Context-based Word Clouds of Presentation Slides for Quick Browsing

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Abstract With the advent of online education services such as iTunes U and SlideShare, students are able to access various presentation files from many universities for study purposes. However, self-learners retrieving such files still need support to decide which files in candidate presentations are worth learning because most of the candidates are similar; it can be difficult to identify differences in the candidates. We consider that presentation flow is very important in presentation contents for identifying the differences in the candidates. In this paper, we introduce a quick browsing system to help a user effectively decide whether a presentation content is appropriate for his/her specific learning needs. Our method provides context-based word clouds that summarize slide information to help the user visually understand the context of one presentation content. In our method, words important to the "presentation context," that is, the relevant information on the slides, are first extracted based on components of the presentation content (i.e., intra-slide structure and inter-slide structure). Then the word cloud is generated by weighting the words within the presentation context for each slide. Finally, the words in the word clouds are interactively presented with visual effects that reflect their semantic meanings.

Keyword Presentation slides, Context-based word cloud, Quick browsing, E-learning,

1. Introduction

Presentation slides (e.g., PowerPoint, Keynote) are now one of the most frequently used tools for educational purposes. A huge amount of slide-based lecture material, often prepared from teaching material used in actual classes at universities or other educational institutions, is freely shared on Web sites such as iTunes U[1] and SlideShare[2]. Thus, not only students who missed a lecture or presentation, but also anyone interested in the topic can study the presentation on their own. Therefore, techniques are in demand that will efficiently find one or more appropriate slides with content worth learning from the vast numbers of presentations available. Although many techniques for searching and recommending presentation slides have been proposed, some problems remain from the viewpoint of understandability for users browsing search engine results. One problem is a search engine does not consider context when matching user query words within presentation content, leading to a large number of candidate results are similar. Another problem is the difficulty of general quick browsing for visualizing results of presentation contents, that is, when browsing slide titles only, users cannot grasp specifics of the content (see Fig. 1 (a)). In addition, important words of slides that summarize slide information simply based on word TF-IDF scores appearing in candidate presentations can destroy the implicit relevant information between slides and decrease the relevance of words in slides to the overall context (see Fig. 1 (b)). This makes it difficult to understand the context of each candidate presentation when choosing desired files.

As depicted in Fig. 2, we present a quick browsing method that considered the context of presentation for supporting a user to decide presentation contents effectively can be implemented by 1) generates context-based word clouds for each slide by weighting the words within the context of the presentation (i.e., the intra-slide structure and inter-slide structure) and 2) determines transitions between the generated word clouds based on relationships between the words in serial slides that include what users need to browse with our novel quick browsing interface. In order to achieve our goal, we derive the intra-slide structure that slide structure by focusing on the level of indentation in the slide text, and determine the inter-slide structure that relationships as links between slides by considering words that appear at different indentation levels in the structure of other slides.

[1] http://www.apple.com/jp/education/itunes-u/
[2] http://www.slideshare.net/

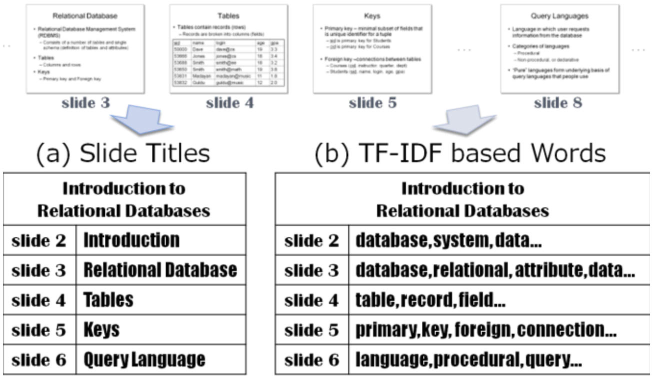


Fig. 1 General quick browsing methods

For example, 'Keys' appears in the body of text in a slide entitled 'Relational model', which related to the slide entitled 'Relational database' and 'Relational model' appears in the body of text in it. 'Keys' is the title of other slide that is related to the slide entitled 'Relational model'.

