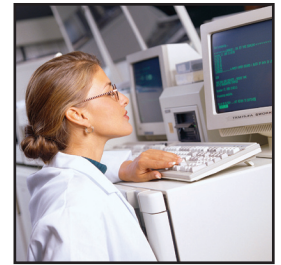
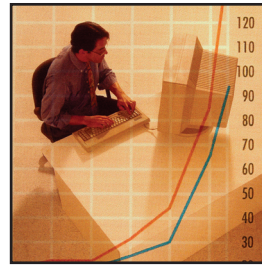




VIAS: A Pathway to Knowledge

...compiling continually updated, categorized information on dynamic topics




VIAS is an information-gathering tool that integrates data from multiple sources on specific topics into categorized databases. By continually crawling the Web and monitoring multiple sources, including mailing lists, USENET newsgroups, news feeds, and corporate intranets, VIAS provides continuous updates for those requiring detailed, up-to-the-minute information.

Applications

- **Competitive Intelligence:** Provides up-to-date information on target organizations and trends in Web site activity, recent news, etc.
- **Online and Distance Education:** Assembles information on any topic from a broad range of resources and keeps that information up-to-date
- **Scientific Research:** Allows scientists to assess the current state of scientific activity in any research area
- **Market Research:** Enables tracking of trends in many markets and access to information on virtually any organization
- **Detailed Analysis:** Enables drilling deeper into any Internet search once a standard search has yielded the broad outlines of desired results





*a*bout the technology

The Available Technology

The University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign is offering its VIAS technology for license by and/or joint development with commercial companies, universities, or government labs.

Going beyond simple archival of search results, VIAS autonomously keeps archives up-to-date and organized in ways that are conducive to data mining and intensive analysis.

VIAS is used in three phases. First, the scope of interest is defined and the system is seeded with potential information sources. Based on these initial conditions, VIAS initiates a search of the identified sources (e.g., the Web, newsgroups, mailing lists, etc.) and archives all appropriate information into a common database in a neutral format. This allows all of the data to be treated similarly.

The database is then subjected to a series of powerful algorithms that extract metadata. These algorithms, for example, can produce automatic document summaries or extract people and/or company names, bibliographic references, etc. All of the metadata is stored with the document record.

Finally, users can retrieve results in real time by querying the database using any Web browser.

VIAS benefits

In addition to producing a rich source of targeted information, VIAS offers the following benefits:

- **More focused results:** VIAS incorporates powerful algorithms that extract and separate very specific types of information within the database, producing more useful, focused results than conventional search tools.
- **Easy integration:** VIAS is available as an applications program interface (API), allowing users to easily interact with other application platforms.
- **Faster and more personalized:** Because VIAS lets users determine their own ranking criteria, the desired information is found more quickly and can save significant research time.
- **Constant updates:** VIAS ceaselessly crawls the Web and monitors identified information sources.
- **More versatile:** In addition to VIAS' ability to integrate information from a wide range of Internet sources such as the Web, newsgroups, mailing lists, news feeds, and corporate intranets, it also can be used via its API to integrate with other database program technologies.
- **Increased efficiency:** With both browser-based and its API capabilities, VIAS maximizes time management, freeing the user from the need to switch applications, manually consolidate information, or learn new tools.

*f*or information

For more information about this technology (T99018) please contact:

John McEntire
(217) 333-3715
Jmcentir@uiuc.edu

<http://www.otm.uiuc.edu>