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His early research interests covered the application of natural language processing techniques to information retrieval (text) but this has broadened to cover the indexing and content-based retrieval of information in all media, text, image, audio (spoken) and especially digital video. At present his major research funding is in the area of indexing and retrieval of digital video and in digital libraries, and has also received funded research in music IR and in web searching.

His research has received funding from the European Union under the ESPRIT, LTR, Information Engineering, Language Engineering, VALUE and Libraries programmes as well as from national funding agencies and from industry. He has published over 80 book chapters, journal and conference papers, is an Associate Editor of the ACM Transactions on Information Systems, an Associate Editor of the Kluwer Journal Information Retrieval and a member of the Editorial Boards of Information Processing and Management and of the Journal on Digital Libraries.