In this paper, we define presentation context to mean the context for the slide in a presentation, represented by the relevant information on the slide and allowing for relevant information from the rest of the presentation that is not included on the slide. We define two types of presentation context for a slide: link context and structural context, based on the relationships between slides and slide structure, respectively. Using presentation context, we can generate context-based word clouds of slides by weighting words in the presentation. There are two concepts that are particularly helpful when quick browsing presentation content:

- Presentation flow: link or break [1]. Often, presentations are formed of a chain of slides such that one slide links to the next. Sometimes, however, a slide will move from the point in a previous slide to a completely different point. In this case, there is a break between them.
- Highlight points: semantics. This occurs when one slide describes a point from a previous slide in detail.

In this case, our approach presents words interactively from one slide to another as a streaming word cloud reflecting the flow of points in the slides, helping users to select desired presentations from search engine results easily and effectively.

This paper is organized as follows. The next section reviews related work, and Section 3 describes how to determine presentation contexts for slides. Section 4 presents the generation of context-based word clouds and the determination of transitions between the word clouds,

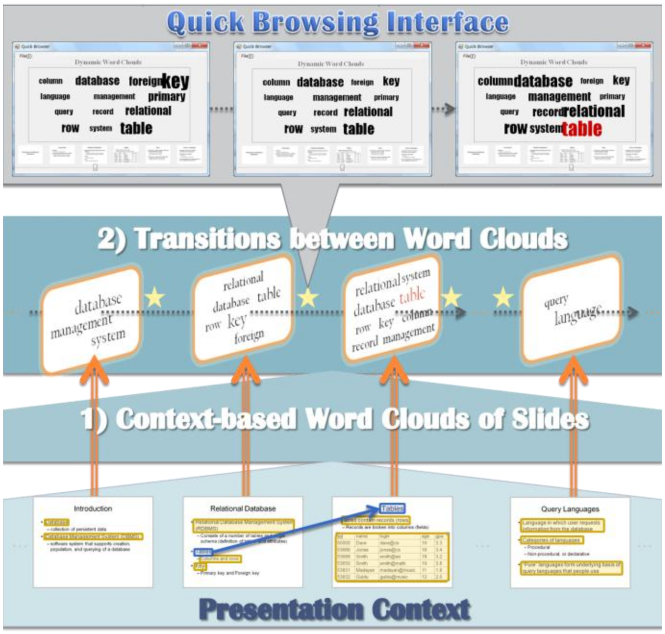


Fig. 2 Conceptual diagram of quick browsing method

and Section 5 introduces a prototype application for quick browsing based on our method. Finally, Section 6 concludes this paper with suggestions for further work.

2. Related Work

Our quick browsing interface is based on a word (tag) cloud, a visualization using a set of words. The size and color of each weighted words in the presentation content based on our proposed method. Then, our work is directly related to the research efforts in two areas: text analytics and information visualization. We also review the effects of a word cloud on browsing tasks.

In the area of text analytics, researchers have developed a number of approaches to text summarization, of which there are two main techniques: sentence-based and keyword-based text summarization. Sentenced-based approaches identify the most salient sentences in a document [2], [3]. For example, Murai and Ushiama [4] proposed a browsing method that presents users with a review-based recommendation of attractive sentences in a novel. However, it may be time consuming for users to read several sentences per document especially when handling a large number of documents. Alternatively, keyword-based methods summarize documents by topics, each of which is characterized by a set of keywords [5], [6], and [16]. Our quick browsing method is built on the latter method, but its focus is on enhancing the summarization results through word clouds and visualization. Moreover, we provide users with a novel interface with visual transitions to present the dynamic word clouds.

In the area of information visualization, researchers have developed various visualization approaches to text analysis. These systems can be classified into two categories: metadata-based and content-based text visualization. Metadata-based text visualization focuses on visualizing the metadata of text documents. In email analysis for instance, metadata-based text visualization can use a time-based visualization to explain text summarization results derived by a text analytic engine [7], or a relationship-based visualization of email senders and receivers [8]. For content-based text visualization, Viegas et al. [9] used Themail to visualize keywords based on keyword TF-IDF scores in an email collection. Similarly, Strobelt et al. [10] used a mixture of images and TF-IDF-based keywords to create a compact visualization of a document. More recently, Chen et al. [11] and Iwata et al. [12] focused on visualizing document clustering results. In contrast, others have concentrated on representing text content at the word or phrase level, including TextArc (www.textarc.org), WordTree [13], Phrase Net [14], and FeatureLens [15]. Our work focuses on visualizing presentation contents by generating context-based word clouds of slides, and presenting transitions between the context-based word clouds.

