

Chapter VIII

Visual Portals to Multimedia Information Systems

<http://puebla.turista.com.mx/>



What is a portal?

- **Portal** = an entry mechanism for an information system
- **A good portal** = a portail allowing the access of all important information
- Problem: how to organize portals?

What is a sitemap?

- Structure allowing the access to ALL information of a website
- Portals: selection of the more important information
- Links between portals and sitemaps
- Metaphor of the news magazine
 - Cover → portal
 - Contents → sitemap

Objective of this chapter

- Analyze the pros and cons of visual portals and sitemaps
- Analyze the more frequent metaphors
- Give recommendations for design

Contents

- 8.1 – Alphanumeric portals and sitemaps
- 8.2 – Visual Metaphors
- 8.3 – User-oriented portals
- 8.4 – Portal design
- 8.5 – Conclusions

8.1 – Alphanumeric Portals and Sitemaps

- Text-only

Example



MUNICIPAL CODE ON-LINE
City of Glenwood Springs
OUR CITY CHARTER

[HOME](#)
[GENERAL PROVISIONS](#)
[CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD AND COMMISSIONS](#)
[CITY ADMINISTRATION AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS](#)
[SALARIES](#)
[BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS](#)
[CONSTRUCTION BUILDING CODES AND REGULATIONS](#)
[ZONING, DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF LAND](#)
[UTILITIES](#)
[PUBLIC WORKS](#)
[PUBLIC HEALTH](#)
[PUBLIC SAFETY](#)
[GENERAL PROVISIONS](#)

Welcome to the City of Glenwood Springs Municipal Code On-Line

This a new site, developed internally. Though mostly complete, it may contain errors, omissions, or incorrect formatting. We are working to address these as we recognize them, and would appreciate your input should you find a problem that needs attention. It is important to note that while every effort will be made to keep it accurate and current, this site is not an official representation of our ordinances and should be used only as a guide. An official printed version of this document is available from City Hall. Also available is a CD-ROM containing the files on this site for local browsing on your computer, together with a copy of Acrobat Reader. Please call (970) 945-2373 for pricing and availability.

City of South-Milwaukee in 2002
<http://www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us/>

City Administration Building
2624 15th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172




e-mail the City of South Milwaukee

The City of South Milwaukee is located ten miles south of the City of Milwaukee.

This page is updated on a regular basis.

Welcome to South Milwaukee

City Departments	Assoc. of Commerce
City Government	Schools & Recreation
Elected Officials	
Churches	Map
Your Vote	Calendar of Events
Parks	History
Hometown Publications	Fire Study
	Municipal Codes
Boards & Committees - Agenda & Meeting Minutes	
EPA-Barrel Site (Marina Cliffs/Northwest Barrel)	
Comprehensive Plan Development	
Fourth of July Celebration	
Heritage Days Parade	
Heritage Days Activities	
Emergency Information	
Community Websites	
Economic Development	
Beach Testing - Grant Park	



City of Leicester

Information about the City of Leicester and links to other City resources

**Leicester is a thriving student city.
During term time over 12% of Leicester's population are students.**

General Information

- [BBC Leicester](#)
- [Leicester City Council](#)
- [Leicester City Guide](#)
- [Tourist Information Centre](#)
- [Leicester Way](#)
- [A Walk Around Leicester City Centre](#)
- [This is Leicestershire](#)
- [Government Office for the East Midlands](#)
- [Leicester Promotions](#)
- [East Midlands Network Project](#)
- [East Midlands Net](#)
- [The Centre](#)

Environment City

- [Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust](#)
- [Leicester Conservation Volunteers \(LCV\)](#)
- [Environ](#)
- [Leicester Environment City](#)
- [Friends of the Earth](#)
- [Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development](#)

Local Societies and Groups

- [British Association for the Advancement of Science \(Leicestershire Branch\)](#)
- [Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society](#)
- [Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society](#)
- [Blaby District Council](#)
- [Blaise on the Net](#)

Sport

- [Leicester Football Club Ltd \(Tigers\) \[1\]](#)
- [Leicester Football Club Ltd \(Tigers\) \[2\]](#)
- [Leicester City Football Club \[1\]](#)
- [Leicester City Football Club \[2\]](#)
- [Leicestershire Cricket Club](#)
- [Leicestershire Golf Club](#)
- [Leicestershire Mixed Hockey Club](#)
- [Renault Leicester Riders](#)
- [Leicester Volleyball Club](#)

