

# 1 The Comparison Information Seeking

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## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of a comparison information seeking interface is to be able to compare two or more object of interest. The object of interest vary depending on the domain. Some examples from different domains are:

**Cultural heritage:** people, artifacts (paintings, sculptures, digital documents, pictures).

*"What is the difference between African mask collection from museum A and from museum B?"*

**News:** news articles.

*use case unknown yet.*

**Tourism:** hotels, restaurants, city landmarks, services.

*"Is there a good Italian restaurant close to where we are?"*

**E-commerce:** products and services.

*"What is the difference between a Sony Ericsson K770i and a Sony Ericsson K610i?"*

Basic characteristics of comparison information seeking task:

- a. There are two type of comparison: individual comparison (e.g. 3 and 4) and set comparison (e.g. 1).
- b. Comparison can be performed with a minimum of two objects or sets.

## 1.2 Functional Requirements

This section provide a list of functional requirements of a comparison search interface.

1. enable object comparison and set comparison.
2. the interface should enable four states: object selection, selection refinement, object comparison, comparison refinement. At any state, user should be able to go back and make changes.
3. object selection: enable query for objects and store in a selection basket.
4. selection refinement: choosing object from selection basket to compare. This includes to add and delete selection to compare.
5. object comparison: see all properties and values of objects (two or more). Properties are grouped according to similarity (location property(location), physical property(size, color), administrative property(ID)).
6. comparison refinement: show properties which are interesting and vice versa hide properties which are not interesting. Enable change constraints and see result.
7. for set comparison, merge property information together in a visualization.

8. comparison of objects that has physical properties(location, size, color) are better with visualization (images, map)

### **1.3 Use cases for e-commerce and tourism (mobile platform)**

#### **1.3.1 E-commerce**

1. Comparing products

*"What is the difference between a Sony Ericsson K770i and a Sony Ericsson K610i?"*

2. Comparing sets of products

*"What is the difference between Sony laptops and Dell laptops?"*

#### **1.3.2 Tourism**

1. Comparing restaurants

*"Is there a good Italian restaurant close to where we are?"*

2. Planning holiday trip

*"Which part of the city should we visit first?"*

### **1.4 Use cases for the cultural heritage domain**

1. Comparing people

*"Are these two artist with the same name actually the same person?"*

2. Comparing sets of artifacts

*"What is the difference between African mask collection from museum A and from museum B?"*