Comprehensive Development Documentation for Blitz Chatbot

Introduction

The development of Blitz, the Al chatbot for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, involved extensive research, testing, and implementation of various tools and technologies. This document provides a detailed account of the tools used, the challenges encountered, and the decisions made during the project. The goal was to create a robust, multilingual chatbot capable of handling customer support queries with high accuracy and efficiency.

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Tools and Technologies

H₂oGPT

Overview: H2oGPT was the initial platform used for developing Blitz. It offered a range of features, including integration with the Gradio and OpenAl servers.

Challenges:

- Lack of Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG): H2oGPT did not support RAG, which was essential for improving the chatbot's contextual accuracy and information retrieval capabilities.
- **Prompt Injection Vulnerabilities**: The platform lacked built-in protection against prompt injection attacks, posing a security risk.
- **Server Issues**: The Gradio server had performance issues, and while the OpenAI server provided some functionality, it did not allow full access to the desired features.

Decision: Due to these limitations, H2oGPT was eventually discontinued in favor of more advanced platforms.

LM Studio

Overview: LM Studio was chosen for its superior performance and more refined API endpoints, which facilitated easier experimentation with different models.

Key Features:

- **Model Flexibility**: The ability to test and switch between models like LLaMA 3.1 and Mistral 7B provided greater flexibility.
- **RAG Limitation**: Despite its strengths, LM Studio lacked support for RAG, which was crucial for the project.

Decision: While LM Studio offered improved performance, the lack of RAG functionality led to further exploration of other tools.

Custom RAG APIs

Overview: Several versions of custom RAG APIs were developed using Ollama, Langchain, LlamaIndex, and vector databases like ChromaDB.

Challenges:

- Performance: The custom APIs delivered average performance and lacked advanced features necessary for the project.
- **Complexity**: Developing and maintaining these custom solutions proved to be time-consuming and complex.

Decision: The custom RAG APIs were eventually replaced by the Ollama-Dify integration, which provided a more robust and feature-rich solution.

AnythingLLM and OpenWebUI

Overview: Both AnythingLLM and OpenWebUI were explored for their RAG capabilities and rich feature sets.

Challenges:

- **Lack of Developer Support**: Both tools suffered from poor developer support, with APIs that either did not work or were not available.
- **Feature Richness**: Despite their potential, the tools could not be utilized to their full capabilities due to these limitations.

Decision: Neither AnythingLLM nor OpenWebUI was adopted due to their lack of functional APIs and support.

Ollama and Dify

Overview: Ollama and Dify were integrated to leverage the strengths of both platforms. Ollama was used for running the LLMs locally, while Dify was employed for customizing the models and adding necessary features to enhance the chatbot's capabilities.

Key Features:

- RAG Capabilities: Ollama enabled the testing and implementation of RAG, which was
 pivotal in improving the chatbot's ability to retrieve and generate accurate responses
 based on context.
- Model Customization: Dify allowed for extensive customization of the models, refining the system prompt and integrating additional features that enhanced performance and security.
- **Prompt Injection Protection**: Dify integrated seamlessly with prompt injection APIs, significantly enhancing the security of the chatbot.

Decision: The integration of Ollama and Dify proved to be the most effective solution for developing Blitz, providing the necessary performance, customization, and security features required for the project.

Tool	Overview	Key Features	Challenges	Decision
H2oGPT	Initial platform used for Blitz development, offering integration with Gradio and OpenAl servers.	- Integration with Gradio and OpenAl servers	- Lack of RAG functionality - Vulnerable to prompt injection attacks - Performance issues with Gradio server - Limited access to OpenAl server features	Discontinued due to limitations in RAG and security.
LM Studio	Chosen for its superior performance and refined API endpoints, facilitating easier model experimentation.	- Model flexibility (LLaMA 3.1, Mistral 7B) - Superior performance	- Lack of RAG functionality	Further exploration of other tools due to the absence of RAG support.
Custom RAG APIs	Developed using Ollama, Langchain, LlamaIndex, and ChromaDB to experiment with RAG implementation.	- Custom RAG implementations using various technologies	- Average performance-Lacked advanced features - Complexity in development and maintenance	-Replaced by the Ollama -Dify integration for better performance and feature richness.
AnythingLLM & OpenWebUI	Explored for their RAG capabilities and rich feature sets.	- Rich feature sets in RAG	- Poor developer support - Non-functional or unavailable APIs	Not adopted due to lack of functional APIs and support.
Ollama & Dify	Integrated to combine Ollama's local LLM capabilities with Dify's model customization and feature enhancement.	- RAG capabilities- Extensive model customization - Prompt injection protection - Superior multilingual support	- N/A	Proven to be the most effective solution, providing necessary performance, customization, and security.

