Preserving Academic Poster Content

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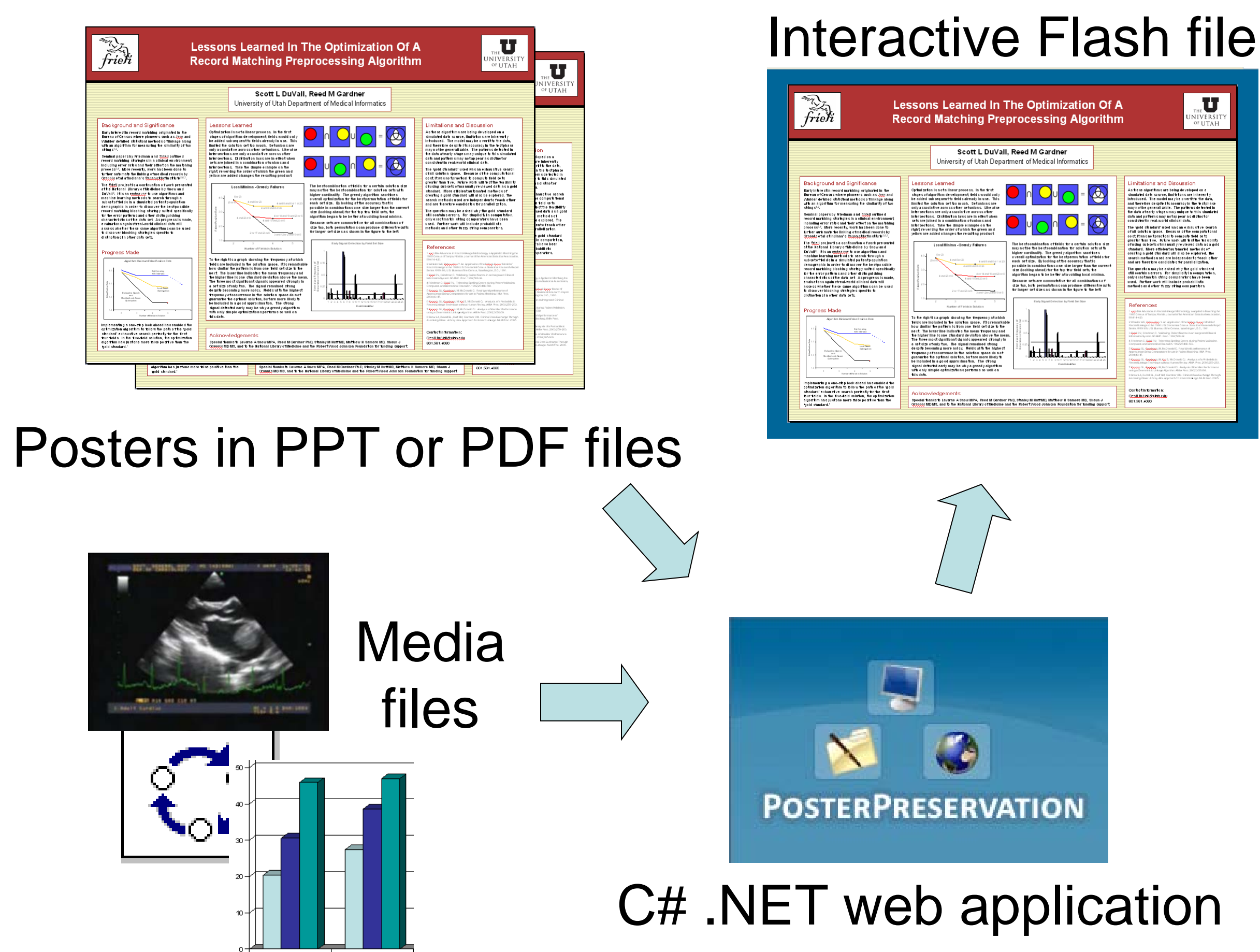[2]Department of Biomedical Informatics, University of Utah

Background and Significance

Posters are an important way to share information between academia and industry. They are presented at national conferences, regional meetings, and even in university departments.

