Glossary of Selected Terms

bottom See **universal context**.

context An environment within which information can be **interpreted**. The same
   information may have different **interpretations** in different contexts.

context path A path between two **interpretations** of documents in **context**.

context resolution Determining if two document **interpretations** share a common
   context, other than the context **bottom**.

context session A record of the **interpretations** that a user has visited, without
   changing **context**. A **context switch** or a hyperleap to an interpretation of a
   document signify the end of a context session.

context sphere A partition of hyperspace, rooted by an **interpretation** of a document
   in **context**, which contains interpretations of documents reachable by following
   context paths from the root interpretation of the context sphere. The dimensions of
   the context sphere are determined by specifying the maximal **contextual distance**
   from the root interpretation.

context switch A user action which changes the **context** in which a document is
   interpreted. A context switch signifies the end of a **context session**.

contextual distance The number of nodes separating two **interpretations**.
   Contextual distance is greatest between two nodes that require a traversal through
   an interpretation of a document in the context **bottom**.

contextual relevance An **interpretation** is contextually relevant if it is relevant to a
   user query and it exists within the **context sphere** that is rooted by the
   interpretation of a document that the user is currently visiting.

dynamic link See **link**.

hyperlink See **link**.

in-link See **link**.

interpretation, interpreted A description of a document in **context**. When a
   document is accessed in context it is intepreted.

label A non-zero weighted term which contributes to the description of an
   interpretation.

link A traversable connection beween nodes in hyperspace. A link connects a source node and a destination node. The same link is an out-link from the source node and an in-link to the destination node. A link is static if the destination node is pre-determined and fixed. If the link specifies a method for computing the destination of the link when the link is traversed, then the link is said to be dynamic. If the result of the computation of a dynamic link results in more than one possible destination, then the link is **multi-headed** or **multiway**.

multi-headed, multiway links A **out-link** with more than one possible destination.

out-link See **link**.

salient interpretation An estimation of a user's interests in a document, derived from all **interpretations** of that document.

superficial relevance A node is superficially relevant if it is relevant ot a user query and which exists outside the **context sphere** that is rooted by the **interpretation** of a document that the user is currently visiting.

universal context The **context** in which a document is **interpreted** if the document context cannot be determined.

universal interpretation The interpretation of a document in the context **bottom**.