Several studies have been conducted on searching and browsing tasks. In their study of the usefulness of word clouds in information-seeking tasks, Sinclair et al. [19] concluded that such an interface is more useful for browsing tasks than for searching tasks. Although our interface can support browsing, we are most interested in how our interface can support passage comprehension. The visual features of a word cloud can impact the user's performance. For example, Bateman et al. [20] examined the effect of nine visual properties of a word for the task of determining the most important word based on visual appearance. Halvey and Keane [21] compared word clouds by asking participants to find and select specific words in both interface types. Their studies revealed that the font size and font weight had strong effects on the word selection speed. Then, in our context-based cloud generation, we decided to explore the visual feature of font sizes of the weighted words.

3. Determination of Presentation Contexts for Slides

We determine two types of presentation context for a slide: link context and structural context, based on the relationships between slides and slide structure, respectively. We define the slide whose presentation context is discussed to be the target slide. We construct the slide structure based on the indentations in the slide text. The slide title is the first indentation level; the first item of text within the slide body is the second indentation level, and the depth of the sub-items increases with indentation level (third level, fourth level, etc.). Non-text objects, such as figures or tables, are considered to be at the same indention level as the surrounding text.

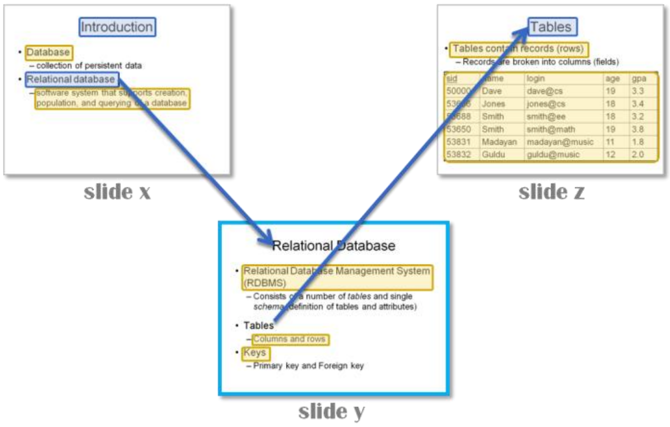


Fig. 3 Presentation context for slide *y*

3.1. Determination of Link Context for Slides

The link context for a target slide consists of links and anchors (similar to hyperlinks in Web pages) related to the text body and titles of other slides. They refer to words in the title of the target slide and titles of other slides that contain words in the body of the target slide. They also indicate from what type of content the target slide is referred. We extract the link context of the target slide by finding the same words at different levels in the target and other slides.

For a given bag of words M in the title and a given bag of words N in a level in the body of the target slide, words in the titles and levels in the body of other slides are extracted: …, T_2, B_2, T_1, B_1. Here, T_i is the title of slide i and B_i are the words in a level of the body of slide i. If B_i corresponds to M, B_i can be considered as a link anchor. Then, B_i links to the target slide that the words in B_i and its slide title T_i belong to the link context for the target slide, while the words in B_i are similar to that in M. This is calculated using the Simpson similarity coefficient [17], as $Sim(B_i,M)=|B_i \cap M|/min(|B_i|,|M|)$. When $Sim(B_i,M)$ exceeds a predefined threshold, the words in B_i and M are similar. Meanwhile, if N corresponds to T_i, N can be considered as a link anchor. Then, N links to the slide titled T_i in that the words in T_i belong to the link context for the target slide, while the words in N are similar to that in T_i.

In Fig. 3, the link context for slide y (in blue portions) shows that slide y explains about "Relational Database," which is referred to on slide x as a subheading of 'Introduction,' and the subheading 'Tables' in slide y is described in slide z.

