

Guest Lecture

Monday 7th of June, 2010, at 10 am.

TUAS-building, lecture room AS1.

**Prof. Ray R. Larson
University of California, Berkeley,
School of Information**

**GIR and Location-Based Search:
Access to Geo-Referenced Information Resources**

Geographic Information Retrieval (GIR) is concerned with retrieving relevant information resources in response to queries with geographic constraints. With the growing availability of GIS on mobile devices ranging from mobile phones to cameras, location-based search has rapidly become an important and required element of mobile devices. Most location based GIR has been for commercial purposes (such as finding nearby restaurants). We would suggest, however that location-based search can also contribute to historical studies, tourism, and general education.

Systems that provide searches using GIR methods, including geographic digital libraries, and location-aware web search engines, are based on a collection of georeferenced information resources and methods to spatially search these resources with geographic location as part of their search specifications. In this talk we will explore these uses of GIR and location-based search.

Short Biography

Professor Ray R. Larson is a faculty member of the University of California, Berkeley, in the School of Information. Prof. Larson specializes in the design and performance evaluation of information access systems, and the evaluation of user interaction with those systems. His current research focuses on Geographic Information Retrieval, Cross-Language Information Retrieval and Structured (XML) retrieval using probabilistic methods. His background includes work as a programmer/analyst with the University of California Division of Library Automation (DLA) where he was involved in the design, development, and

performance evaluation of the UC public access online union catalog (MELVYL). His past and current research has concentrated on the design and evaluation of information retrieval systems, with an emphasis on digital libraries. Prof. Larson was the principal investigator for the "CHESHIRE Demonstration and Evaluation Project" sponsored by the US Dept. of Education, that developed a next-generation online catalog and full-text retrieval system. He was a co-principal investigator for the "Searching Unfamiliar Metadata Vocabularies" project sponsored by DARPA. Prof. Larson was also the principal investigator of the "Cross-Domain Resource Discovery: Integrated Discovery and Use of Textual, Numeric and Spatial Data" project sponsored by NSF as part of the International Digital Libraries program.

Prof. Larson was Co-PI along with Michael Buckland and Fredric C. Gey for the IMLS National Leadership grants "Seamless Searching of Numeric and Textual Resources", "Going Places in the Catalog: Improved Geographic Access" and most recently, "Support for the Learner: What, Where, When and Who". Prof. Larson is the PI on the recently awarded IMLS National Leadership grant "Bringing Lives to Light: Biography in Context." Prof. Larson also teaches courses on the design and evaluation of information systems, including IS202 "Information Organization and Retrieval", IS257 "Database Management", IS240 "Principles of Information Retrieval", and IS245 "Organization of Information in Collections".