

British National Corpus

Lancaster University

TGDW15

Input Search and Retrieval Package (ISRP)

Practical Considerations

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1 The Problem

1. At the BNC Project Committee meeting held in Harlow on 18th. January 1993 the implications of the technical problems which had been experienced throughout the project and the resulting reduced timescale within which Lancaster would be required to complete its tasks were discussed and priorities agreed.
2. In relation to the ISRP the reality of the situation is that work associated with the highest priority tasks (text annotation) has been and still is fully occupying Lancaster's Research Associate employed on the project, who is the only person available to progress the ISRP. At the time of writing there is no way of predicting what proportion of the remaining project period (11 months for the R.A. concerned) will be available for this work. Even if the whole of the remaining period were available it is difficult to see how the full range of the ISRP objectives set out in PCW32 could be realised.

2 Attacking the Problem

PCW32 already embraces the concept of modular development. The intention is to apply resources as they become available according to the following priority scheme:-

1. Investigate the issues and options relating to:-
 - (a) Acquiring and storing texts for ISRP processing.
 - (b) Indexing.
2. Develop code (initially based on local filestore operation) for:-
 - (a) Indexing
 - (b) Text retrieval
 - (c) "Back end" modules for implementing the functionality outlined in PCW32 (according to a priority scheme yet to be determined), along with simple control interfacing.
3. Investigate Application Builders (Dominic Dunlop has collected useful information about available systems).
4. Develop windows-based "front-end" modules using application builders and develop further code extending functionality.