

Overview

The purpose of this document is to outline in general the key functionality and user interface (UI) features that would be considered essential for a marketable PAC product designed specifically for use by children ages 7 and higher.

Market Requirements

For its initial consideration, the children's PAC (KPAC) will be targeted for distribution in North America, specifically the United States and Canada. The potential for disparity between metaphors easily understood in the USA and other English speaking countries not in direct proximity, and subsequently non-English speaking countries, suggests a secondary analysis of the initial product metaphors prior to any expansion of distribution beyond the USA and Canada.

Functionality

Concept-searching. The PAC will use subject headings to identify concepts being searched. If a 'no records found' result occurs, the pac will suggest a different topic based on the subjects recently searched.

Spell-checker. Based on the language settings of the Windows terminal in use, the pac underlines misspelled search terms, using a convention identical or at least similar to MS Word. Misspelled search terms must be acceptable to the pac.

Synonym recognition. Pac should recognize synonyms for the search term and present the option to review a list of synonyms to the end-user after the first search is created.

No Dead End workflow. Every search will produce a successful result, including the 'no records found' screen. Users should have the option to modify an unsuccessful search or send the search terms to their web search engine of choice.

Results set ranking. Relevancy shall be determined by a free text assessment of the search terms.

Key UI Features

High ease of use. A very high value is placed on the ability of an end-user to approach the PAC for the first time with success after very little instruction, if any.

Pre-defined searches. The UI should present a series of pre-defined searches clearly marked. Library staff should be able to define, modify, and/or delete the searches.

Large font presentation, smaller font option. On launch or reset, this pac should use a 14-16 pitch font. The font setting should be capable of being decreased or enlarged easily by the average end-user.

Icon driven presentation. For the youngest segment of end-users, the icon metaphors should communicate clearly the major points of each page.

Online help. Online help screens should be easy to access and available for all major areas of the PAC.

Constraints & Dependencies

Analysis is required to provide the necessary information in this section.