Language Models & Embedding Models Used

Initially, I started with the <u>Mistral 7B</u> model, but later transitioned to <u>LLaMA 3.1</u> due to its superior overall performance. However, for better handling of Arabic language queries, I eventually adopted the <u>Ava</u> model, which has proven to be more effective in this domain.

Regarding embedding models, I experimented with both <u>Nomic Embed</u> and <u>Mxbai-Embed-Large</u>. Although I initially used <u>Mxbai</u>, I eventually chose <u>Nomic Embed</u> due to its lighter footprint. However, I haven't fully explored the potential of <u>Mxbai</u> yet.

As of now, I am primarily using the <u>Aya</u> model for language processing and <u>Nomic Embed</u> for embedding tasks, balancing efficiency and performance.

Ollama

Installing Ollama

macOS

To set up Ollama on macOS, follow the steps below:

- 1. **Download** the latest version from the official Ollama website.
- 2. Install the application by following the on-screen instructions.

Windows (Preview)

For Windows users, the Ollama preview version is available:

- 1. **Download** the preview version from the official website.
- 2. Follow the installation guide provided during the setup process.

Linux

Linux users can install Ollama via the terminal:

1. Download and install Ollama using the following command:

```
curl -fsSL https://ollama.com/install.sh | sh
```

Alternatively, refer to the <u>manual install instructions</u> on the Ollama website for detailed steps.

Docker

For those preferring to use Docker, Ollama offers an official Docker image:

- 1. Pull the Docker image from Docker Hub by running:
 - docker pull ollama/ollama
- 2. Follow the Docker-specific instructions on Docker Hub to complete the setup.

Using Ollama

Once Ollama is installed, you can begin pulling the models you need. Use the following command to download a specific model:

```
ollama pull model-name
```

REST API

Ollama provides a REST API for running and managing models, allowing you to generate responses or interact with models via HTTP requests.

Generate a Response

To generate a response from a model, use the following curl command:

```
curl http://localhost:11434/api/generate -d '{
   "model": "llama3.1",
   "prompt":"Why is the sky blue?"
}'
```

This command sends a request to the API, specifying the model (llama3.1) and the prompt ("Why is the sky blue?"). The model will return a generated response based on the input.

Chat with a Model

To engage in a chat with a model, use the following curl command:

This command sends a chat message to the specified model. The "messages" array allows for multiple interactions, with the "role" parameter distinguishing between user and model inputs.

See the <u>API documentation</u> for all endpoints.

Models:

- 1. <u>Aya</u>
- 2. Llama 3.1
- 3. Nomic-embed-text
- 4. Mxbai-embed-large

Dify

Dify is an open-source platform that streamlines the development of AI applications by integrating Backend-as-a-Service with LLMOps. It is designed to make generative AI accessible to a wide range of users, from developers to non-technical innovators.

Core Features

- **Mainstream LLM Support:** Dify integrates seamlessly with leading language models, ensuring compatibility and ease of use.
- **Prompt Orchestration Interface:** An intuitive interface allows for the effective creation, management, and deployment of AI prompts.
- **High-Quality RAG Engines:** Dify includes robust Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) engines, enhancing the quality of Al-generated content.
- **Flexible Al Agent Framework:** The platform supports the development and deployment of customizable Al agents.
- **Low-Code Workflow:** Dify offers a user-friendly, low-code environment, enabling rapid development and deployment of AI solutions.
- **Easy-to-Use Interfaces and APIs:** Simplifies interactions with the platform, reducing the complexity of AI development.

The Dify Advantage

Unlike many AI development tools that provide only individual components, Dify offers a comprehensive, production-ready solution. It serves as a well-designed scaffolding system rather than just a toolbox, ensuring that all aspects of AI application development are seamlessly integrated.

As an open-source platform, Dify benefits from the contributions of a dedicated professional team and an active community. This collaborative approach drives rapid iteration, robust features, and a user-friendly interface.

