**Tao, L. T. & Zhai, C. (2007). An exploration of proximity measures in information retrieval. *Proceedings of the 30th Annual International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval,* The Netherlands, 295-302.**

Keywords: Information retrieval, retrieval models, proximity

Tao and Zhai (2007) use their paper to explore the possibility of using proximity measures in information retrieval. The authors posit that a number of retrieval models have been proposed and tested over the past decades. They explain further that numerous kinds of term statistics such as within-document frequencies, inverse document frequencies, and document lengths are used to score documents.

They suggest that the proximity of matched query terms in a document has not been exploited. They posit that their objective is to rank two documents that match the same number of query words and has query terms in close proximity to each other above one where the terms are further apart.

Nevertheless, the authors content that there is no clear way to measure proximity, and explore several different measures to do so. In addition, the authors present a review of previous related work and examine five proximity distance measures. Furthermore, the authors explore ways to incorporate the proximity method of teaching into two retrieval methods.