

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. One or more ~~computer-readable media~~memory devices having computer-executable instructions embodied thereon that, when executed, perform a method for providing a user interface for exploring facets relevant to a user search query term, wherein a state of the user search query is maintained, the method comprising:

receiving at least one search query term from a user;

sending the at least one search query term to a back-end server;

receiving ~~at least one~~ relevant facets for the at least one search query term, wherein each of the ~~at least one~~ relevant facets categorizes a set of topics relevant to the at least one search query term and allows the user to refine the one or more search query terms;

displaying ~~at least one of~~ the relevant facets for the at least one search query term;

receiving a selection of ~~at least one~~ of the relevant facets;

sending the selected ~~ion of at least one of the~~ relevant facets to the ~~back-~~end server;

receiving a set of search results ~~for~~ based on the at least one search query term and the ~~at least one~~ selected relevant facet input as a refinement query, wherein the refinement query is executed to generate the set of search results; ~~and~~

displaying: ~~a set of search results for the at least one search query term and the at least one selected facet.~~

(1) the relevant facets for the at least one search query term, wherein the relevant facets are generated by the back-end server using the at least one search query term recalled by the back-end server; and

(2) the received set of search results.

2. The method of Claim 1, the method further comprising storing the at least one search query term in a database ~~receiving and displaying a set of search results for the at least one search query term with the at least one relevant facets.~~

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~method further comprising displaying at least one static~~ relevant facets are displayed in a web browser, ~~wherein the static facet allows the user to refine the at least one search query term.~~

4. The method of Claim 1, the method further comprising receiving and displaying a set of search results for the at least one search query term with the relevant facets.

5 5. The method of Claim 1, the method further comprising displaying at least one static facet, wherein the static facet allows the user to refine the at least one search query term.

10 6. The method of Claim 1, the method further comprising providing a user search query prompt.

74. One or more ~~computer-readable media~~ memory devices having computer-executable instructions embodied thereon that, when executed, perform a method for, providing a user interface for exploring facets and sub facets relevant to a user-generated query, wherein a state of the user-generated query is maintained, the method comprising:

receiving at least one search query term from a user;

sending the at least one search query term to a back-end server;

receiving ~~at least one~~ relevant facets for the at least one search query term, wherein ~~the at least one~~ each of the relevant facets categorizes a set of topics relevant to the at least one search query term and allows the user to refine the one or more search query terms;

displaying ~~at least one of~~ the relevant facets for the at least one search query term;

receiving a selection of ~~at least one~~ of the relevant facets;

~~transmitting~~ sending the selected ~~ion of the at least one~~ relevant facet to ~~the~~ a back end server;

receiving ~~at least one~~-sub facets for the at least one search query term and the ~~at least one~~-selected relevant facet, wherein ~~each of the~~ ~~the at least one~~-sub facets categorizes a set of sub topics relevant to the at least one search query term and the selected relevant facet and allows the user to further refine the one or more search query terms;

displaying the ~~at least one~~-sub facets and the ~~at least one~~-relevant facets for the at least one search query term;

receiving a selection of ~~at least~~ one of the sub facets;

sending the selected sub facet to the back-end server;

receiving a set of search results based on ~~for~~ the at least one search query term, the selected ~~sub~~-relevant facet, and the selected sub facet input, as a refinement query, wherein the refinement query is executed to generate the set of search results; and

displaying: ~~a set of search results for the at least one selected sub facet and the at least one selected facet and the at least one search query term.~~

(1) the relevant facets for the at least one search query term, wherein the relevant facets are generated by the back-end server using the at least one search query term recalled by the back-end server;

(2) the sub facets for the at least one search query term and the at least one search query, wherein the relevant facets are generated by the back-end server using the at least one search query term and the relevant facet recalled by the back-end server; and

(3) the received set of search results.

85. The method of Claim 74, the method further comprising storing the at least one ~~facet~~-search query term in a database.

9. The method of Claim 8, the method further comprising storing the selected relevant in a database.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein the sub facets and the relevant facets are displayed in a web browser.

