The Manchester Metropolitan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Information and Communications

# INFORMATION RETRIEVAL METHODS AND USER-CREATED METADATA IN THE BITTORRENT FILE-SHARING COMMUNITY

**Kevin Dewhirst**

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## Declaration

This thesis is the candidate's own work and had not been previously published or submitted in support of any other degree or diploma.

Signed:

Kevin Dewhirst

Date: 29 September 2006

**Abstract**

Users of the bittorrent file-sharing protocol currently use a large amount of internet traffic. Information that enables the distribution of material via bittorrent is created by users and stored on different websites. A group of these websites were studied to examine how they facilitated the retrieval of this information by their users. The metadata that users contributed to the websites to describe material was collected and analysed. Regularly occurring metadata elements and their frequencies were identified. Finally, a questionnaire was made available to bittorrent users in order to determine their behaviours in the creation and retrieval of information from these websites. The questionnaire also evaluated how well the information retrieval needs of bittorrent users were met.

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