

Beyond search and query

Search and Query software tools are familiar to most people. We google using key words and we mine records from databases. These tools extract relevant information and present it to the user. It is up to the user to decide how to use that information. Scio, however, goes beyond search and query, and relates to other information to provide full actionable answers.

Search and Query

When you query a database (structured data), say with SQL, you extract all the records that answer specific parameters. Key-word searching allows to extract and display text documents relevant to your interest. XQuery is a software tool that queries tagged XML documents (XML documents are tagged using morphological analysis of the text). XQuery extracts pertinent paragraphs from tagged XML documents relevant to the request. Mark Logic uses XQuery. Clear Forest uses, in addition to XQuery, some statistical correlation of word sequences to link different paragraphs.

Search and Query technologies work on the source of the information. Every time a question is asked, the software goes to the source and extracts the relevant information. These tools are still far from being able to “replace” the human searcher, let alone the analyst who has to explore, navigate and process the relevant information.

An Example

Take a look at the following contract clause:

“The commonwealth may renew this contract at the expiry of the initial three year term (“The Initial Term”) for a further period of one year (“the First Further Term”) on the same terms and conditions of this Contract except that clause 2A.1 will be omitted. The option to renew must be exercised by notification in writing from the Commonwealth to the Contractor not less than three months prior to the expiration of Initial Term”.

XQuery presents this paragraph when a user asks for paragraphs related to renewal. The user needs to decide what action to take based on the information. Do you intend to renew? Is it time to send the renewal letter? Did we renew before? The user needs to link the XQuery result to other information, like the starting day of the three-year period, the current date, the intention to renew, etc.

Enter Scio – Understand your contract

Scio extracts the complete logic of the contracts and incorporates it into its Analytic Engine. It then utilizes that logic to provide the actionable answers you are seeking.

In our previous example, the start of the three-year period is already incorporated into the Analytic Engine, as well as the current date. The system flags when the renewal period is approaching. When asked which contracts will be active within two years’ time, it will include this particular contract with a “maybe” answer and the conditional renewal time.

**Scio utilizes knowledge and logic to
provide actionable answers**