With Dify, we can:

- Deploy AI capabilities similar to Assistants API and GPTs using any model.
- Maintain full control over your data with flexible security options.
- Leverage an intuitive interface for easy management and deployment of Al applications.

Running Dify Locally

Prerequisites

Operating System	Software	Explanation
macOS 10.14 or later	Docker Desktop	Set the Docker virtual machine (VM) to use a minimum of 2 virtual CPUs (vCPUs) and 8 GB of initial memory. Otherwise, the installation may fail. For more information, please refer to the Docker Desktop installation guide for Mac .
Linux platforms	Docker 19.03 or later Docker Compose 1.25.1 or later	Please refer to the <u>Docker installation guide</u> and <u>the Docker</u> <u>Compose installation guide</u> for more information on how to install Docker and Docker Compose, respectively.
Windows with WSL 2 enabled	Docker Desktop	We recommend storing the source code and other data that is bound to Linux containers in the Linux file system rather than the Windows file system. For more information, please refer to the Docker Desktop installation guide for using the WSL 2 backend on Windows.

Clone Dify

Clone the Dify source code to your local machine:

```
git clone https://github.com/langgenius/dify.git
```

Start Dify

Navigate to the docker directory in the Dify source code and execute the following command to start Dify:

```
cd dify/docker
cp .env.example .env
docker compose up -d
```

Access Dify

Finally, access http://localhost/install to use the deployed Dify.

Adding Model Provider(Ollama)

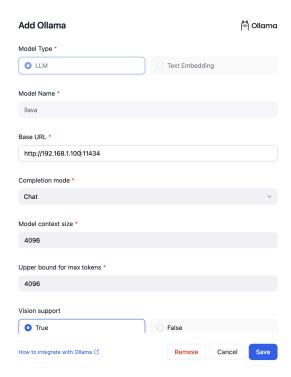
1. Pull model using Ollama

```
ollama pull llava
```

After successful launch, Ollama starts an API service on local port 11434, which can be accessed at http://localhost:11434.

2. Integrate Ollama in Dify

In Settings > Model Providers > Ollama, fill in:



- Model Name: 1lava
- Base URL: http://<your-ollama-endpoint-domain>:11434
- Enter the base URL where the Ollama service is accessible.
- If Dify is deployed using docker, consider using the local network IP address, e.g., http://192.168.1.100:11434 or the docker host machine IP address, e.g., http://172.17.0.1:11434.
- For local source code deployment, use http://localhost:11434.
- Model Type: Chat
- Model Context Length: 4096
- The maximum context length of the model. If unsure, use the default value of 4096.
- Maximum Token Limit: 4096
- The maximum number of tokens returned by the model. If there are no specific requirements for the model, this can be consistent with the model context length.
- Support for Vision: Yes
- Check this option if the model supports image understanding (multimodal), like llava.

Click "Save" to use the model in the application after verifying that there are no errors.

The integration method for Embedding models is similar to LLM, just change the model type to Text Embedding.

If you are using docker to deploy Dify and Ollama, you may encounter the following error:

```
httpconnectionpool(host=127.0.0.1, port=11434): max retries exceeded with url:/cpi/chat (Caused by NewConnectionError('<urllib3.connection.HTTPConnection object at 0x7f8562812c20>: fail to establish a new connection:[Errno 111] Connection refused'))
```

```
httpconnectionpool(host=localhost, port=11434): max retries exceeded with url:/cpi/chat (Caused by NewConnectionError('<urllib3.connection.HTTPConnection object at 0x7f8562812c20>: fail to establish a new connection:[Errno 111] Connection refused'))
```

This error occurs because the Ollama service is not accessible from the docker container.

Localhost usually refers to the container itself, not the host machine or other containers.

To resolve this issue, you need to expose the Ollama service to the network.

