

# Web browsing support for cross-community activities

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# Agenda

- cross-community activity
- cross-community activity and DynC
- difficulties in supporting cross-community activities
- cSuite: web browsing support tool for cross-community activities
- cSuite for DynC

# Cross-community activity

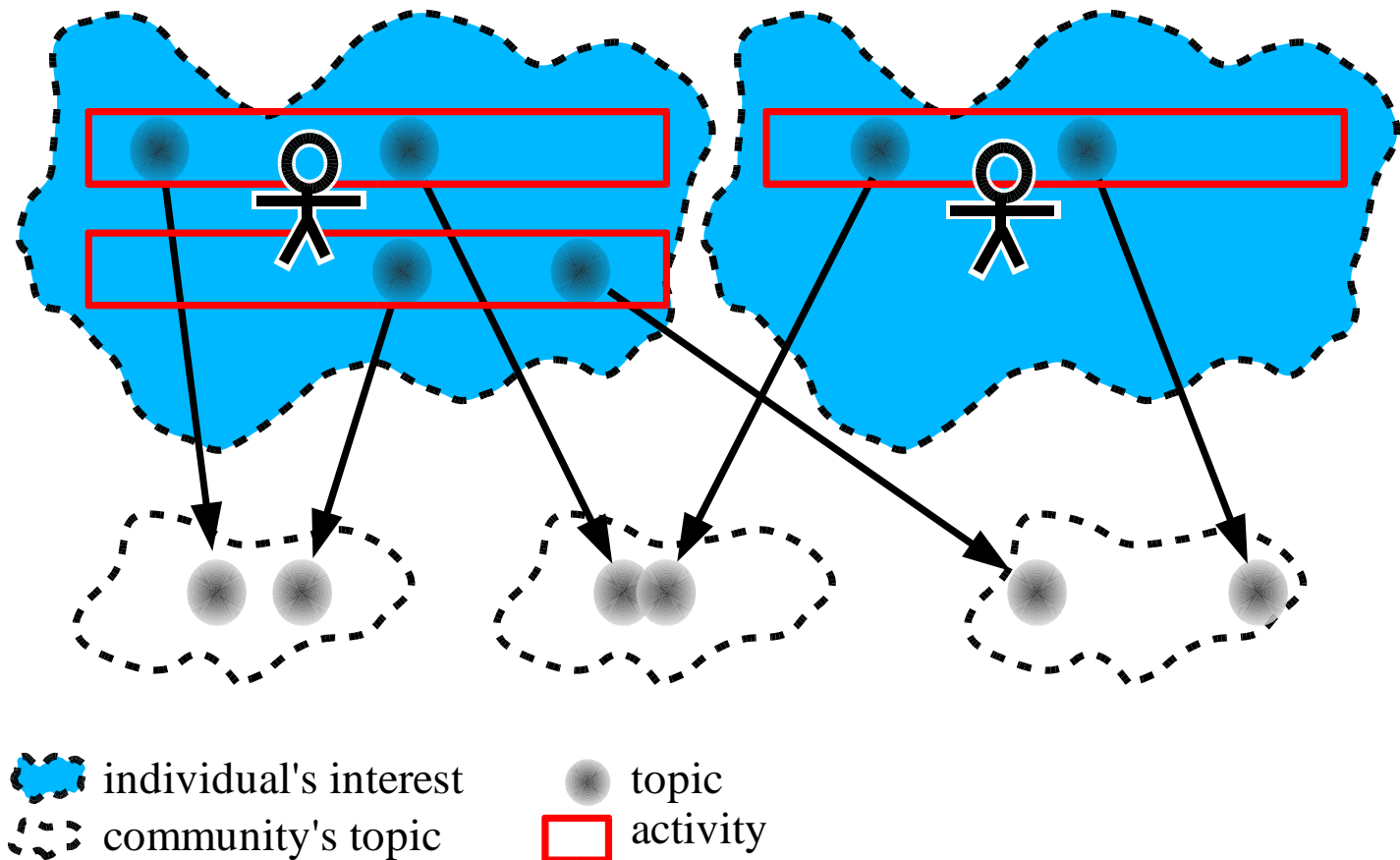
- **Definition:**

- Activity either
  - needs support of multiple communities, or
  - contributes to multiple communities.