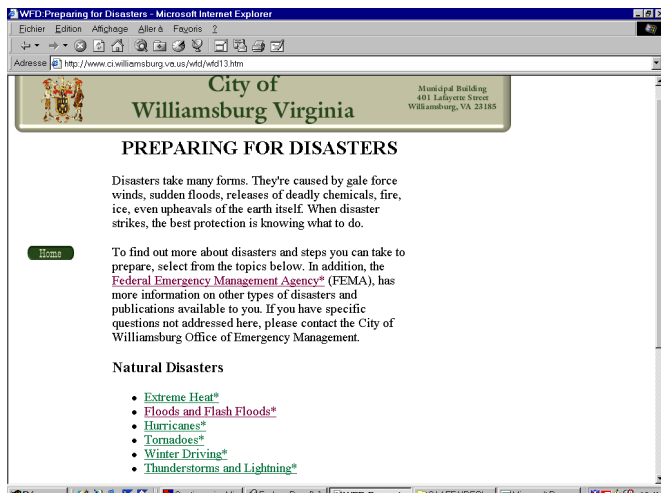
Entertainment

- [Cinema in Leicester](#)
- [Hammarket Theatre](#)
- [Little Theatre](#)
- [Phoenix Arts Centre](#)
- [Oxygen Nightclub](#)
- [Ultimate Gigs Guide](#)

Eating Out

- [Covate](#)

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us>

8.2 – Visual Metaphors

- Service directory
- Tendermaps (Cartes du Tendre)
- Structure of hypermaps and argumaps
- Metroline
- Virtual city
- Cover of news magazines

Still South-Milwaukee

City Administration Building
2424 15th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

The City of South Milwaukee is located ten miles south of the City of Milwaukee.

This page is updated on a regular basis.

Service directory

Yale University

Click on the book title of your choice

Welcome to Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. This page is designed for visitors, prospective students, scholars, alumni and members of the community. Frequent Yale Web visitors might prefer to open to [YaleInfo](#).

Access to Yale's electronic services is governed by applicable laws and policies.

[\[Announcements\]](#) [\[Search Yale\]](#) [\[Phone Book\]](#) [\[Job Opportunities\]](#)

Academics
[Yale College](#), [Departments](#), [Graduate and Professional Schools](#), [Computing Information](#), [Libraries](#), and [Research Groups](#)

Admissions
Undergraduate, Graduate, Summer and Professional Schools' admissions

Alumni Affairs
Yale Clubs, Educational Programs, Athletics, and other alumni related information

Campus and Community Life
Office of Public Affairs, Press Releases, Community Activities, Publications, Athletics, Administrative Services and Student Organizations

<http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/present/present.htm>

Infos Plan du site Contact

Actualités
Emplois & Stages
Coopération

le coin des...
Curieux
Passionnés
Experts

Presentation Publications
Présentation
Les moyens
Publications
Documentation pédagogique
Le cahier
Recherche & Développement

Confluences - Lyon
<http://confluences-lyon.ccf.fr/accueil.htm>

Recherche Association loi 1901 - 1 rue Saint Jean F-69005 Lyon - +33(0)472409820

<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/ist-leonardoparis.org/mappa>

