Media Management and Automation System
for Broadcast

digispot®
System GmbH

/// TRACT

News Browser

USER MANUAL

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News Browser

The **News Browser** module is designed to display a sequence of informational messages entering the **MDB** in the form of a list arranged in reverse chronological order. The module is oriented towards supporting news services of radio stations with varied percentage of information broadcasting.

According to the envisaged working process, informational messages are received by the **News Browser** from news agencies. They are automatically added to the **News** section of MDB in one or several categories. The distribution of messages among categories is usually done automatically. All incoming messages are displayed in the form of a list with built-in search and filtering functions.

Message list

The News Browser module displays incoming messages in the form of a list where each item has the following information displayed:

- **Title**;
- **Date and time of arrival**;
- **Category**;
- **First line** of the message (optionally);
- **Source** (value of **Agency** attribute is displayed);
- **Priority** of the message (value of **Priority** attribute is displayed).

The list is arranged in a reverse chronological order which means that the most recent messages are added to the top.

The window with the list allows adjusting the following parameters directly:

- **Total number of messages**;
- **Refresh period** (seconds or minutes);
- **Limitation by time of arrival** of messages (number of hours or days).

New messages

The **News Browser** module allows configuring the display of new messages in the list in bold text. The message stops being new after a marker has been set on it and left for a few seconds (three seconds by default but this parameter can be adjusted manually).

Search

Searching by following fields is available in **News Browser** list:

- **Title**,
- **Comment**,
- **Text**.

Words in a search query should be divided by spaces, with query being possible regardless of combination of the above mentioned search fields. An informational item only gets to the search results list if all words specified in the query are present in at least one of its fields.

The search query editing field can be highlighted in one of the following colors:

- **White** — The search query field is blank. All messages are shown in the list.
- **Blue** — The search query is in the process of editing. Contents of the list do not correspond to the query. To process the query, click on **Go** or hit **Enter**.
- **Green** – The query has been processed. Contents of the list correspond to the query.

Category tree

To the left of the message list in **News Browser** module window there is a category tree. Here you will find all categories that the informational messages are added to. The number of categories is specified in **Global settings** of the **News Browser** tab. If no category is selected, all categories for the **News** type will be displayed.

By selecting one or several categories in the tree you can filter the contents of the message list by category. If you select the line **[All]** or hide the category tree, there will be no filtering by category. Instead, all messages pertaining to these categories will be displayed.

Text viewing window

There is a text viewing window in **News Browser** module. It is located below or to the right of the message list. The text viewing window can be hidden using respective tool bar button. The window shows the text of the item selected in the message list

Filtering by attribute values

There is a possibility of quick filtering of messages by user attribute values in **News Browser**. The filtering system requires to be pre-configured which is done simultaneously from all workplaces by using the **Service — Global settings — News Browser menu**. The newly created filters are displayed on respective bars under the message list. Each bar contains buttons that correspond to message selection criteria, depending on filter type: simple or complex.

Simple filter is connected to all values of an attribute specified during creation of the filter. For example, if there is a **Priority** attribute in the system with values **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5** and **6**, then, creating a simple filter by **Priority**, a bar with 6 labels (buttons) will be created, each label connected to a certain attribute value.

As long as no label is selected in a filter, the latter remains passive and has no influence on the message list. Selecting one of the labels by clicking on it with a mouse you can activate a filter (selected label is highlighted in green) and leave only those messages in the list that have respective values of the **Priority** attribute. For example, you can view urgent messages only. Filtering can be switched off by mouse clicking on the filter name.

Fig. 1. A simple filter bar

Complex filter simply simultaneous action of several criteria; these filters are different that the labels and criteria connected to each of the labels are configured manually. The principles of using complex filters are identical to those of simple filters described above.

If more than one filter are activated at once, only messages that correspond to all currently active filters will be displayed in the list (as if the filters were separated by "and").

Configuring filter bars

Filter bars are created on the **News Browser** tab in **Global settings**. In the lower part of the window, current filter system is showed in the form of a tree, as well as buttons for editing filters.

