Übung 1 – Mensch-Machine-Interaktion 2

Exercise I: Web Usability

Part 1. Analysing Web Information Systems

A1. Consider a person is trying to find information about the warranty of a digital camera she owns. Describe a typical task and the steps the person will perform. In particular what information will the person use to find the information she is interested in. Select 2 general search engines of your choice (e.g. http://www.google.com, http://www.altavista.com, http://www.alltheweb.com) and perform the task step by step. Record your findings and compare the two search engines chosen. What user interface issues are important? What could you improve?


Part 2. Presentation, Structure and Navigation


For the selected one:

- extract the abstract navigational structure of the site
- identify the main different pages layouts used (e.g. start page, product page, search page). Make a screenshot and save it as an image.
- analyse four of the main page layouts, identify (and annotate the screenshot with the information)
  - content areas (describe the use)
  - navigation areas (describe the function of the navigation)
  - search field

You are expected to submit a solution to part 2 containing a navigation diagram, and 4 annotated screen shots by 7.5.2004 to andreas.pleuss@ifi.lmu.de. We recommend that you have a web site on which you publish your solutions.