Setting environment variables on Mac

If Ollama is run as a macOS application, environment variables should be set using launchetl:

1. For each environment variable, call launchetl setenv.

```
launchctl setenv OLLAMA_HOST "0.0.0.0"
```

- 2. Restart Ollama application.
- 3. If the above steps are ineffective, you can use the following method:
- 4. The issue lies within Docker itself, and to access the Docker host. you should connect to host.docker.internal. Therefore, replacing localhost with host.docker.internal in the service will make it work effectively.

```
http://host.docker.internal:11434
```

Setting environment variables on Linux

If Ollama is run as a systemd service, environment variables should be set using systemct1:

- 1. Edit the systemd service by calling systemctl edit ollama.service. This will open an editor.
- 2. For each environment variable, add a line Environment under section [Service]:

```
Environment="OLLAMA_HOST=0.0.0.0"
```

- 3. Save and exit.
- 4. Reload systemd and restart Ollama:

```
systemctl daemon-reload
systemctl restart ollama
```

Setting environment variables on Windows

On windows, Ollama inherits your user and system environment variables.

- 1. First Quit Ollama by clicking on it in the task bar
- 2. Edit system environment variables from the control panel
- 3. Edit or create New variable(s) for your user account for <code>OLLAMA_HOST</code>, <code>OLLAMA_MODELS</code>, etc.
- 4. Click OK/Apply to save
- 5. Run ollama from a new terminal window

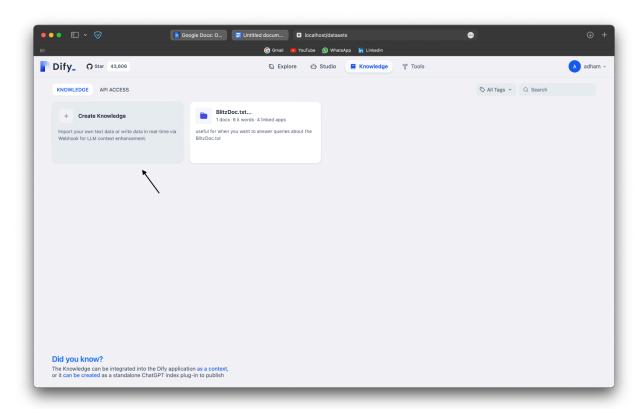
How can I expose Ollama on my network?

Ollama binds 127.0.0.1 port 11434 by default. Change the bind address with the <code>OLLAMA_HOST</code> environment variable.

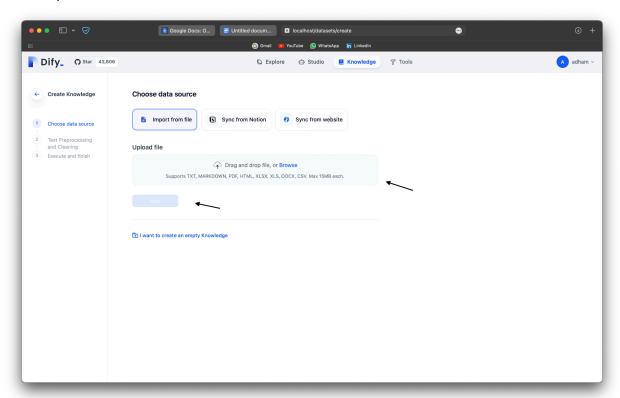
For more information visit **Dify Documentation**

Adding Knowledge Base

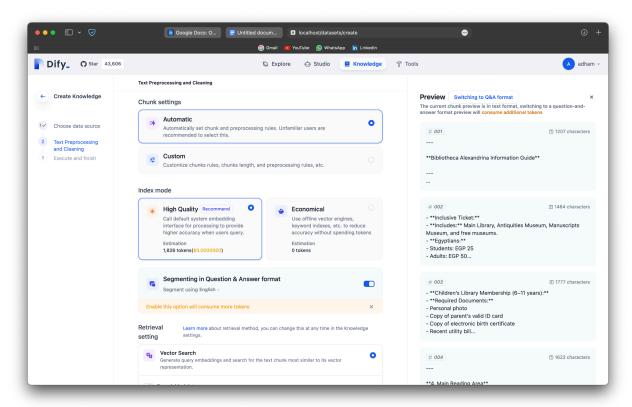
1. Go to localhost/databases and select Create Knowledge



