DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

SERENDIPITY

A HYPERTEXT BROWSING/EDITING ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

The essential concepts of an approach to information management called hypertext is presented, using graph and set based models. The design and implementation of a hypertext environment called SERENDIPITY is presented.

SERENDIPITY is a hypertext machine that supports a non-linear mode of accessing blocks of text. An editor is provided for the creation of text. A node management facility will allows insertion, deletion and repositioning of nodes within a hierarchy. A browser will allow swift navigation from one node to another. SERENDIPITY will also provide an interactive query facility for conducting boolean searches within nodes.

Furthermore, a link management paradigm based on footnotes is also presented. This paradigm provides two benefits:

1. it simplifies the user interface; it is intuitive and easy to learn;

2. it simplifies the implementation of a hypertext machine, since it eliminates almost completely the reliance on cumbersome indexing facilities that usually form the underlying support for link management, no matter what type of user interface they may employ.

Index terms: Hypertext, Information Processing, Text Database