3.2. Determination of Structural Context for Slides

The structural context for the target slide consists of lower, current, and upper levels of the target levels corresponding to the link context in the target slide, and lower, current, and upper levels of the link context in other slides based on slide structure. When the target slide does not have a link context, we take the title of the target slide as the target level, and then we extract the structural context for the target slide that consists of the levels below the title in the target slide.

For a given bag of words N at a level in the body of the target slide, words in the lower, current, and upper level of N are extracted: …, l_3, l_2, l_1. Here, l_j represents a bag of words at a particular indention level j. When l_j and N are the current level in the target slide, the words at level l_{j+1} are at the lower level of N and l_{j-1} are at the upper level of N. Therefore, the lower, current, and upper levels of the link context in other slides are extracted in the same way.

In our method, when the target level in the target slide corresponds to the link context in more than one slide, we just extract the link context of the slide nearest to the target slide. The link context and structural context are extracted within a minimal range of surrounding information, containing enough words to characterize the presentation context. Therefore, the presentation context expresses presentation flow and highlight points well.

Fig. 3 illustrates the structural context for slide y (in yellow portions), where 'Tables' is related to 'RDBMS,' 'Keys,' and 'Columns and rows' at the upper, current, and lower levels in slide y and 'Tables' includes a link at a lower level, 'Tables contain records (rows),' in slide z; 'Relational Database' includes a link to a lower level at 'RDBMS' in slide y, and 'Relational Database' is related to current and lower levels at 'Database' and 'Software system' in slide x.

4. Presentation of Context-based Word Clouds

4.1. Generation of Word Clouds of Slides

To present a streaming context-based word cloud that reflects the semantics of the words, slide word clouds are generated from words extracted from the presentation context by weighting the words to determine font size. For each type of presentation context, we calculate the degree of the words that 1) appear close to the target slide and 2) appear frequently near the target slide but less frequently around other slides.

Let us consider each word of target slide S as a relevant object, denoted by o. The degree of the relevant object o for the presentation context $P(S)$ is defined as follow:

$$W(o,P(S)) = \frac{density(o,P(S))}{dist(o,S)} \tag{1}$$

Here, $density(o,P(S))$ is the density of the relevant object o for the presentation context $P(S)$, and $dist(o,S)$ is the distance between o and S. Intuitively, $density(o,P(S))$ means how densely the same word as o appears in the presentation context $P(S)$. If the same words as o appear frequently in $P(S)$ but less frequently in other presentation contexts, $density(o,P(S))$ becomes large. Suppose that S is the k-th slide among all slides (the target slide). The density of o in $P(S_k)$ is calculated as follows:

$$density(o,P(S_k)) = \frac{N_{A(o,P(S_k))}}{N_{A(o,U)}} \tag{2}$$

where $A(o,P(S_k))$ is a set of relevant objects representing the same word as the object o in the presentation context $P(S_k)$, and $A(o,U)$ is the set of relevant objects in the presentation context of all slides: $U=P(S_1) \cap P(S_2) \cap \ldots$. $N_{A(o,P(S_k))}$ and $N_{A(o,U)}$ represent the number of objects in $A(o,P(S_k))$ and $A(o,U)$, respectively. Because it is difficult to identify the set U due to mutual dependencies between the presentation contexts, we approximate the set U as the set of relevant objects of all slides.

The distance $dist(o,S)$ indicates the strength of the associations between the relevant object o and the target slide S, and is defined for each type of presentation context as follows:

Distance in link context: The number of link relationships from the target slide S to the relevant object o.

Distance in structural context: The number of parent, brother, and child nodes to be followed from the target levels in the target slide S to the relevant object o.