<http://www.aisee.com/png/sitemap.htm>

<http://www.forum.mn/>

<http://www-utenti.dsc.unibo.it/~bergonzi/ig/mappa%20sito.html>

<http://www.tafe.swin.edu.au>

<http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu/sitemap/sitemap.htm>

<http://www.promofit.it/mappa.php>

<http://solar.physics.montana.edu/YPOP/Navigation/Images/sitemap.gif>

http://www.cmi-services.org/site_map.html

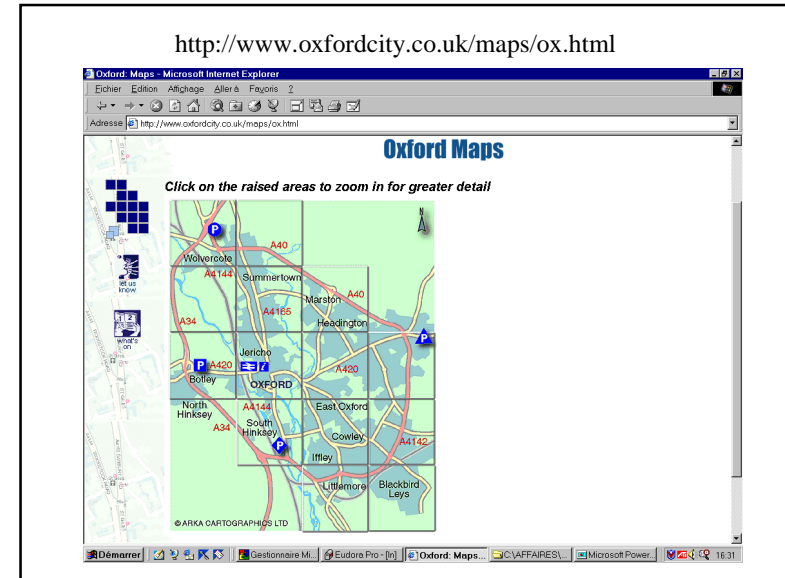
<http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/search/sitemap.php>

<http://www.nsa.com/images/sitemap.gif>

<http://www.ijrr.org/images/sitemap.gif>

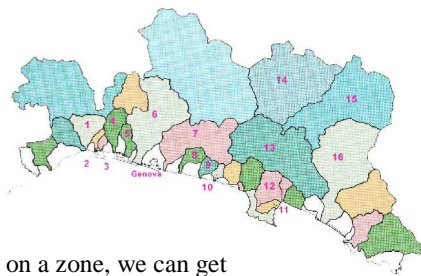
Hypermaps

- Links from maps
- Other names
 - Clickable maps
 - Active maps
 - Mapped images
- Active zones: point, line, aerea



Risk hypermaps in Genoa, Italy

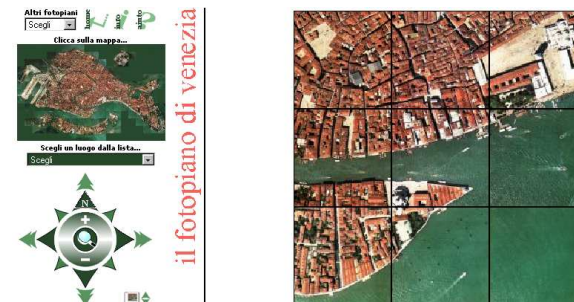
<http://www.provincia.genova.it/p/foto01.htm>



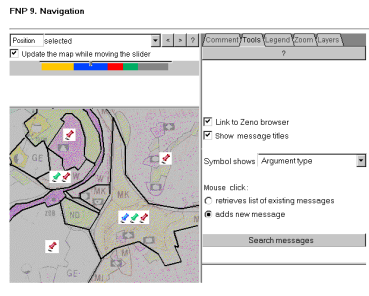
By clicking on a zone, we can get description of present risks

Portal based on aerial photos (Venice)