- **Examples:**

- standard graph format
- developing OpenGL interface in Smalltalk for CAD system of a ship constructor.

# Communities, individuals, activities, and interests



# Comparison with DynC

- **Similarities**

- Focused on each **individual's** tasks or activities
- not for community, but for individuals

- **Differences**

- supportive community v.s. supportive person
- assuming pre-existing communities  
v.s. forming a new short-term community

# Difficulties in supporting cross-community activities

- A task needs knowledge of multiple communities.
  - None of each community covers the whole task.
  - It is hard to identify/describe the task from each community's viewpoint.
- It is difficult to recommend collaborators/related artifacts
  - different motivations, interests, and goals on a same topic

# Example difficulties: web browsing

- **difficult to identify tasks**

- Browsing a community's website does not mean the user is working on a task covered by the community.

e.g. A CAD programmer is reading the C-99 specification.

Does the C language community cover CAD programming?

- **difficult to recommend collaborators/related artifacts**

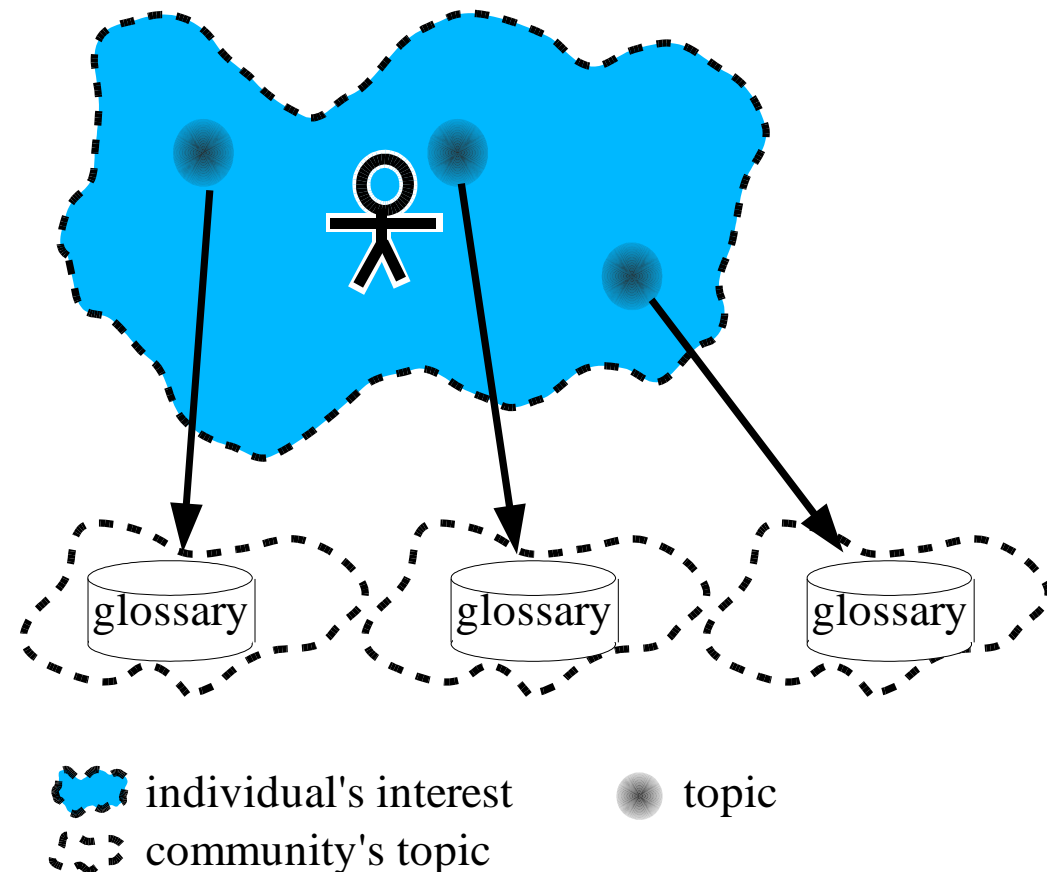
- Browsing the same document does not mean sharing the same interests and goals.

e.g. Two programmers are reading HOW-TO of Linux-2.6

device driver. One is a FreeBSD kernel hacker, and another is an ethernet board manufacturer.