We generate context-based word clouds of slides by extracting the words based on the ratio of the degree of each word and the highest degree of the word in each slide. We also sort the words into three different font sizes as follows:

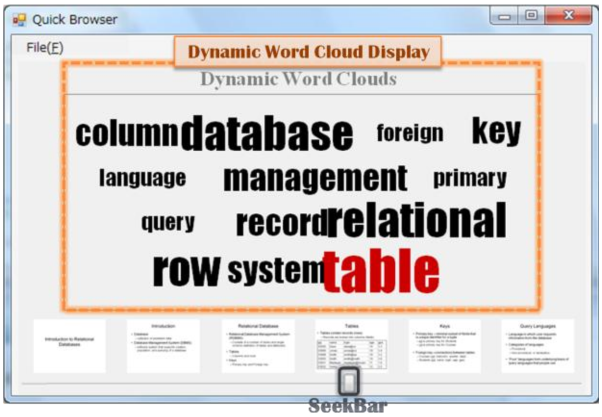


Fig. 4 Screenshot of quick browsing interface

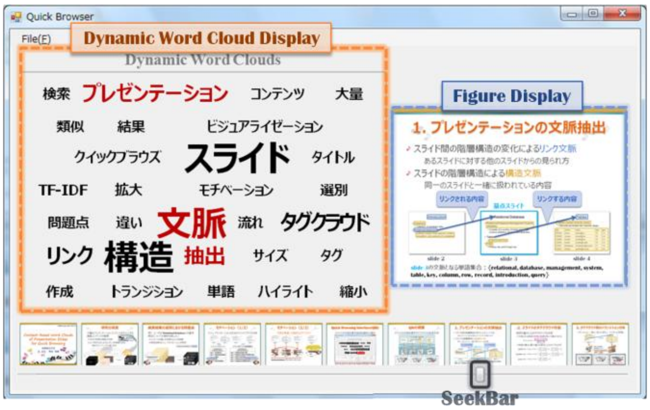


Fig. 5 Screenshot of our presentation for this paper

$$STag(c, P(S)) = \left\{ c \left| \frac{W(c, P(S))}{W_{\max}(c, P(S))} \geq \theta_1, \frac{W(c, P(S))}{W_{\max}(c, P(S))} < \theta_2 \right. \right\} \quad (3)$$

$$MTag(c, P(S)) = \left\{ c \left| \frac{W(c, P(S))}{W_{\max}(c, P(S))} \geq \theta_2, \frac{W(c, P(S))}{W_{\max}(c, P(S))} < \theta_3 \right. \right\} \quad (4)$$

$$LTag(c, P(S)) = \left\{ c \left| \frac{W(c, P(S))}{W_{\max}(c, P(S))} \geq \theta_3 \right. \right\} \quad (5)$$

In Eqs. (3), (4), and (5), $W(c, P(S))$ is the degree of c and $W_{\max}(P(S))$ is the highest degree of the word in S using Eqs. (1) and (2). Including too many words in each word cloud does not help users to browse them effectively, so we extract c in S such that the ratio of $W(c, P(S))$ and $W_{\max}(P(S))$ is greater than a threshold (i.e., *0.25*). $STag(c, P(S))$, $MTag(c, P(S))$, and $LTag(c, P(S))$ are the groups of weighted words to be displayed in small, medium, and large font size such that the ratios satisfy Eq. (3), Eq. (4), and Eq. (5), respectively. In this paper, we empirically set the values of the thresholds to be $\theta_1=0.25$, $\theta_2=0.50$, and $\theta_3=0.75$. Although, in general, the word position is important for a word cloud, in this paper, our dynamic word cloud instead places the word randomly so that the user is not biased to any specific terms based on their placement position.

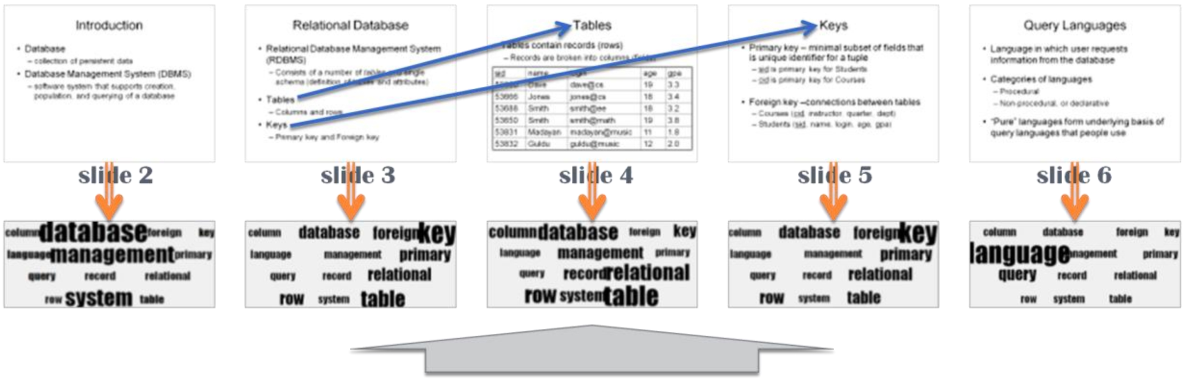
4.2. Determination of Transitions between Word Clouds

