Glossary of Selected Terms

**bottom**  See universal context.

**context**  An environment within which information can be **interpreted**. The same information may have different **interpretations** in different contexts.

**context path**  A path between two **interpretations** of documents in **context**.

**context resolution**  Determining if two document **interpretations** share a common **context**, other than the context **bottom**.

**context session**  A record of the **interpretations** that a user has visited, without changing **context**. A **context switch** or a hyperleap to an interpretation of a document signify the end of a context session.

**context sphere**  A partition of hyperspace, rooted by an **interpretation** of a document in **context**, which contains interpretations of documents reachable by following context paths from the root interpretation of the context sphere. The dimensions of the context sphere are determined by specifying the maximal **contextual distance** from the root interpretation.

**context switch**  A user action which changes the **context** in which a document is **interpreted**. A context switch signifies the end of a **context session**.

**contextual distance**  The number of nodes separating two **interpretations**.

Contextual distance is greatest between two nodes that require a traversal through an interpretation of a document in the context **bottom**.

**contextual relevance**  An **interpretation** is contextually relevant if it is relevant to a user query and it exists within the **context sphere** that is rooted by the **interpretation** of a document that the user is currently visiting.

**dynamic link**  See **link**.

**hyperlink**  See **link**.

**in-link**  See **link**.

**interpretation, interpreted**  A description of a document in **context**. When a document is accessed in context it is interpreted.

**label**  A non-zero weighted term which contributes to the description of an **interpretation**.
link  A traversable connection between nodes in hyperspace. A link connects a source node and a destination node. The same link is an out-link from the source node and an in-link to the destination node. A link is static if the destination node is pre-determined and fixed. If the link specifies a method for computing the destination of the link when the link is traversed, then the link is said to be dynamic. If the result of the computation of a dynamic link results in more than one possible destination, then the link is multi-headed or multiway.

multi-headed, multiway links  A out-link with more than one possible destination.

out-link  See link.

salient interpretation  An estimation of a user's interests in a document, derived from all interpretations of that document.

superficial relevance  A node is superficially relevant if it is relevant to a user query and which exists outside the context sphere that is rooted by the interpretation of a document that the user is currently visiting.

universal context  The context in which a document is interpreted if the document context cannot be determined.

universal interpretation  The interpretation of a document in the context bottom.