11~~6~~. The method of Claim 7~~4~~, the method further comprising receiving and displaying a set of search results for the at least one search query term with the at least one relevant facets.

12~~7~~. The method of Claim 7~~4~~, the method further comprising displaying at least one static facet, wherein the static facet allows the user to refine the at least one search query term.

13~~8~~. A computerized system for providing a user interface for exploring facets relevant to a user search query, wherein a state of the user search query is maintained, the system comprising:

a back-end server configured for:

generating ~~at least one~~ relevant facets for at least one search query term received from a user, wherein the facet categorizes a set of topics relevant to the at least one search query term;

generating relevant facets for at least one search query term using the at least one search query term recalled by a front-end engine;

generating a set of search results based on ~~for at least one selected facet and~~ the at least one search query term and a selected relevant facet input as a refinement query, wherein the refinement query is executed to generate the set of search results; and

~~the~~ front-end engine configured for:

receiving relevant facets for the at least one search query term;

sending the at least one ~~a user-generated~~ search query term and the selected relevant facet to the back end server;

receiving the set of search results based on the at least one search query term and the selected relevant facet input as the refinement query, wherein the refinement query is executed to generate the set of search results;

maintaining the relevant facets for the at least one search query term, wherein the relevant facets are generated by the back-end server using the at least one search query term recalled by the front-end engine;

displaying:

(1) the relevant facets maintained for the at least one search query term; and

(2) the received set of search results.

~~displaying the at least one relevant facet for the at least one search query term;~~

~~receiving the user selection of at least one relevant facet for refining the at least one search query term;~~

~~displaying the set of results for at least one selected facet and the at least one search query term.~~

149. The system of Claim 138, the system further comprising a database configured for storing the at least one search query term.

1510. The system of Claim 138,

the front-end engine further configured for:

receiving a set of search results for the at least one search query term with the ~~at least one~~ relevant facets from the back end server; and

~~further~~ displaying the set of search results for the at least one search query term with the ~~at least one~~ relevant facets.

1611. The system of Claim 138, the front end engine further configured for sending the ~~at least one search query term with the at least one~~ selected relevant facet to the back-end server.

17. The system of Claim 13, the back-end server further configured for:

generating sub facets for the at least one search query term and the selected relevant facet, wherein each of the sub facets categorizes a set of sub topics relevant to the at least one search query term and the selected

relevant facet and allows the user to further refine the one or more search query terms; and

generating sub facets for the at least one search query term and the at least one search query, and wherein the relevant facets are generated by the back-end server using the at least one search query term and the relevant facet recalled by the front-end engine; and

generating a set of search results based on the at least one search query term, the selected relevant facet, and a selected sub facet input as a sub facet refinement query, wherein the sub facet refinement query is executed to generate the set of search results.

18. The system of Claim 14, the front-end engine configured for: receiving the sub facets for the at least one search query term and the selected relevant facet;

sending the at least one search query term, the selected relevant facet, and the selected sub facet to the back end server;

receiving a set of search results based on the at least one search query term, the selected relevant facet, and the selected sub facet input as a sub facet refinement query, wherein the refinement query is executed to generate the set of search results; and

displaying:

(1) the relevant facets for the at least one search query term, wherein the relevant facets are generated by the back-end server using the at least one search query term recalled by the front-end server;

(2) the sub facets for the at least one search query term and the at least one search query, and wherein the relevant facets are generated by the back-end server using the at least one search query term and the relevant facet recalled by the front-end server.

~~12. The system of Claim 8, wherein the set of results comprises a set of search results.~~

~~13. The system of Claim 8, wherein the set of results comprises at least one sub facet, wherein the at least one sub facet categorizes a set of sub topics relevant to the selected facet and allows the user to further refine the one or more search query terms and the front end engine is further configured to receive the selection of at least one sub facet and display a set of search results for the at least one sub facet and the at least one facet and the at least one search query terms.~~

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the front end engine further comprises a web browser.

15. The system of Claim 13, the front end engine further configured for displaying at least one static facet, wherein the static facet allows the user to refine the at least one search query term.