Based upon the presentation contexts for slides, we present dynamic word clouds with visual effects that reflect the relationships between words interactively. For this purpose, we use relationships between words in the word clouds similar to the relationships between slides defined in our previous work [18], which fall into four types based on the presentation contexts for slides:

- ***Detailed* relationship**: titles of other slides belonging to the link context for the target slide in the word clouds. The word clouds of the other slides have more information about the link context than the word cloud of the target slide.
- ***Generalized* relationship**: bodies of other slides belonging to the link context for the target slide in the word clouds. The word cloud of the target slide contains the words about the link context in the outline given in the word cloud of the other slides.
- ***Parallel* relationship**: titles of other slides in the word clouds belonging to the link context that link to the current levels in the target slide, these word clouds of other slides are parallel with each other.
- ***Independent* relationship**: slides do not have a link context for each other in their word clouds.

To present dynamic word clouds, the transitions discussed here explain the kinds of visual effects added to the relationship types, reflecting presentation flow or highlights. Presentation flow consists of many chains of serial slides such that each chain and each transfer switch between chains must be presented. For one chain of serial slides, *detailed*, *generalized* or *parallel* relationships exist between them. For a transfer switch between different chains of slides, the *independent* relationship exists between them. Highlights are the words belonging to the link context of one chain in detail. The effects for three types of transitions between the words in the generated word clouds are as follows:

- ***Font size changes***: a *shrinking* or *expanding* effect is set between serial slides when presenting one chain in the presentation flow. When the font sizes of the words in the current word cloud are smaller than those in the previous one, a *shrinking* effect is implemented. When the font sizes of the words in the current word cloud are larger than those in the previous one, an *expanding* effect is applied after a *shrinking* effect. Users can easily understand that they are following a chain of slides where the words



slide 2			slide 3			slide 4			slide 5			slide 6		
database	2.0	L	key	4.5	L	table	3.0	L	key	4.5	L	language	5.0	L
management	1.0	M	table	3.0	M	row	2.0	M	primary	1.5	S	query	2.0	S
system	1.0	M	row	2.0	S	relational	2.0	M	foreign	1.5	S			
			primary	1.5	S	database	2.0	M	table	1.5	S			
			foreign	1.5	S	key	1.0	S	relational	1.0	S			
			relational	1.5	S	column	1.0	S	database	1.0	S			
			database	1.5	S	record	1.0	S	management	0.5	S			

Word Value Size

Fig. 6 Example of extracted words for generating context-based word clouds of slides

are mentioned.

- ***Color changes***: a *coloring* effect is set between serial slides to highlight detailed points in one chain of the presentation flow. For a current word cloud, the words belonging to the next word cloud, which are described in detail on the next slide, are drawn in red. Users easily see that these words are highlighted in one chain. When the highlighted words in the current word cloud are not detailed in the next word cloud, these words are drawn the default color (black).
- ***Switching***: a *dissolve* effect is applied to a transfer switch between different chains in the presentation flow. The current word cloud disappears and the next word cloud appears gradually in its place. Users easily grasp that a transfer switch has occurred.

5. Application

5.1. Prototype System

In this paper, based on the method described above, we built a novel quick browsing interface to support users to quickly gain a broad understanding of presentation contents (see Fig. 4). The font size of each word is set to be the degree of the word in presentation contexts. This interface also uses color to visualize the detailed points.