# cSuite: cross-community support using HTTP proxy

- Each community provides "glossary" as community's knowledge.
- A user specifies a list of glossary servers that the user is interested in.
- cSuite provides additional information to HTML documents.

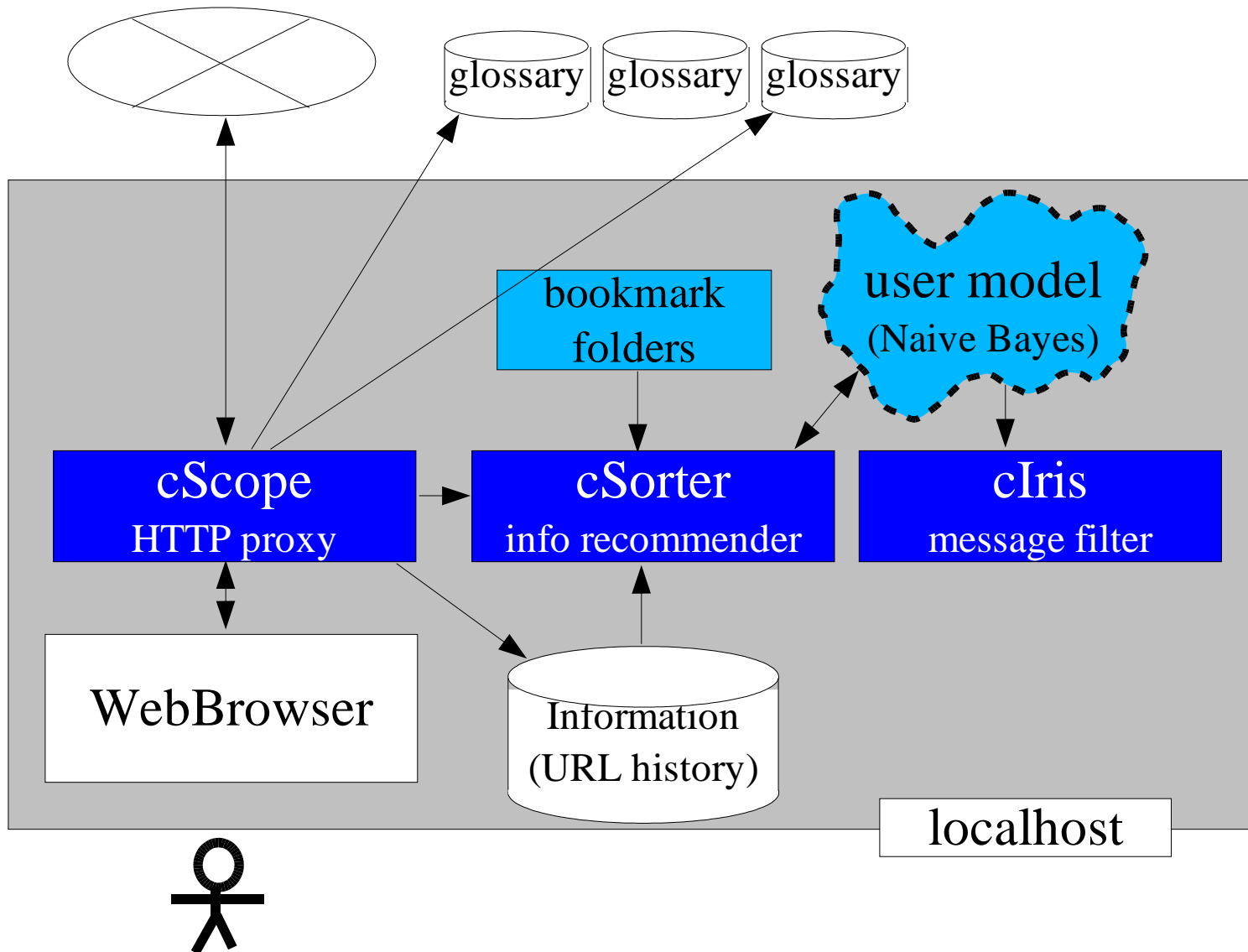




# Basic ideas of cSuite

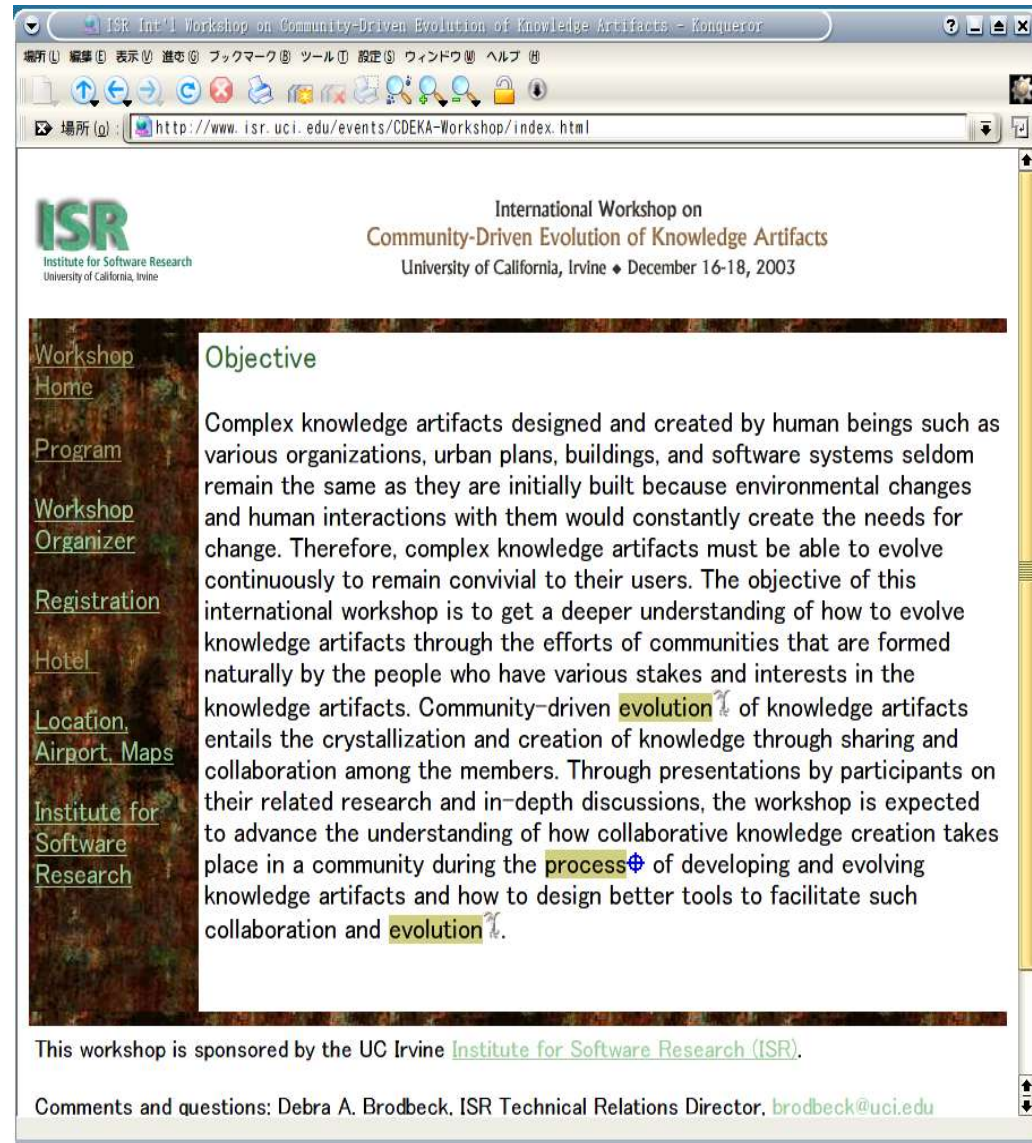
- One possible way to identify user's task and to find supportive persons/related documents:
  - Words are very important clues of user's tasks.
  - Many communities provide their glossaries as
    - FAQs
    - Tutorials
  - Natural Language Processing techniques like
    - Text classification
    - Word disambiguation