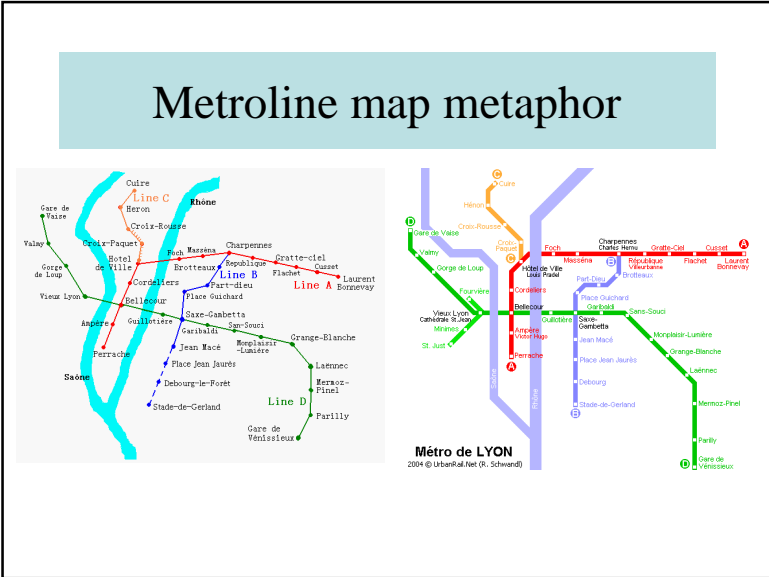
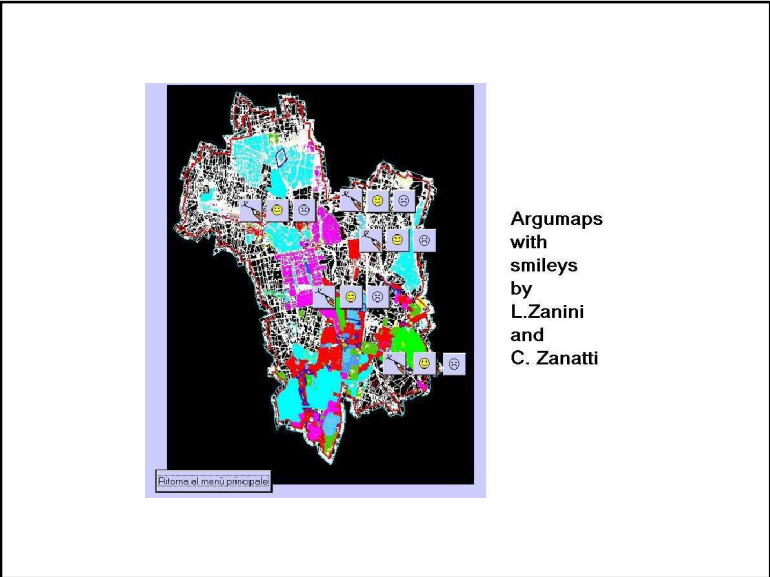
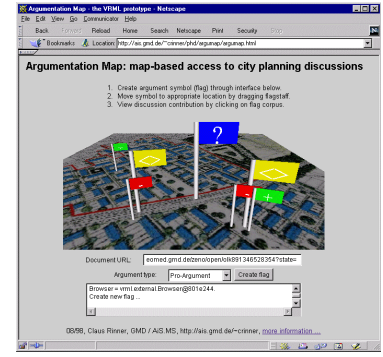
<http://www.comune.venezia.it/urbanistica/tema01.htm>



Argumaps with spins



Argumaps with flags



Rigatoni Portal: Riga-City

<http://www.rigatoni.ch/start.html>

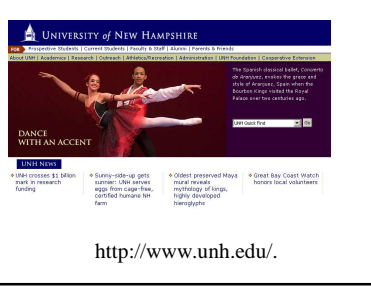
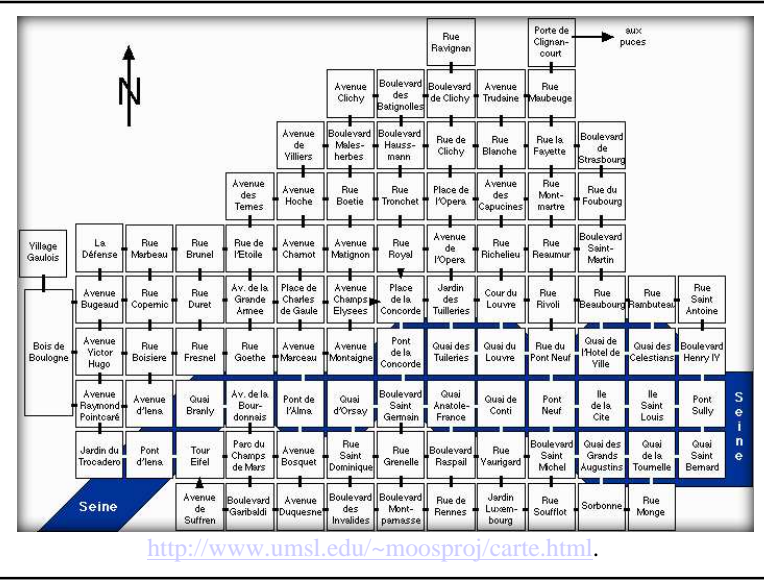
Virtual Town

Location: <http://www.stf.cs.udavis.edu/virt-town/town-graphic.html>

Façades

<http://www.sib.fr>

Se promener dans la rue...



