Computer Engineering Department
Bilkent University

CS533: **Information Retrieval Systems**
Assignment No. 1 (Final Version)
February 15, 2010
Due date: March 1, 2010; Monday, by noon time (12:00 o'clock).

Notes: The next assignment may overlap with this one. Please note that three hardcopies are required: one copy with your name on it and two copies without your name. This is for double-blind review. Please read the entire document.

Purpose
Seeing the search engine (information retrieval system) science/technology in a time scale, i.e. the time course of transitions from retrospective to prospective.

A. What to Do
Please write an article on search engines (information retrieval systems) about the way we were, the way we are, and the way we will be. The following four papers should be your references. Please read the articles.

B. Sources/References
David C. Blair, M. E. Maron: An Evaluation of Retrieval Effectiveness for a Full-Text Document-Retrieval System. *Commun. ACM* 28(3): 289-299 (1985)

Gerard Salton: Another Look at Automatic Text-Retrieval Systems. *Commun. ACM* 29(7): 648-656 (1986)

Karen Spärck Jones: Natural language and the information layer. *SIGIR* 2007: 3-6

Sergey Brin, Lawrence Page: The Anatomy of a Large-Scale Hypertextual Web Search Engine. *Computer Networks* 30(1-7): 107-117 (1998)

You may also find the following web site interesting:
http://searchenginewatch.com/

C. Format
ACM Conference format, length: 2 to 4 pages: http://www.acm.org/sigs/publications/proceedings-templates

D. Writing Pointers
You must have an appealing and descriptive heading.

The paper must have a story line: beginning, middle and ending.

Please write with short sentences and at the same time have a variety of short and long sentences.

For good writing practice consider *Writing for Computer Science*, by Justin Zobel, and *The Elements of Style* by W. Strunk & E. B. White (please also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Elements_of_Style for a critic of it).

Make sure that you have a figure and a table (small in terms of dimensions). This is a requirement.

E. Blind Review Pointers
Your paper will be reviewed by two of your classmates. I plan to use the following review form http://tomacs.acm.org/review/reviewform.html (some points may not be applicable), when you review two

other papers written by your classmate. In addition to this form you will be required to write a short report
to justify your ratings. The review will be another assignment.