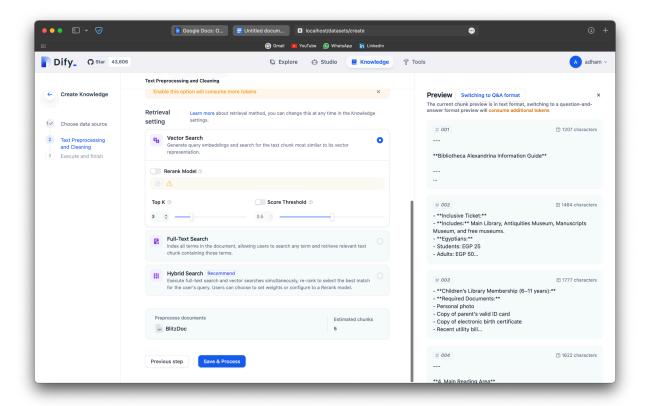
2. Upload File and Click Next



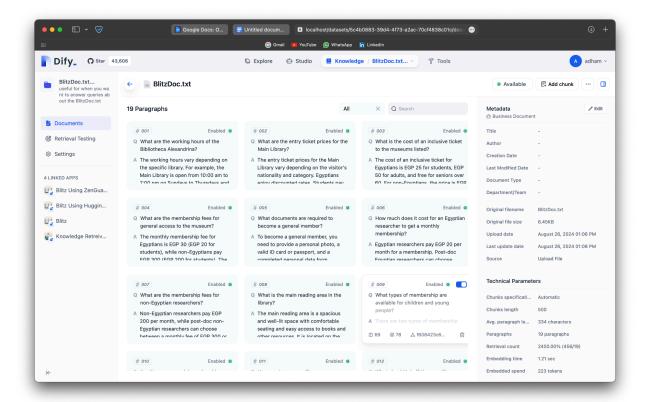
3. Set the Chunking settings to automatic and Choose high quality indexing and choose the embedding model running local on ollama enable segmenting in Q&A format



4. I initially used Vector Search for retrieval in Blitz due to its efficiency. However, I'm exploring Hybrid Search for potentially better accuracy. I also recommend integrating a reranking model to enhance the relevance of the final responses.



5. The Questions and answers are displayed after chunking and segmentation



File Used: BlitzDoc.txt

Monitoring and Logging Features

• Total Messages:

Definition: Represents the total number of interactions the AI handles each day.
 Each user query answered counts as a single message. Note that prompt orchestration and debugging sessions are excluded from this count.

Active Users:

Definition: Indicates the number of unique users who have engaged with the AI
through more than one question-and-answer exchange. This metric excludes
prompt orchestration and debugging sessions.

Average Session Interactions:

 Definition: Measures the number of continuous interactions within a session. For instance, if a user engages in a 10-round Q&A with the AI, it counts as 10 interactions. This metric provides insight into user engagement and is available only for conversational applications.

• Token Output Speed:

 Definition: Tracks the number of tokens generated per second. This metric indirectly reflects the model's generation rate and the application's usage frequency.

User Satisfaction Rate:

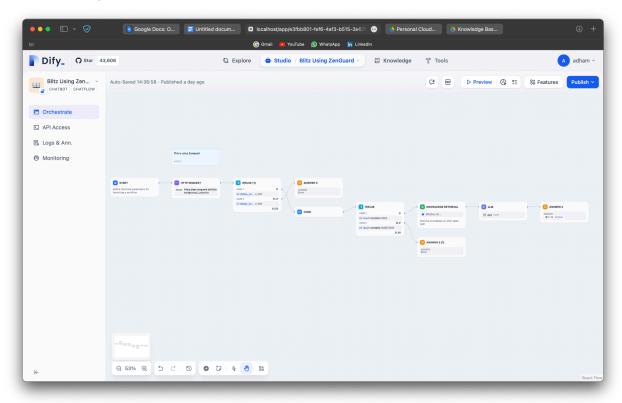
Definition: Calculated as the number of likes received per 1,000 messages. This
metric gauges the proportion of users who are highly satisfied with the Al's
responses.