Users can specify any presentation content for quick browsing from the results, and the browser presents all words from all word clouds of slides with an initial font size (i.e., 20pt) in a dynamic word cloud display. When a user moves a seekbar to turn over slides, and the weighted words belonging the word clouds of slides with their font sizes (i.e., small: 30pt, medium: 40pt, large: 50pt) are dynamically presented with visual transitions in the word cloud display. We also considered that figures or tables are important visual objects in presentations, we then attempt to build an interface is shown in Fig. 5, it has both a dynamic word cloud display and a figure (table) display. In the future, we plan to attempt to build other kinds of interfaces to express the presentation content well.

5.2. Validity of Generated Context-based Word Clouds

We confirmed our context-based word cloud generation method by using four presentations from our dataset, P_A, P_B, P_C, and P_D. In here, P_A[3] and P_B[4] are online lecture contents related to database; P_C and P_D are academic presentation contents from DEWS workshops for members of the society. We show an example of extracted weighted words with their values and determined sizes for generating context-based word clouds of P_A named “Introduction to Relational Databases” (see Fig. 6).

In this example, slide *3* entitled “Relational Database” that ‘relational’ and ‘database’ are important in general.

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[3] Portland State University: http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~howe/cs410/lectures/Relational_Intro_1.ppt

[4] Atilim University: http://www.atilim.edu.tr/~mrehan/Chapter¥%203.ppt

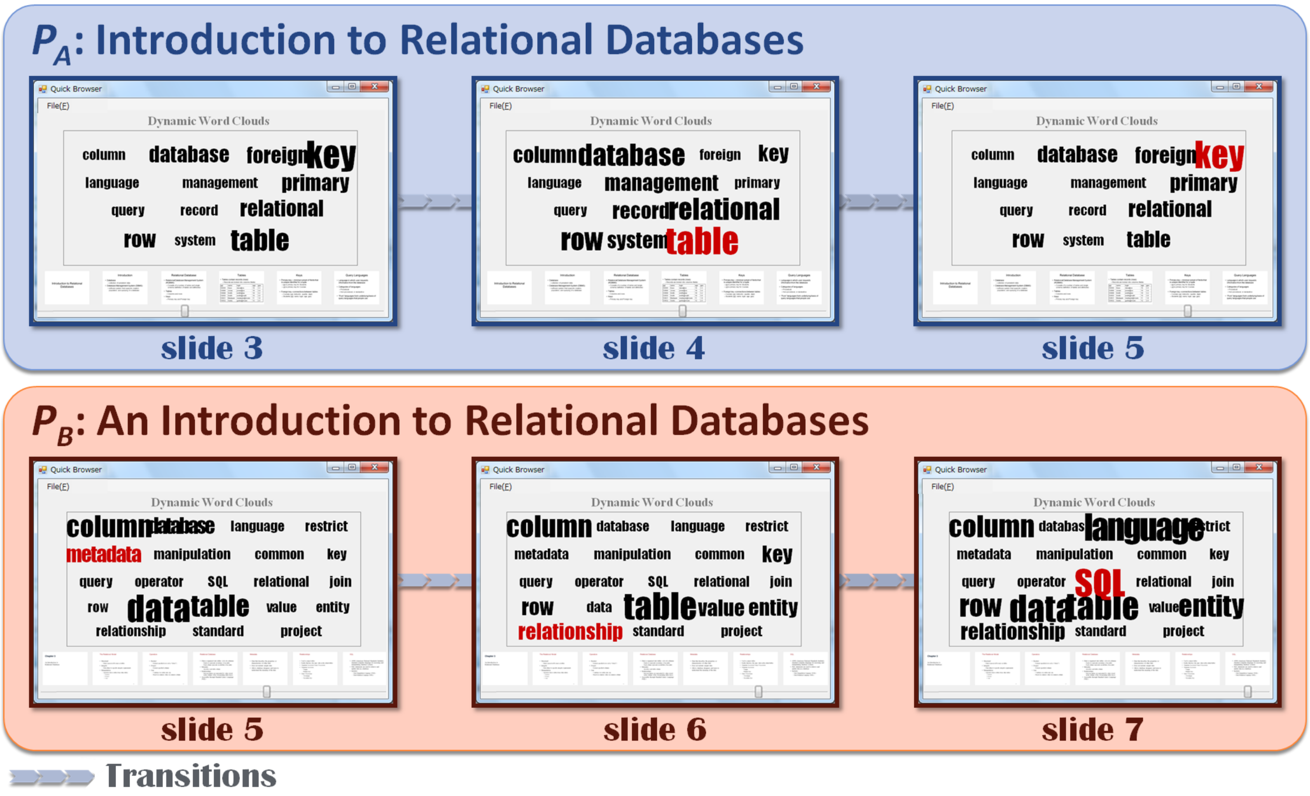

Fig. 7 Examples of transitions between word clouds (P_A and P_B)

However, in our method, we considered the context of slide *3* that 'key' and 'table' have high value in slide *3*. In addition, for slides *4* and *5*, we can extract weighted words such as 'relational' and 'database' that are not included in slides *4* and *5*, but these words are related to them. Therefore, we considered that users can grasp the flow of slides *3* to *5* about 'tables and keys in relational databases' well.

5.3. Application Examples

When a user wants a presentation about 'relational database overview: tables and keys,' he/she can specify any presentation content for quick browsing from the results. An example of browsing the dynamic word clouds of two presentations from our dataset, P_A and P_B, is shown in Fig. 7. In this case, the user browses the flow of slide *3* to slide *5* in P_A named "Introduction to Relational Databases," and the flow of slide *5* to slide *7* in P_B named "An Introduction to Relational Databases." When the user moves the seekbar to go from slide *3* to *5* in P_A, the font sizes of 'table,' 'database,' 'relational,' and 'row' are increased in slide *4*, and the font sizes of 'key,' 'foreign,' and 'primary' are increased in slide *5*. In particular, 'table' and 'key' are drawn in red in slides *4* and *5*, respectively. On the other hand, when the user moves the seekbar to go from slide *5* to *7* in P_B, the font sizes of 'table,' 'relationship,' and 'entity' are increased in slide *6*, and the font sizes of the words such 'SQL,' 'language,' and 'data' are increased in slide *7*. In particular, 'metadata,' 'relationship,' and 'SQL' are drawn in red in slides *5*, *6*, and *7*, respectively.

