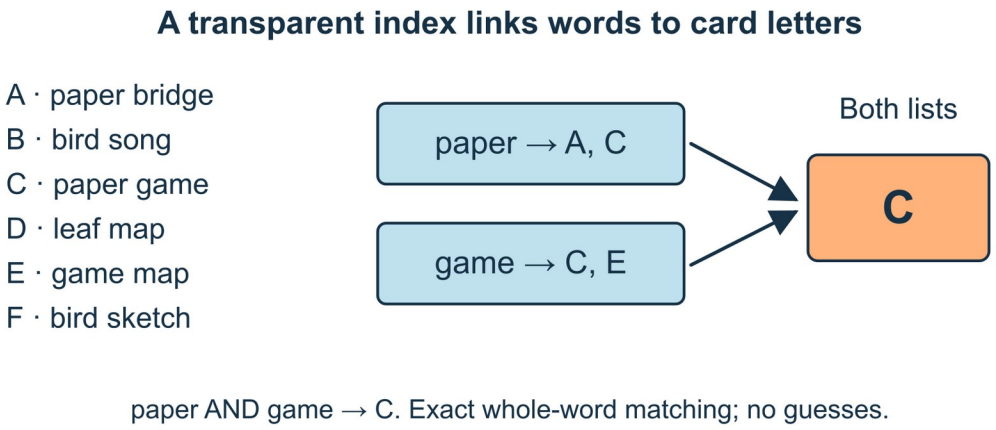
Build a six card search index

What makes a paper search return a useful match?

Build a small keyword-to-card index, combine exact matches and explain what a missing word does and does not mean.

Make | 15–25 minutes, or one query | The supplied example, read or heard, Optional scrap paper and a pen or pencil

Start here Use six invented titles: A paper bridge; B bird song; C paper game; D leaf map; E game map; F bird sketch.



Six titles, a transparent matching rule

1 Define a matching rule

Use lowercase whole words exactly as written in the titles. Index every title word; do not guess synonyms, plurals or anyone's interests.

2 Build the lists

For each word, list the matching card letters. For example paper → A, C; bird → B, F; game → C, E; map → D, E. Also include bridge → A, song → B, leaf → D, sketch → F.

3 Combine a query

For paper AND game, keep only card letters in both lists. The intersection of A, C and C, E is C. The word games has no exact match under this rule.

4 Explain the limit

A failed exact match does not show that the idea is uninteresting or unknown everywhere. It describes this small collection and this matching rule; you can edit the query.

Constructed index six complete cards

All six titles and their words are supplied. Card letters identify records, not people or user profiles.

• paper → A, C; bird → B, F; game → C, E; map → D, E.

• bridge → A; song → B; leaf → D; sketch → F.

• paper AND game returns C; games returns none under exact whole-word matching.

What this example can show This is a tiny index model, not a prediction engine or a benchmark of real search speed. It cannot search words absent from its six supplied titles.

A different way

Compare only the paper and game lists, or have the titles read aloud. No device, account, browsing or personal search history is required.

If you want to go further

Rename F from bird sketch to paper sketch. Update the bird and paper lists while keeping the sketch entry, then rerun one query.

Something to notice

Did I distinguish the collection's contents from the search rule's limits?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Search Indexes

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/search-indexes/

Horizon topic Tables Sorting

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/tables-sorting/

Horizon topic Computing

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CS Unplugged, University of Canterbury Searching algorithms

https://www.csunplugged.org/en/topics/searching-algorithms/

PostgreSQL Global Development Group Preferred Index Types for Text Search

https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/textsearch-indexes.html