

Thesis Title	A Metadata Search Approach to Keyword Searching in Databases
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ABSTRACT

Search engines on the Web have popularized the keyword-based search paradigm, while searching in databases users need to know a database schema and a query language. Keyword search techniques on the Web cannot directly be applied to databases because the data on the Internet and database are in different forms. Moreover, existing systems for keyword searching in databases limit type of keywords to database values. Thus, this research aims to propose a method for keyword searching in databases which allows users to search either with database values, metadata or synonyms. A metadata search approach is used to achieve this method. A data model consists of database schema, synonyms and cases. The most effective results from each approach show that the metadata search approach brings about the more accurate result than other approaches.