# Architecture of cSuite

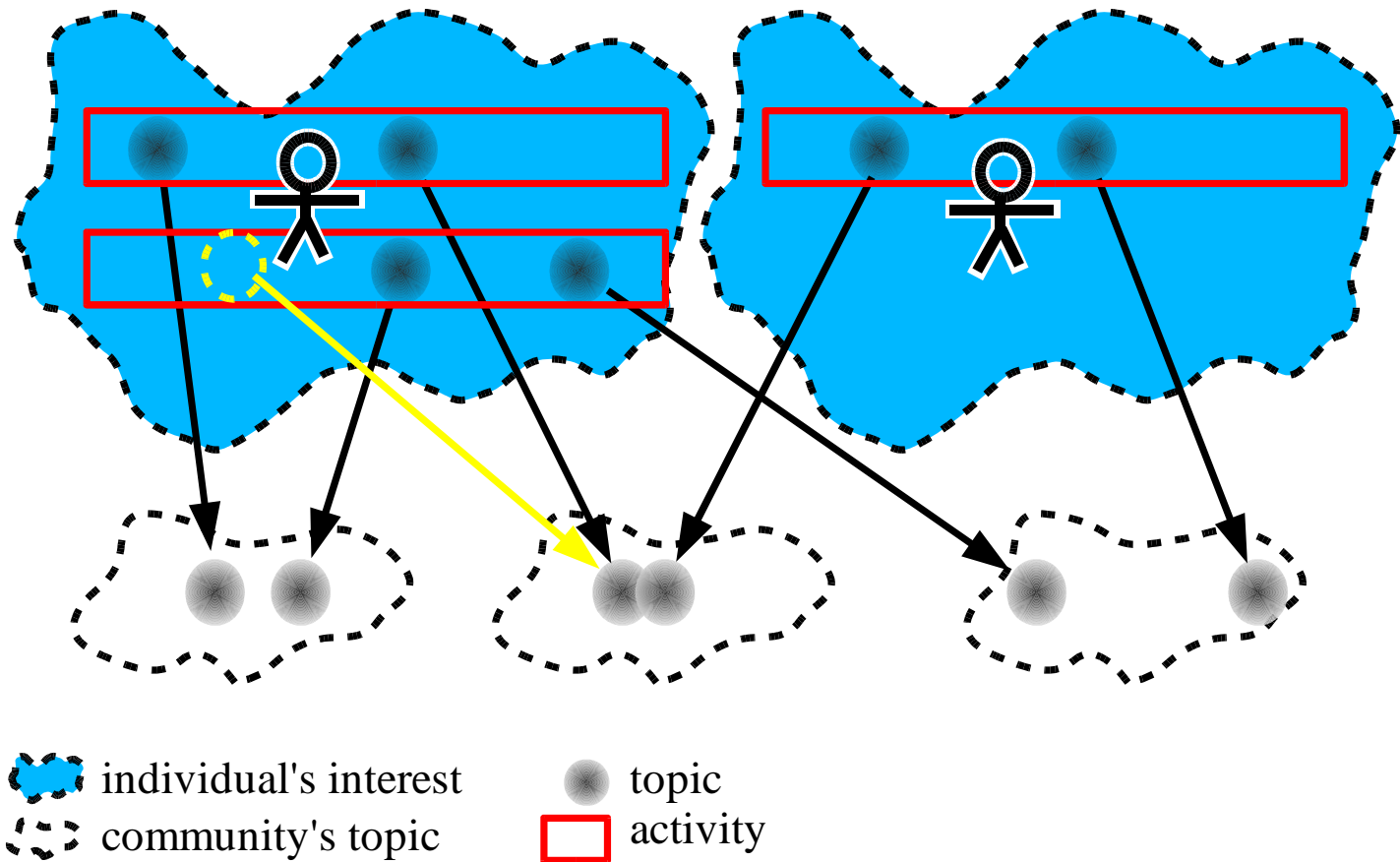


# cScope: HTTP proxy

- cScope is a private HTTP proxy server which works on localhost.
- cScope wiretaps all "GET" requests and returned HTML documents.
- cScope inserts icons to each occurrence of keywords.
- Each icon represents a community.