✓ There were almost 75,000 calls for poster submissions last year alone.[1]

✓ Most posters are presented for only a few hours at a conference and may be difficult to translate into full papers.[2]

✓ Posters are represented by abstracts submitted months before conferences. They may not accurately reflect poster content.[3]

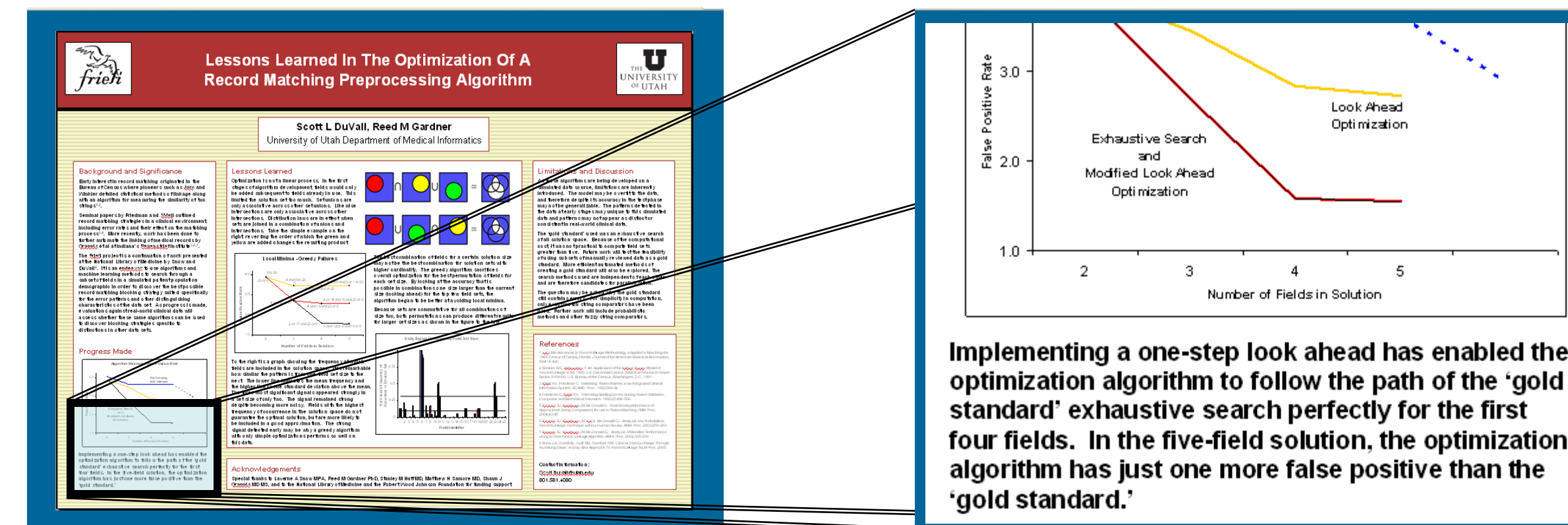✓ A new method for preserving academic poster content is needed.[4]

System Description

Poster Preservation is an innovative system designed for the archival and interactive display of academic posters.

