

## AMSc IRIC exam 00/01 – questions on information-seeking, and suggested answers

### Question 2

a) Name the stages of the simple user-centred information-seeking model, and explain two limitations of the model.

[5 marks]

The stages of the model are:

- Formulate information need
- Identify information sources / channels
- Search for information
  - \* Formulate and submit query
  - \* Examine and evaluate results of search
  - \* Iteration of search stages if necessary

The limitations of the model are:

- Not appropriate for browsing systems
- Assumption of static information need
- Overwhelming emphasis on search itself

b) Name and describe the three main types of (*continuation*) query-based search strategies.

[6 marks]

The three types are:

- Building blocks. Two or more separate topics are identified in the search, and these topics are initially pursued separately, with the results being merged at a later point
- Pearl growing: The initial query is designed to retrieve a small set of documents that are known to be relevant. The search is then expanded gradually, e.g. by use of more or more general query terms, or by the use of the Boolean “or” operator.
- Successive fractions: The initial query is broad and designed to retrieve a large set of relevant and partially relevant documents. The search is then progressively refined, e.g. by use of more precise query terms, or by the use of the Boolean “and” (and “not”) operator(s).