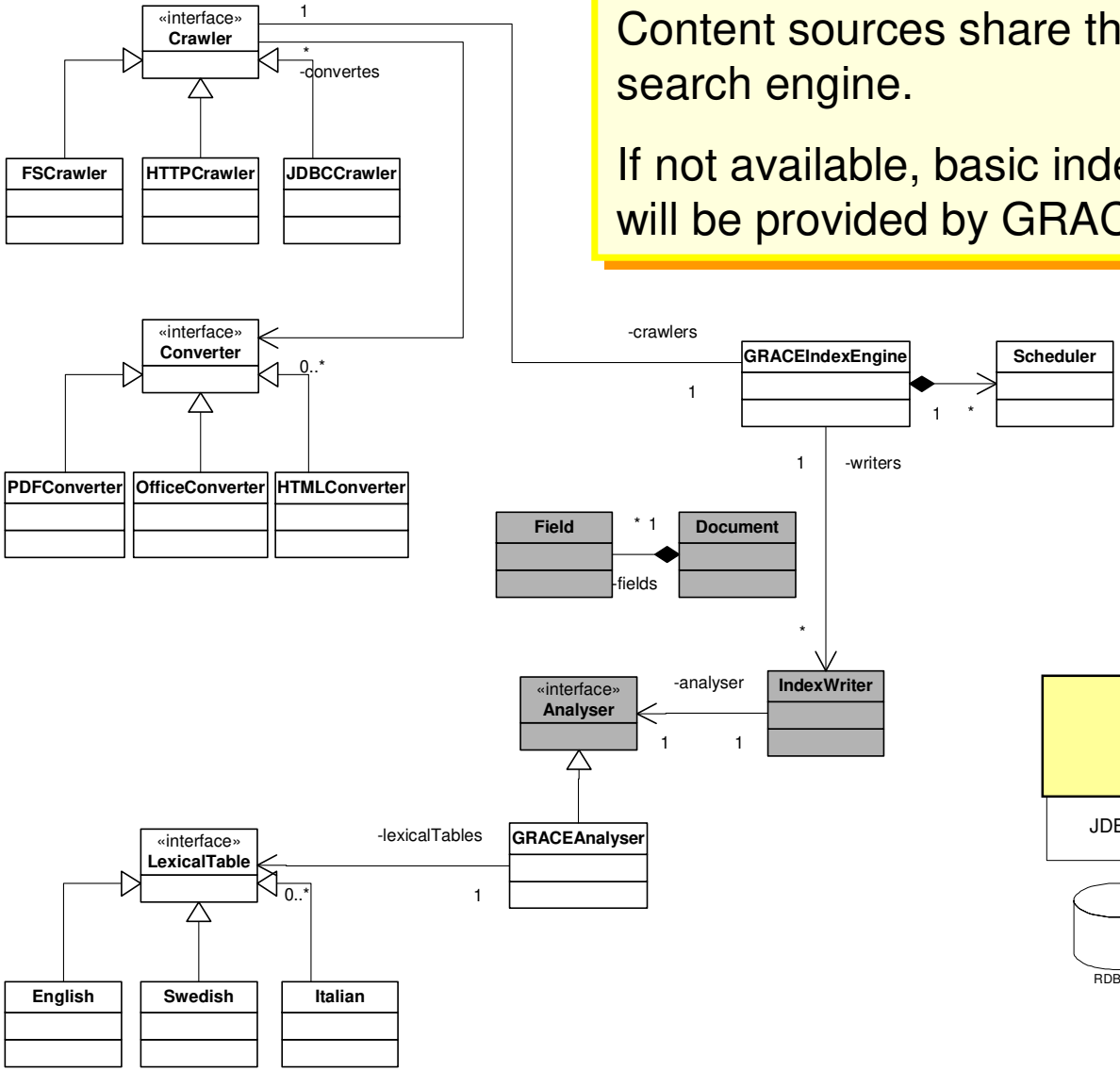
Login: get user settings/preferences
Query: start a search
Look for relevant Content Source
Start the Categorization Process
Get KD information: thesauri,…
Start the Data Miners
Query the Content Sources
Send the result list
NFPs preparation
Save search history information
Send back the result list
Run categorization and integration
Send concept map of the results
Send categorized list of results
File transfer