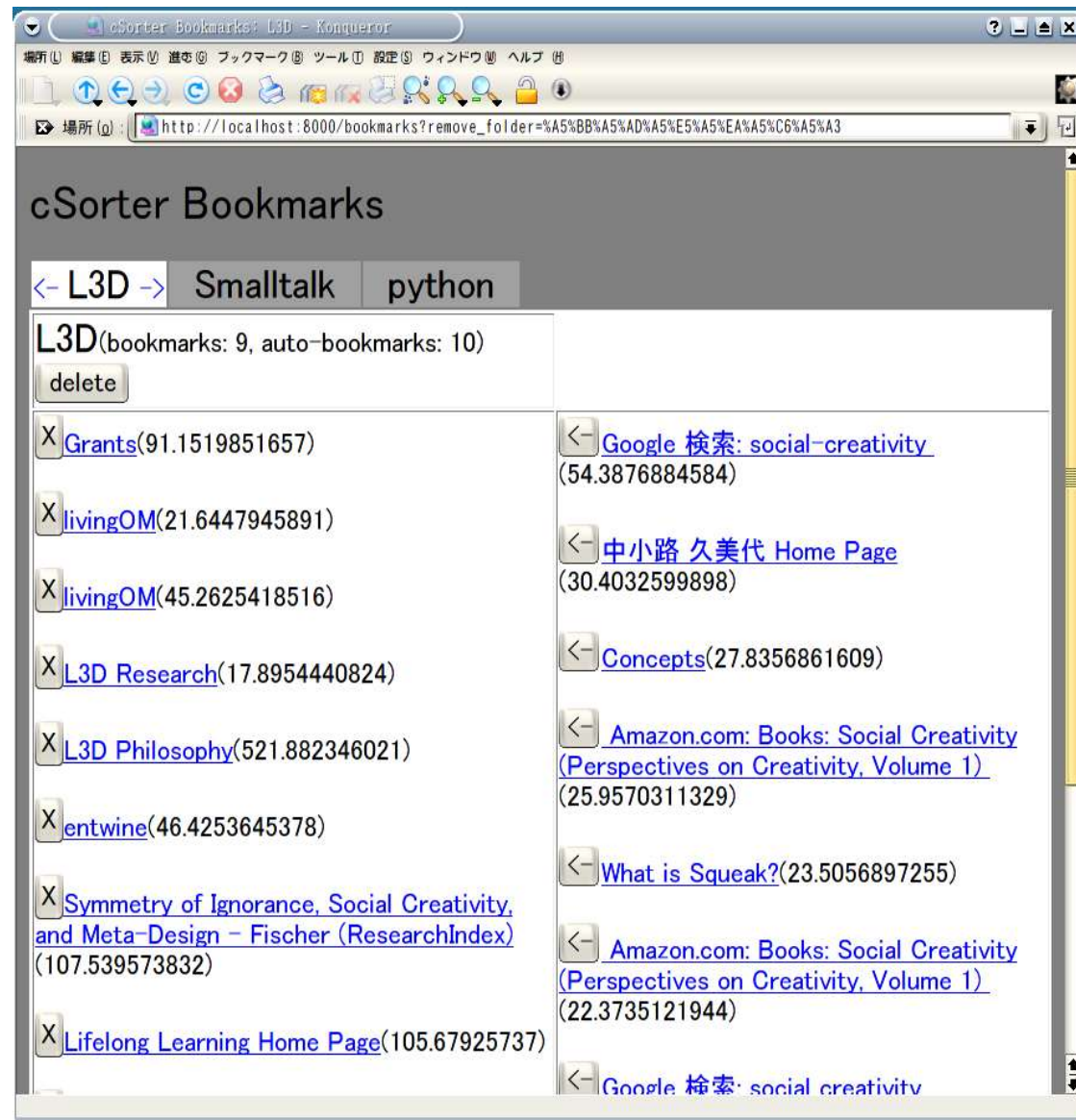


# Context delivery



# cSorter: datamining user's interests

- A user provides "categories", which represents user's interests.
- The user also gives bookmarks in each category, which are sample documents of each interest.
- cSorter recommends documents for each category using Naive Bayes (from URL history).



# Interests are dynamic

- The system should catch up updates of user's interests.
  - A user may get interested in a new topic.
  - A user may expand the range of a topic.
  - A user may retract a topic of interest.
  - A user may have different interests on a same document.
  - and so on...

# cIris: Information filter at end points

- Many communities provide tons of information via mailing lists.
- Many participants have only **partial** interests in the community's topics.
- cIris filters documents using the stochastic model developed by cSorter.
- cIris uses distribution of keywords as a user model.  
(similar to distribution of functionality)



# Sender's benefit on receiver's filter

- Suppose that you are sending a message to a mailing list...
  - A sender don't know receivers' interests.
    - You may **hesitate** to broadcast the message which **many receiver can respond to**.