Analyses of some examples

- Various types of portals
- Used metaphors
- User readability

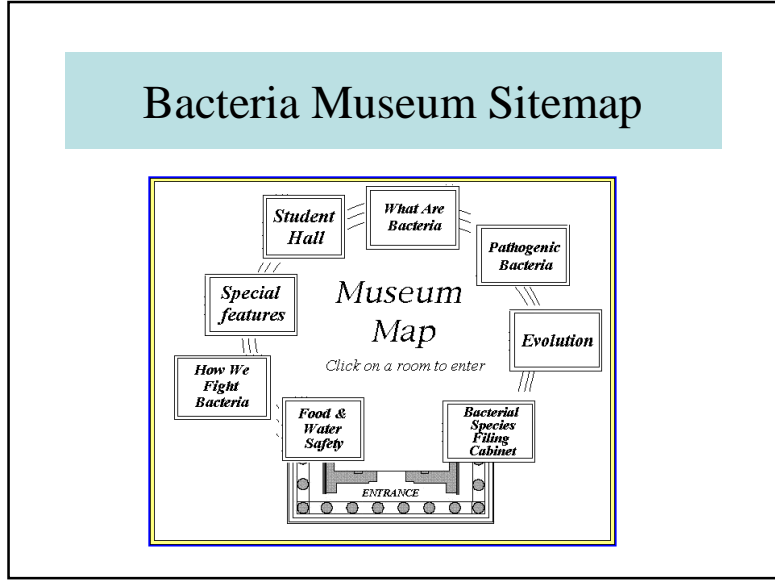
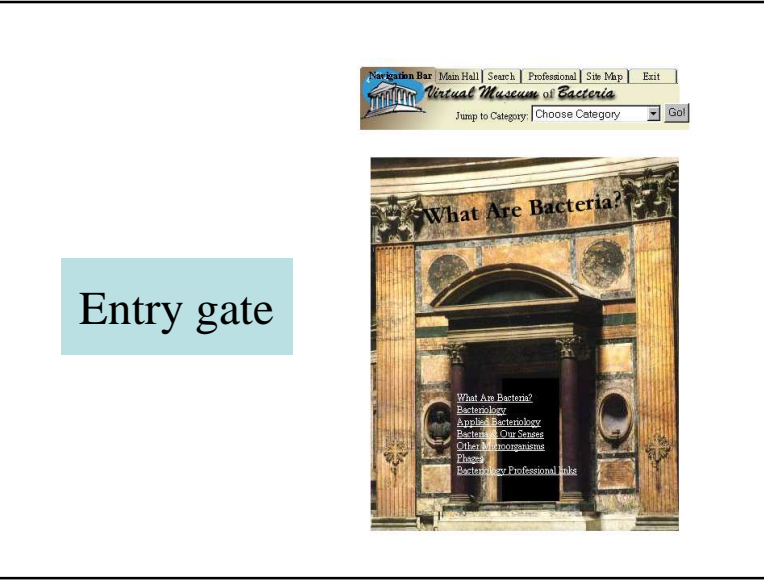
Louvres Museum Portal

