Dear Participants of NTCIR-6 CLIR Task

On Topic Files for NTCIR-6 Evaluation

CLIR Organizers

This document describes very important information for your submitting search results. Please read carefully.

1. Two stages of NTCIR-6 CLIR Task

Unlike previous NTCIR CLIR Tasks, the participants MUST submit twice their search runs.

- **Stage 1**: July/01/2006: topic release & Aug./01/2006: submission of search results
- **Stage 2**: Aug./01/2006 topic release & Sep./01/2006: submission of search results

It should be noted that Stage 2 is independent of Stage 1.

2. Outline of Stage 1

The **Stage 1** is a "usual" ad hoc retrieval task using our 2000-01 document collection. However, it should be noted that the topics for NTCIR-3 (50 topics for 1998-99 CJE collections and 30 topics for 1994 Korean collection) and NTCIR-4 (60 topics) are reused as topics for evaluation in this stage. We employed 1998-99 document collections for evaluations in NTCIR-3 and -4. Therefore, the reuse of such old topics would allow us to try a sort of cross-collection analysis by topic because two search results from different document sets (e.g., 1998-99 and 2000-01 CJ collections) will become available for a fixed single topic. Thus,

   - Document sets: 2000-01 collections

   - Topic sets: 140 topics used in NTCIR-3 and -4 Workshops

It should be noted that the participants need to obtain new topic files for NTCIR-6 evaluation. Please do NOT use old topic files that you have obtained before (you have to download the new topic files for NTCIR-6 from our WWW site).

3. Change of topic format

A new tag <ONUM> is added to each topic for recording the original number of the topic. For example,

```
<TOPIC>
<NUM>010</NUM>
<ONUM>NTCIR4-003</ONUM>
<SLANG>CH</SLANG>
<TLANG>EN</TLANG>
<TITLE>Embryonic Stem Cells</TITLE>
```

......

Also, topics originated from the NTCIR-3 test collection do NOT have <BACK>, <REL> and <TERM> subfields in their <NARR> field.

4. Selection of topics for evaluation after participants' submission of results

Unfortunately, our resource and time for relevance assessment are very limited. Therefore, we have a plan to select finally just 50 topics for official evaluation after the participants submit their search results. The selection method is as follows.

(1) We create a "shallow" pool for each topic by extracting only 10 top-ranked documents from every search result submitted to us.

(2) We examine the number of relevant documents in the shallow pool, and select topics having enough relevant documents.

5. **IMPORTANT**: What you CAN do and you CAN NOT do at Stage 1

We may be able to employ results of relevance assessments in NTCIR-3 and -4 to enhance performance of searches for 140 topics used in NTCIR-6, e.g., by extracting useful terms from know relevant documents included in 1998-99 or 1994 document collections. However, we would like to forbid such explicit usage of the relevance judgment information available from previous NTCIR test collections. For example, you are NOT allowed to:

(a) perform query expansion using the known relevant documents from previous NTCIR.

(b) optimize system parameters using the known relevant documents from previous NTCIR.

If you are interested in such search run (i.e., a kind of "routing"), please do it as post-submission analysis. Please do not include results from these types of run into your files that you will submit to the organizers by Aug./01/2006.

Query expansion that does NOT use the known relevant documents in any way, and any other methods that use the previous NTCIR collections as mere corpora are okay.

The purpose of setting these rules is to make the NTCIR-6 CLIR evaluation scientifically valid and meaningful. Please understand and respect them when you will run the experiments.

6. Design of Stage 2

We would like to provide information on Stage 2 for participants later.

** *Please feel free to ask us any questions. ***