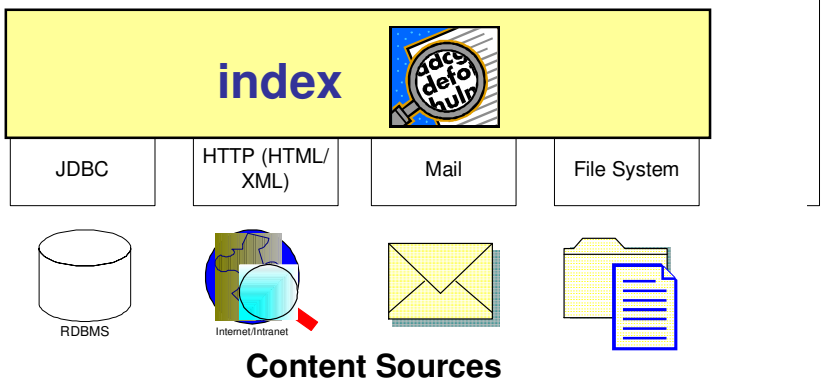
Content Sources integration

Content sources share their contents through the local search engine.

If not available, basic indexing & searching capabilities will be provided by GRACE.

The solution provided is based on Jakarta Lucene open-source project.



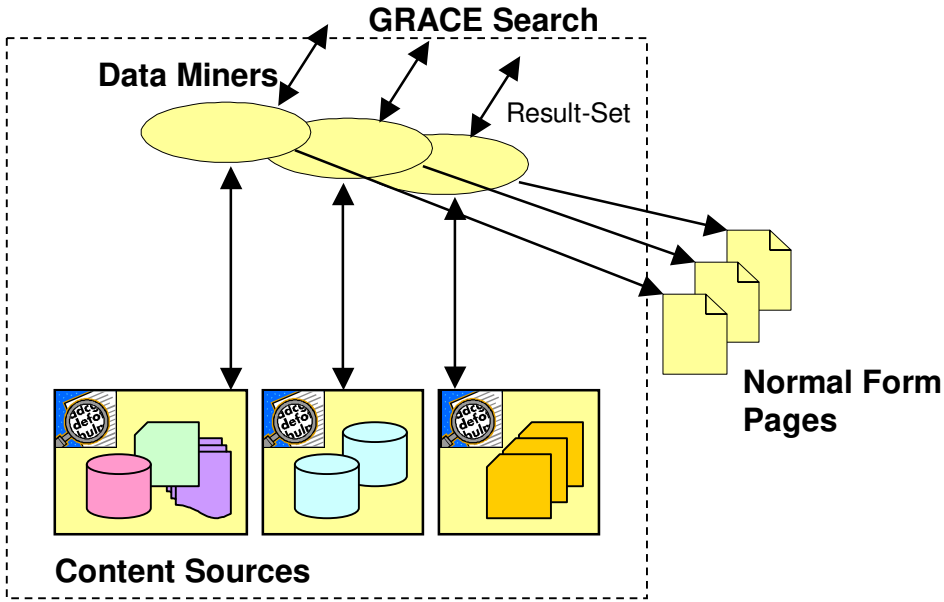


The Data Miner

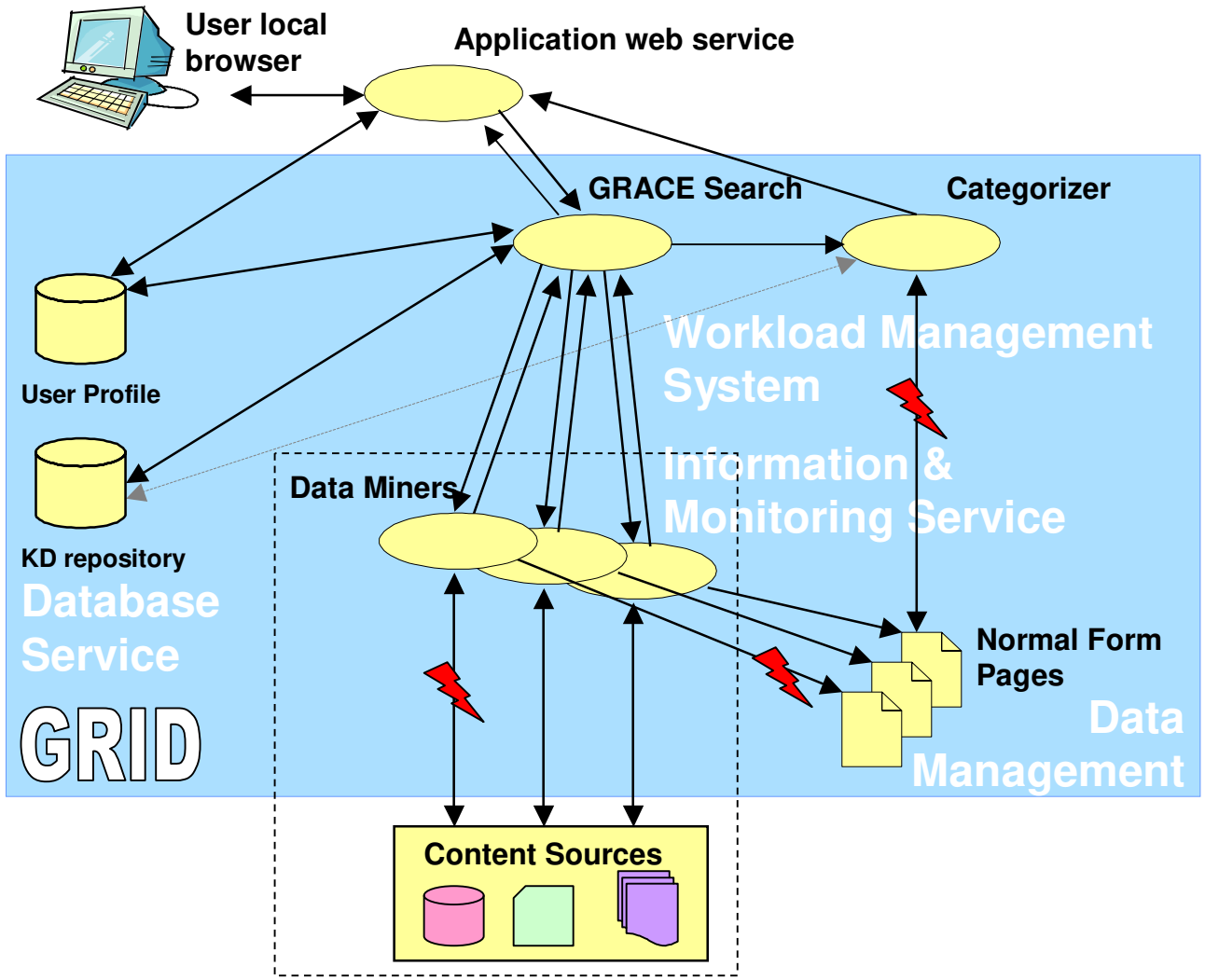
This component query a single content source, returning the source's **flat result** list as well as the documents in **digested form** for the categorization engine. It's main components are:

SEAL: The Search Engine Abstraction Layer sits on-top of any query-supporting module and translates the user query in API calls. Its output is a list of results. (Result-Set). Each result must contain a reference to the original document and a reference to the matching NFP file.

Document Processor: it processes the input documents (from the result list) and their meta-data. The output for each document is called NFP (Normal Form Page), which includes the digested document data, ready for the categorization algorithm.



Conclusions



Project activities:

- User Requirements
- General Architecture
- Local Search Engine
- Multilingual abilities
- User Interface
- **Development testbed installation (Turin&Milan)**
- Integration on Grid middleware
- Testing of the components
- Finalization of the GRACE toolkit and testing
- Installation and testing on an extended testbed
- Final Validation and Evaluation

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