

Vijay John

*A Method for Enhancing Search Using Transliteration of Mandarin Chinese*

This paper deals with a relatively unexplored aspect (searching for Romanized transliterations of terms) of a popular language (namely, Mandarin Chinese). Although search engines are able to suggest alternate spellings, they do not yet look for all possible transliterations of the same word. This paper describes a new approach to enhance search engine performance on terms originally from Mandarin Chinese. The algorithm improves searches by extracting parts of search terms using a right-to-left search method. This algorithm, *Xiǎozhǐ*, is currently implemented for Mandarin Chinese search terms written in *Pīnyīn*. The program includes a list of transliteration replacement sets, within which the elements are possible transliterations of the same sound. Even though the implementation is specific to Mandarin Chinese, *Xiǎozhǐ* may be extended to other languages using a different list of sets. This includes less-studied languages, such as Tibetan, Romani, and Malayalam.