



. Evaluation Approaches for Digital Libraries

Norbert Fuhr

Department of Computational and Cognitive Sciences

University of Duisburg-Essen Germany

norbert.fuhr@uni-due.de, www.is.inf.uni-due.de

Whereas there are established methods for other types of information systems like e.g. database or information retrieval systems, the evaluation of digital libraries (DL) still lacks such standards. In this talk, we give a survey over models for DL evaluation that can be regarded as frameworks for defining actual evaluation approaches. Saracevic & Covi distinguish between construct, context, criteria, measures and methods, and describes different levels of information context can be distinguished. For specifying criteria, the DELOS DL triptych model defines a simple DL component model distinguishing between information space, functionality and the user, and then defines usefulness, usability and performance as classes of criteria between each two of these components. Goncalves et al. classify criteria depending on the phase of the the information life cycle considered. These two models are integrated in the DL success model by Fox & Goncalves. The different concepts are illustrated by presenting some case studies.