How the ContextVisualiser Works

A usage scenario here is that a user is searching “stories” regarding to “musician” on the IFACCA website (http://www.ifacca.org/). The web site contains a number of articles and reports about art conferences and news.

Figure 1 shows the main topic term input interface that a user firstly face to.

![Figure 1 Asking for a Main Topic Term](#)

Then the system retrieves the segments that could be potentially sequenced. They are arranged in a two-dimensional space. The circled segment in Figure 2 (labelled "right0" with the red background) is a segment containing the search term "musician". This segment is the first segment of possible sequences. The content of this segment is shown in the text area on the right side of Figure 2.

The segments connected with the first segment with lines in Figure 2 (labelled with "presentation", "Organization", and "work") are suggested as the second segment of a sequence. That is, the user recognises that stories about "musician" is extended to the topics such as "presentation", "Organization" and "work".

![Figure 2 Retrieved Segments](#)
By clicking segments, correspondent contents are shown up in the text area (Figure 3).

**Figure 3 A Clicked Segment Shows its Contents**

By pressing mouse button down on a segment, the segment is linked with lines to the next candidates so that users can instantly see possible connections. By releasing the button the lines disappear. These clicking functions are applied to all the segments in the space.

**Figure 4 Fixing Segment Position by Double-Clicking**

By double clicking, the position of the target segment is fixed so that a user can fix his/her viewpoint (Figure 4). Fixed segments are still movable by drag & drop. Users can formalise the information space incrementally.

These functions support to compare possible contexts simultaneously. For example, a user fixes two segments labelled with "presentation" and "Organization" as shown in Figure 5 to see what these sequences are and which sequence is more interesting than the other for the user, and to see what segments are connected to these fixed segments to let sequences grow. This allows users to incrementally formalise the sequence from existing suggestions.
Figure 5 Comparing Multiple Contexts Simultaneously

By double-clicking with pressing down the shift key, the system shows the entire selected sequences so that the user can actually read and understand the content of the sequence (Figure 6). If a user shift-double-clicks a segment labelled "presentation" which is the second segment following the first segment labelled "right0" in this case, then the system shows a new text box that connects the content of the "right0" segment and that of the "presentation" segment (Figure 6). Contents of the first segment up to the shift-double-clicked segment are connected into one sequence. Users can open as many text areas as they want so that they can compare multiple sequences with each other.

Figure 6 Shift + Double-Clicking for Connected Content