Posters in PPT or PDF files

Media files

Interactive Flash file
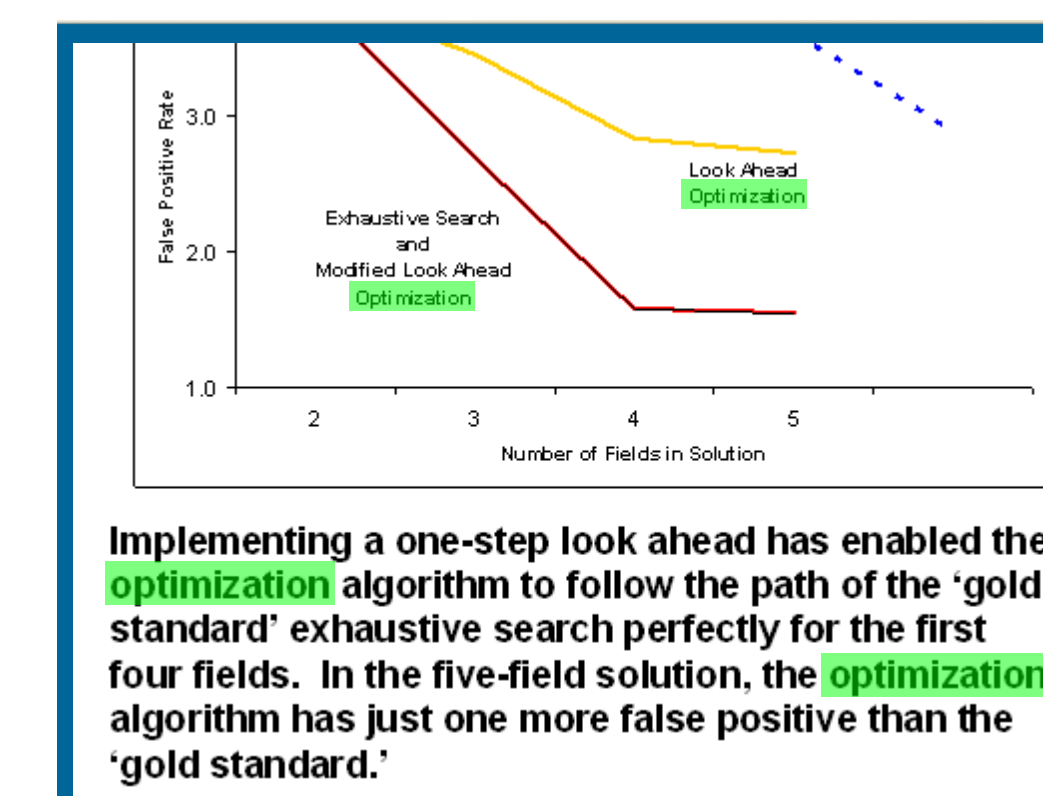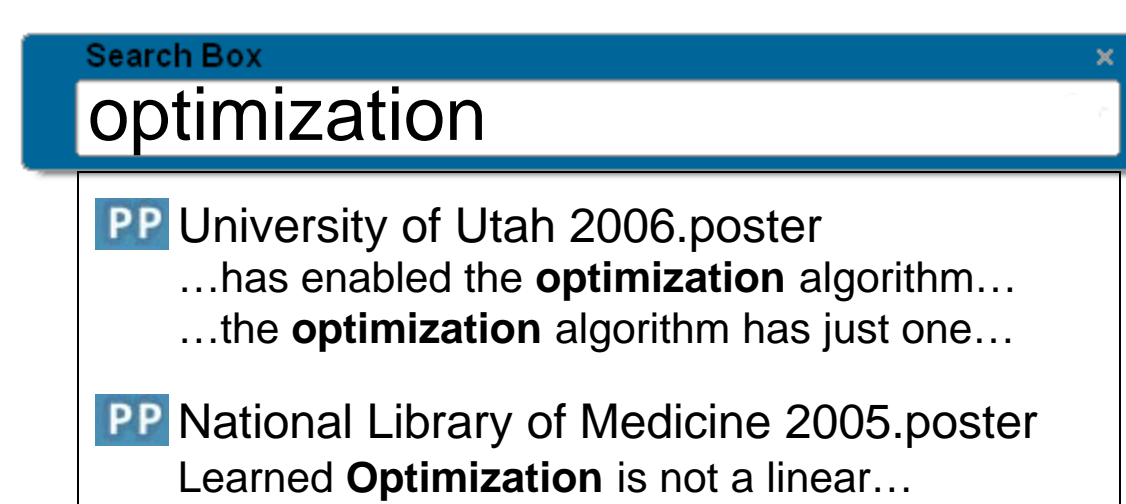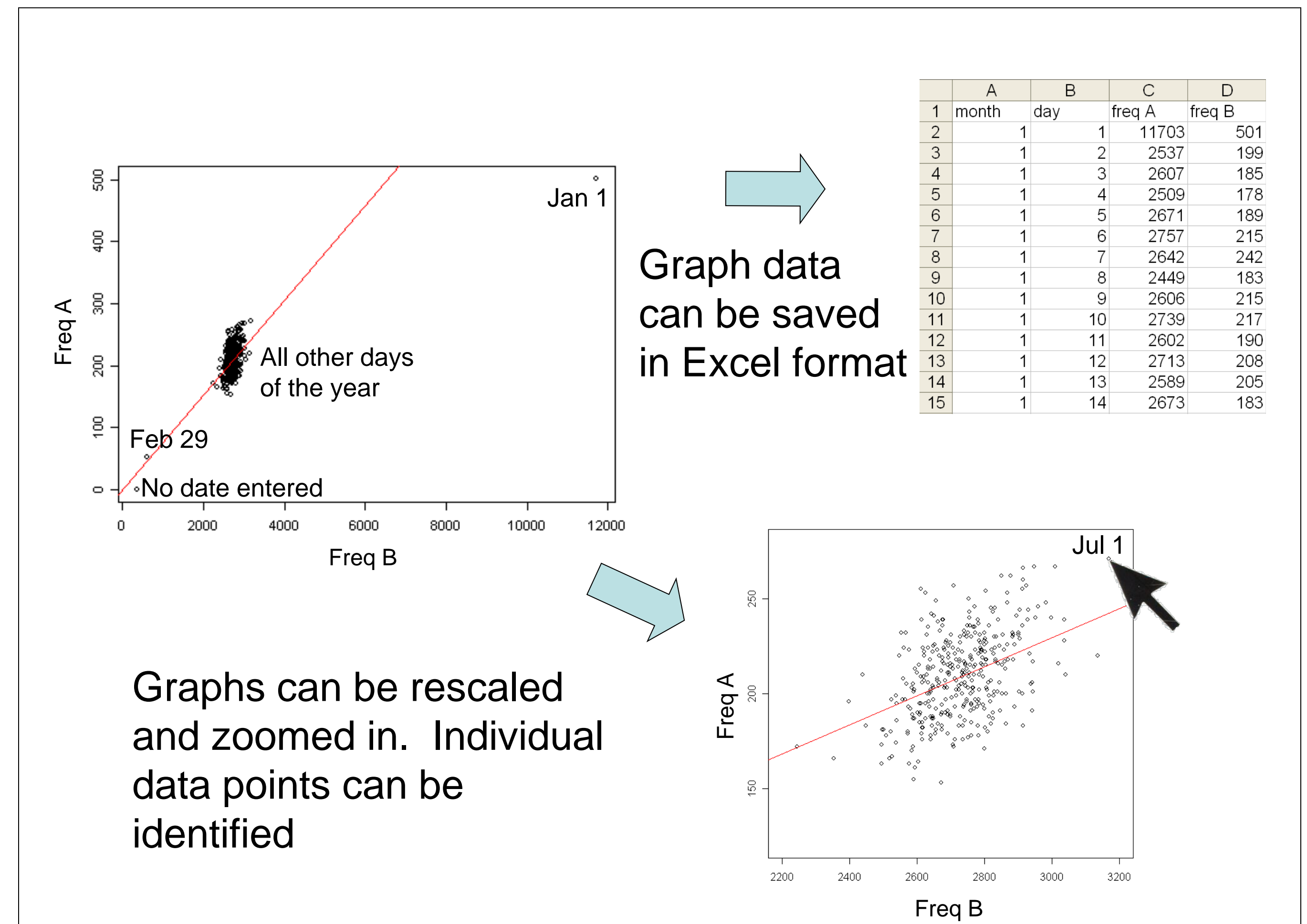
C# .NET web application

