## Candidate Interest #2

## Using Conceptual Mapping and Modeling to Explain Techniques of Human Foraging

Conceptual mappings and models help provide representation for abstract cognitive processes within humans. Conceptual maps shows an individuals way of thinking by providing the path of thinking from one idea to the other. That mental path or network can then be physically represented and interpreted to better understand the process or way of thinking. Conceptual modeling create physical representations of systems and abstract concepts/phenomena found in Cognitive Science and other disciplines. Both conceptual mapping and modeling provide those trying to understand another's way of thinking a clear and concise way of doing so.

Foraging is the act of searching for provisions and historically speaking these provisions have mainly been food and necessities. Even today humans participate in foraging for food as they travel through the grocery store searching for desired products. Human foraging can also be seen in more specific cases when searching for lost articles of clothing, wallets, or keys. Human foraging does not only need to be physical. The same techniques used in foraging for physical items can be seen in mental foraging when recalling memories and experiences.

This project will attempt to explain human foraging through the use of conceptual models and mappings. The ability to form conceptual models and maps will help to explain the high level cognitive processes that go into human foraging both physical and mental. In doing so the incentives and reasoning when foraging can be interpreted, better understood, and physically represented.