Canadian Museums Portal

MUVA Portal

<http://www3.diarioelpais.com/muva2/#>

Bacteria Museum

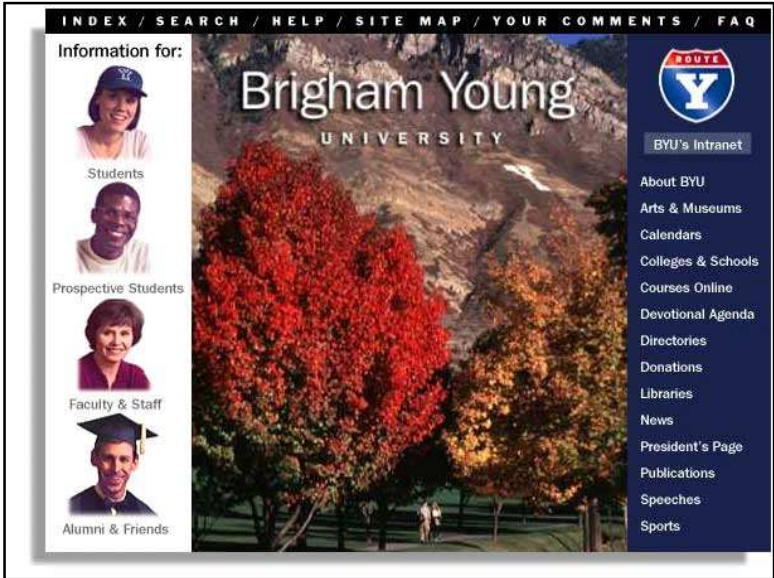
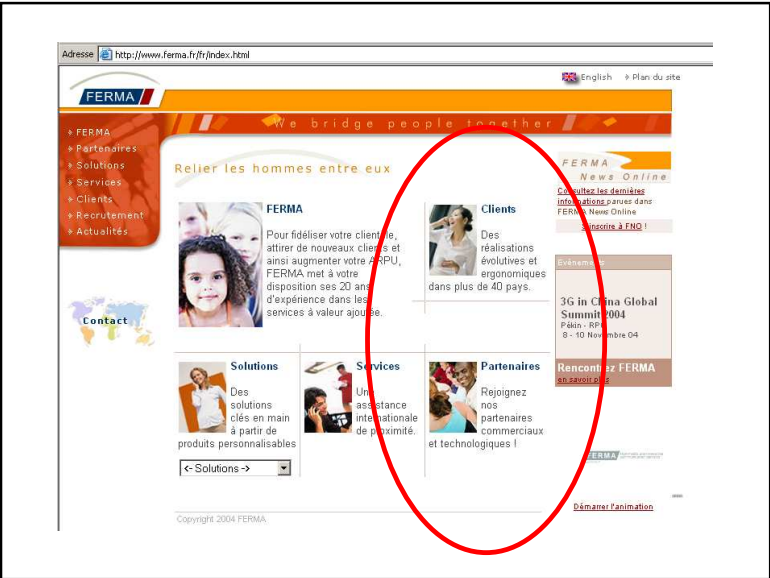
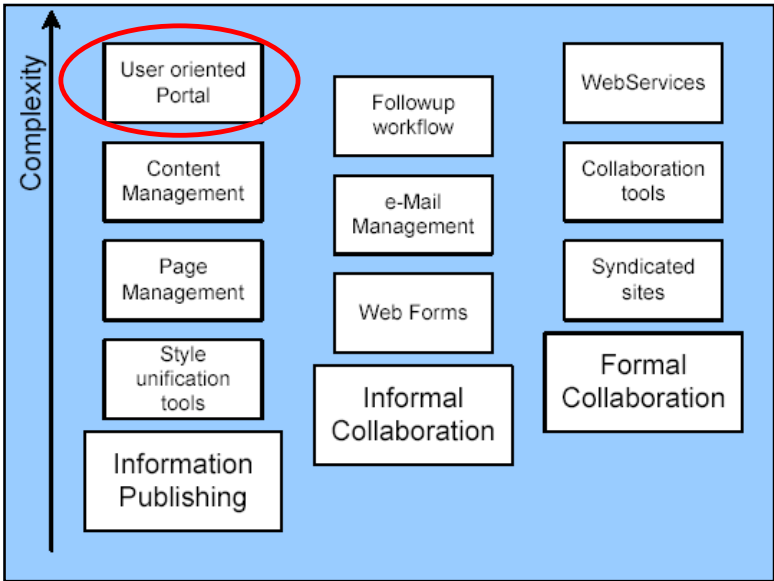


<http://library.thinkquest.org/18775/index.htm>

The image shows a website titled 'With thumbnails'. The main content area is a grid of small thumbnail images representing various cultural institutions. To the right of the grid is a sidebar with text descriptions for different categories: 'beni culturali', 'spettacoli', 'Piemonte dal vivo', 'promozione attività culturali', 'appuntamenti in piemonte', 'patrimonio linguistico', 'villa gualino', and 'museo regionale di scienze naturali'. The website is identified as 'Nice' and 'Piedmont'.