    - Or, you may **bother people** by broadcasting the message which **no reciever really care**.
  - Using cIris, senders don't have to worry about receivers' interests.



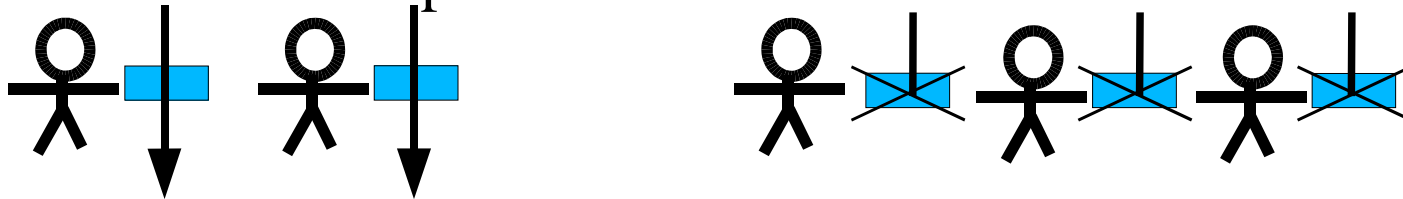
# Difficulties revisited

- Identifying task
  - cSorter can classify recent N documents to identify the topic of the current task.
  - cScope can help users to identify potential topic of the current task.
- Recommending artifacts/people
  - cSorter
  - cIris: see the next slide.

# cSuite for DynC

- Possible ways to extend cSuite for “dynamic community”

- Use cIris to screen persons



- public cIris: Send remote query to cIris of your friends.

- privacy issue ... cIris has a lot of private information!

- P2P cIris: Flood the message into a P2P-like network and filter at each node using cIris.

# Conclusions

- Cross-community activities need support over multiple communities.
- cSuite is a support tool for cross-community activities focused on individuals:
  - Context delivery suggests potential support of / potential contribution to a community.
  - Document categorization catches up changes of interests.
  - Information filtering at receiver's end.
- Possible extension for DynC