To create a new filter bar click on **New bar**. A request will appear on the screen: "Do you want to link this bar to all values of one attribute?" If you answer **Yes**, a simple filter will be created and a window will appear that lets you select an attribute by values of which this filter will be created. There is no need to enter the name of the filter in this case; the filter will have the same name as the selected attribute.

If you answer **No**, a complex filter will be created. In this case, you will need to specify successively the filter name and the name of the first button of the filter. After that the attribute value select window for this button will be opened. A special feature of a complex filter is the manual configuration of each label (button): each label must have its name and values clearly specified, including those pertaining to various attributes.

The factor that defines selection of messages according to complex filter criteria is the presence in a news message of at least one attribute value of those assigned to a label (as if the criteria assigned to one label were logically divided by "or").

An example of filter configuration is given on fig. 2. According to the tree shown below, there are 2 filters in the system: one of them is simple and is for the **Priority** attribute values, the other one is complex and is named **Agencies**. There are 2 labels created for the **Agencies** filter: **Foreign** and **Russian**. When using this filter by selecting the **Russian** label only those messages received from the three official Russian agencies (RIA, RTR and Interfax) will be shown in the browser. Similarly, the **Foreign** label will only show messages from the three foreign agencies - Reuters, AFP and DPA.

The purpose of editing buttons:
- The **New bar** button creates new filters.
- The **Add** button is designed for editing complex filters and, depending on what's selected in the tree, either adds new label to selected filter or adds new attribute values to selected label.

- The **Delete** button deletes selected item from the tree: it can be a filter, a label or an attribute value.
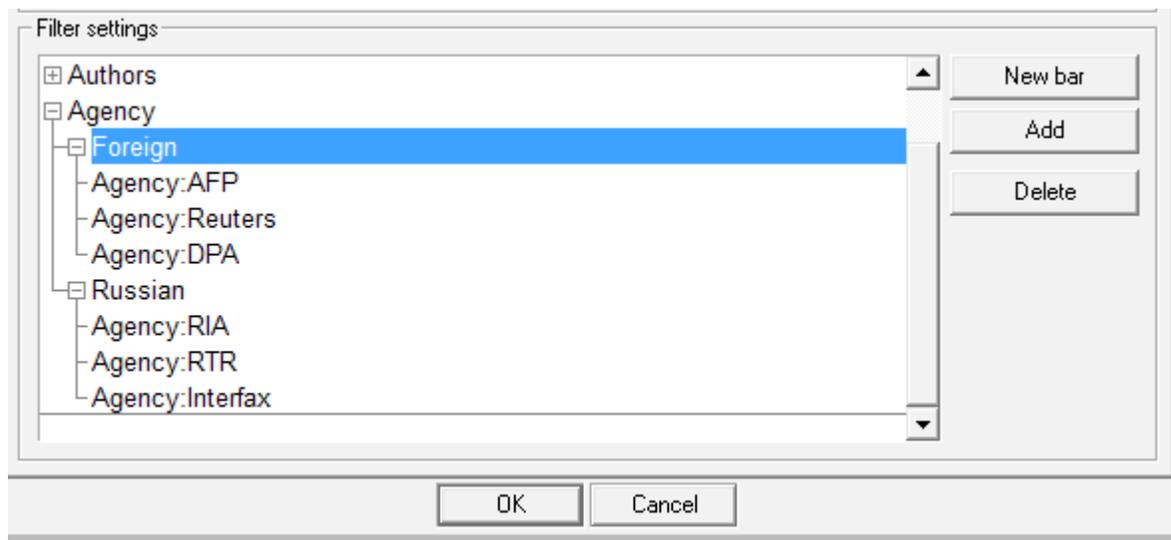
Fig. 2. An example of filter configuration

Tool bar

There are the following buttons on the tool bar:
- **Refresh**. Re-reads all information from MDB;
- **Show/hide categories**;
- **Show/hide filters toolbar**;
- **News list mode**;
- **Text preview (bottom / right)**;
- **Back color**. Changes background color;
- **Fonts...** Selects font;
- **Settings**. Opens a settings window.

Settings window

The settings window is accessed by clicking on a respective button on the tool bar. A settings tree is found inside which helps you to change the browser layout:
- Background color.
- Switch on / off display of the first line of text in a message.
- In a few seconds after setting the marker new message stops being new.

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