8.3 – User-oriented Portals

- Conventional portals
 - Organized list of fonctionnalités
 - Information
 - Services
- Modification of point of view
 - Organized by user’s profiles



COMUNE DI SALERNO

Indice dei "visitatori"

- Senior citizens
- Handicapped
- Women
- Emigrates
- Family and children
- Young
- Immigrate
- Businessman
- Invalid
- Sportif
- Student
- Tourist

http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/html/citizen/language.htm.

http://www.studycentre.ch

http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/

http://www.bruxelles.irisnet.be/

City of Strasbourg Portal

http://www.mairie-strasbourg.fr/

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

The City of Manchester

Updated on 19 October 2004

Identifications of users

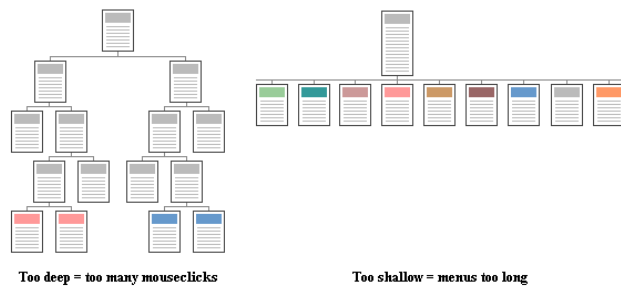
- Who and what are they?
 - Difficult to know at design
 - Study by similarity
- What are they looking for?
- What services do they need?

- Assignment of services according to profiles

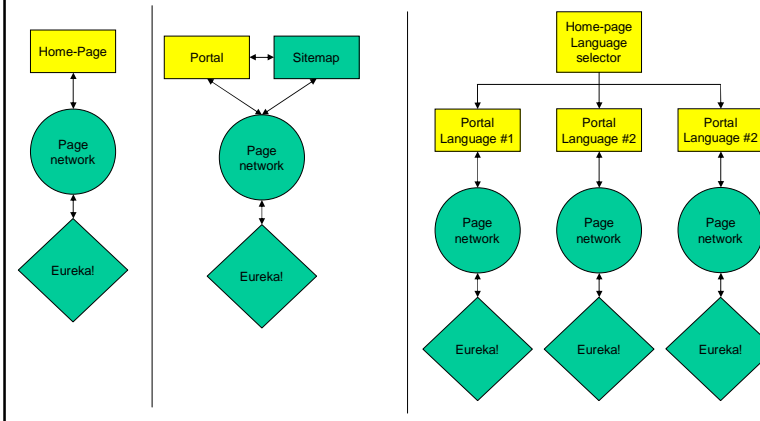
8.4 – Portal Design

- Scopes of a portal
 - messages
 - services
- Identification by user families
- Definitions and assignment of services
- Several paths to reach a piece of information (≠ tree)

Deep or shallow hierarchies



Several organizational models



Visual level

- Choice of corporate graphics
- Choice of the visual metaphor
- Aesthetic aspects

Ill-balanced portal

<http://www.fashion-planet.com/>

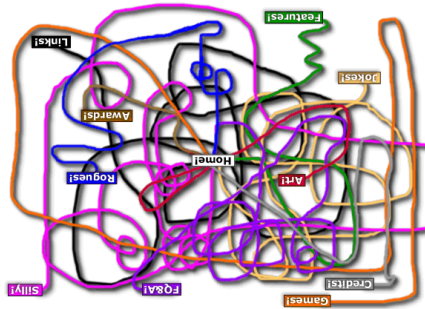
New version

MULTIMEDIA
The University of Texas at Dallas
College of Education

<http://www.edh.utexas.edu/projects/mmedesign/fall96/project/home.html>

To avoid !!

Site Map! Are you lost?
Then use the easy to follow site map:-



http://www.pips-web.co.uk/pip/home/sitemap/sitemap_t.html

8.5 – Conclusions

- Importance of visual portals
- Global access to information
- Metaphors
 - Relevance
 - Readability
 - Understandability
- Orientation towards users