System Features

Navigation: Poster Preservation Flash files switch between a full view of the poster and a detailed zoom of selected sections with a simple mouse click. Users can toggle between the published abstract and poster.

Implementing a one-step look ahead has enabled the optimization algorithm to follow the path of the 'gold standard' exhaustive search perfectly for the first four fields. In the five-field solution, the optimization algorithm has just one more false positive than the 'gold standard.'

Search: When poster files are uploaded into the system, all text data is extracted and indexed. Meta-data is added to allow search on title, authors, institutions, and presentation setting (like conference name). Users can view posters on similar topics.

Interactive Media: Figures and tables can be selected and examined in further detail. Users have the ability to upload additional information such as the underlying data points used to make a graph (see next column); notes, appendices, and additional information that further describes a section; and animation, sound, or video to illustrate dynamic concepts (see next column).

Graph data can be saved in Excel format

Graphs can be rescaled and zoomed in. Individual data points can be identified

Archival: Poster Preservation files can be viewed through any web browser supporting the Adobe Flash Player plug-in or can be downloaded and shared in a stand-alone form. This allows for repositories to be created either on proceedings CDs and association websites, within institutions, or for an author's portfolio.

References

[1]Google search using the keywords *"call for posters" 2006*.

[2]Zelle BA, Zlowodzki M, Bhandari M. Discrepancies between proceedings abstracts and posters at a scientific meeting. Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2005 Jun;(435):245-9.

[3]Sprague S, Bhandari M, Devereaux PJ, et al. Barriers to full-text publication following presentation of abstracts at annual orthopaedic meetings. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2003 Jan;85-A(1):158-63.

[4]Lindberg, DAB. Interactive media and the next generation of publishing. MedBiquitous Annual Conference, Baltimore MD; 2007.