**Flexible Organizer for Competitive Intelligence (FOCI)**

... gathering, organizing, tracking, and disseminating competitive information on the web

**A typical screen shot of a FOCI portfolio**

**Introduction**

In the knowledge-based era, it has become increasingly risky to do business without competitive intelligence. With the popularization of World Wide Web, one can obtain a tremendous amount of information from online sources readily. However, it is still very labor intensive to compile the information and organize them into actionable reports.

FOCI is an intelligence software designed to help knowledge workers to perform competitive intelligence. It bridges the gap between raw search results and organized competitive information by providing an integrated platform that supports the key activities in a competitive intelligence cycle, including gathering, organizing, tracking, and dissemination of competitive information.

With FOCI, you are able to build information portfolios or reports on any subject in a matter of minutes. Upon a user request, FOCI automatically constructs a portfolio on the user-selected topics by integrating and organizing the search results into folders. The user can then manipulate the portfolio content and organization according to his/her needs and preferences. The completed portfolio can be saved for future retrieval and for sharing with other users. In addition, new information can be tracked and added periodically to the portfolios.

**Main Features**

- **Multilingual**
  FOCI is the world first multilingual software designed for competitive intelligence. It currently supports English and Chinese and can be readily extensible to include Japanese.

- **Gathers and Integrates**
  FOCI gathers and integrates information from multiple search engines and searchable news sites.

- **User-configurable clustering**
  FOCI incorporates user-configurable clustering technology (patent pending) that discovers interesting information groupings or clusters based on their similarities. In addition, it allows a user to define and personalize the organization of the information clusters according to his/her needs and preferences. Predefined sections for organizing information in specific domains are also supported.

- **Tracks and Updates**
  FOCI's tracking capability searches for new information and adds to the portfolios periodically.

- **Disseminates**
  FOCI allows a user to disseminate competitive information readily by preparing and sharing his/her portfolios in a client-server environment.

**Platforms**

The FOCI server is running on UNIX workstations. Currently, the application is accessible through Internet Explorer (IE) client only. The content management and personalization engines are available in the form of applications program interface (API) libraries running on UNIX SOLARIS. They can be customized and integrated to build vertical applications.