Article:

Bates, Marcia J. (1989). "The Design of Browsing and Berrypicking Techniques for the Online Search Interface." *Online Review*, 13(5): 407-424. Available online

Summary:

The author argues that berrypicking is a new searching model which is much closer to the real behavior of information searchers than the traditional model of information retrieval and therefore it will guide our thinking better in the design of effective interfaces.

Discussion:

Everyone agreed that an evolving / learning search approach is becoming the norm today. Some of the techniques discussed in the paper are now widely implemented in modern electronic/computer based search and retrieval. Citation analysis and bibliographic searching have gained importance over the last few years.

The author's opinon about the classical model of searching was discussed. The participants view was that the classical model is suitable from a printed text or legacy electronic records viewpoint.

The 'journal run' and 'area scanning' methods are usually employed by specialists looking at a narrow subject field.

What we found remarkable was the author's ability to accurately paint a picture of the future of browsing and search techniques. The author's foresight was apparent when she mentioned the use of hypertext and electronic searching for berrypicking approach to information seeking.