In the case of P_A, we find that 'table' and 'key' are core points in the flow of slides *3* to *5*, the presentation explains 'tables and keys in relational databases,' detailed relationships exist between 'table' in slides *3* and *4*, and 'key' in slides *3* and *5*. There is also a parallel relationship between 'table' and 'key' in slides *4* and *5*. For P_B, 'metadata,' 'relationship,' and 'SQL' are core points in the flow of slides *5* to *7*, the presentation explains 'characteristics of data in relational database,' and a parallel relationship exists among 'metadata,' 'relationship,' and 'SQL' in slides *5*, *6*, and *7*. Therefore, P_A is worth learning in that it better meets the user's needs. Although we confirmed that our proposed dynamic word clouds enables a user to effectively and easily select presentations with contents that meet his/her needs, we encountered difficulties when presentation contents (i.e., P_A and P_B) had a similar title.

We need to consider how best to present the differences in similar presentation contents (e.g., different topics or same topics with different context information, etc.). Additionally, we must provide a quick browsing interface that compares similar presentation contents simultaneously with the differences clearly marked.

6. Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we proposed a quick browsing method for presentation content that uses dynamic word clouds to present words interactively with visual effects to help a user visually understand the context of content within a presentation. We described how presentation context can be determined from slide structure and the relationships between slides. In order to generate context-based word clouds of slides, we extracted weighted words from presentation context, and then presented dynamic word clouds with transitions that highlighted the relationships between slides. Finally, we confirmed our context-based word cloud generation method with four presentation contents and shown some application examples.

In the future, we plan to develop various other visual effects for presenting transitions in the word clouds to help users intuitively understand presentation content. We also plan to develop a quick browsing interface that presents the contents of multiple presentations for comparison. We have to evaluate the usability of our quick browsing interface to confirm that it can enable users to gain a broad understanding of presentation contents meet their needs from our collected 16 online presentation contents related to database lectures (from universities in America) effectively and easily.

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