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[The Assumption \(Probabilistic Principle\) of the Probabilistic Model of IR](#)

Assumption (Probabilistic Principle) Given a user query q and a document d_j in the collection, the probabilistic model tries to estimate the probability that the user will find the document d_j interesting (i.e., relevant). The model assumes that this probability of relevance depends on the query and the document representations only. Further, the model assumes that there is a subset of all documents which the user prefers as the answer set for the query q . Such an ideal answer set is labeled R and should maximize the overall probability of relevance to the user. Documents in the set R are predicted to be relevant to the query. Documents not in this set are predicted to be non-relevant.

(Quoted from [Modern Information Retrieval](#), 1999.)
