SYSTEM FOR REAL TIME COLLABORATIVE READING AND SHARING BY GLOBAL TAGS AND CHAPTER MARKERS

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ABSTRACT

A system for real time collaborative reading and sharing through the use of global tags and chapter markers for an electronic book is disclosed. The system includes an application residing on a tablet or mobile phone or any other device used for reading, that will access the tags on the website hosting the electronic book. The system saves the time of the user by enabling collaborative reading and sharing of user reviews in real time.

BACKGROUND

Readers have different reading speeds based on their interest in a chapter in an electronic book or an e-book system. For uninteresting chapters, readers get bored and sometimes read very slowly, thereby wasting or consuming time. This disclosure provides an efficient way to focus a user's time on interesting chapters and saving time on uninteresting chapters through collaborative sharing of reviews and summaries.

DESCRIPTION

This application discloses a system for real time collaborative reading and sharing using global tags and chapter markers for an electronic book or e-book system. The global tags and chapter markers are maintained by the websites hosting the e-books. The system further includes an application residing on the tablet or mobile telephone or any other system used for reading. The application enables the user to spend more time and focus on interesting chapters of the e-
book and saves time on uninteresting chapters through collaboration with other active users who are reading the book at a particular time.

The global tags may include information about the total number of users who are reading the book at a particular time. Information about the active users, as extracted from global tags, may be stored in a global tag repository. The repository may have divisions based on book names.

In one aspect, the global chapter markers are marked positive when a user completes reading a chapter. Global chapter markers also indicate the users who are currently reading the particular chapter or have just completed it. Thus for each chapter, there could be an associated number of users who are currently reading or have just completed it and this information is also stored in the repository. Each chapter may have an option of an associated user rating or review.

When a user starts reading a book, he can see that X number of users is reading that book in real time. Further, when the user is reading a particular chapter of the book, with the help of global chapter markers, the user is able to see how many users have already read the chapter or are currently reading it.

In one scenario, while reading a chapter, if the user finds the chapter uninteresting, he could check for global chapter marker user rating and find what other people think of the chapter. If the user finds out, based on global chapter marker status for the chapter, that more than 70% of readers found it boring, the user might ask for the summary of the chapter in real-time so as to minimize spending time on the uninteresting part. As the user indicates his interest for a summary, a number of users who are reading the chapter immediately after the one that user is reading are notified that a co-reader needs their help. Only users who are reading the next
chapter are asked for a summary because they recently read the chapter the user is reading and might provide better insight. Further, when one or more other users provide a chapter summary to the user, the user can skip reading the uninteresting chapter and just read the real time summary.

Alternatively, when the user indicates his interest for a summary, the system can check which readers had been provided summaries by other users for the same chapter. The system can pick the best-rated summary of the chapter to the user. Alternatively or additionally, the system can provide a pre-existing summary of the chapter from only those users who are at least currently reading the book. This way, if the user has any questions or gaps in the provided summary, the user can direct the question to the summary author who is currently actively reading the book. The user could send a message to the author of the summary directly on a social networking site or via a web community for the book. In so doing, the user could ask questions or providing a review of the chapter. Further, the user can post from within the ebook and the post may only be visible to users who are reading the ebook in real time when the user posts the comment.

The method for real time collaborative reading and sharing by global tags and chapter markers could be implemented with any existing electronic book applications in a computing device. The system and application saves user time by collaborative reading and sharing of all user reviews in an efficient method for reading ebooks in real time.