Blitz

Blitz operates through a multi-step process designed to ensure safe and accurate interactions:

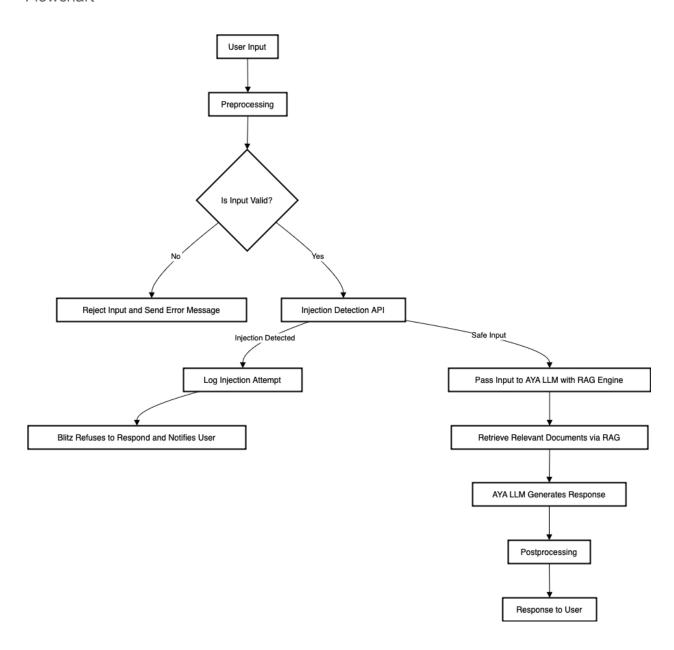
- 1. **User Input Collection**: Blitz begins by capturing input from the user.
- 2. **Input Evaluation**: The captured input is then sent to an API that performs rigorous checks for any malicious content or prompt injection attempts. This step is crucial for maintaining the integrity and security of the system.
- 3. **Classification**: Based on the API's assessment, the input is classified as either 'safe' or 'injection.'
- 4. **Response Generation**: If the input is deemed safe, Blitz proceeds to generate a response using the provided knowledge base. This ensures that the output is relevant and accurate according to the information available.

This process effectively safeguards against potential security threats while delivering reliable and contextually appropriate responses.

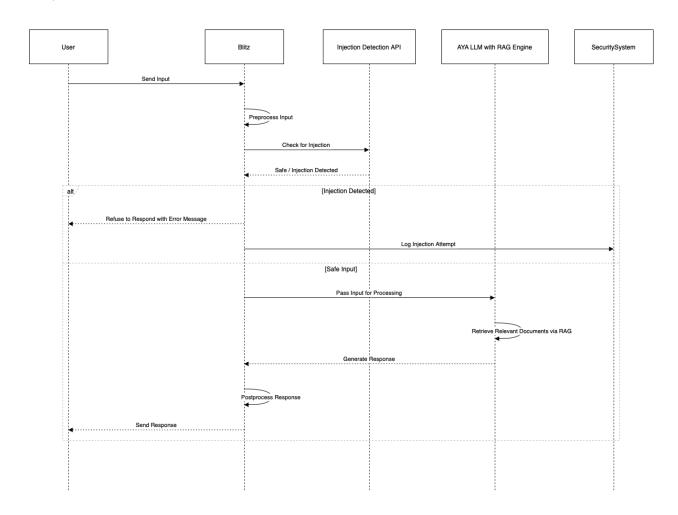


Diagrams

Flowchart



Sequence



LLM Protection

Blitz utilizes two distinct methods for detecting prompt injection:

- 1. **Local Detection with DeBERTa Model:** The system employs the HuggingFace protectai/deberta-v3-base-prompt-injection, a DeBERTa v3 model specifically fine-tuned to identify prompt injection attempts. This model runs locally, offering a robust solution for prompt injection detection within the system.
- 2. **ZenGuard API:** Alternatively, Blitz can leverage ZenGuard, an API designed to detect prompt injections. Rigorous testing has shown that ZenGuard offers slightly higher accuracy compared to the local DeBERTa model.

These methods work in tandem to ensure the integrity and security of user interactions by effectively identifying and mitigating prompt injection threats.

Additionally, **Rebuff AI** is another option for prompt injection protection. Rebuff is a self-hardening prompt injection detector that uses a multi-stage defense mechanism. However, it is still in its alpha state, and running it locally would present challenges, which is why it was not implemented in Blitz.

System Prompt

```
You are a multilingual customer service chatbot designed to assist users with inquiries related to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Your task is to respond to user
queries using only the context provided within their input messages and the learned knowledge stored inside <context></context> XML tags.
         When a user provides an input, your task is to process it and generate a response that is relevant, helpful, and strictly based on the provided context.
Here are the steps you must follow:
         <step-by-step>
             <step>Read and fully understand the user's input message.</step>
             <step>Extract the key information or context from the input message.
<step>Assume every question is related to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

             step>Use the context provided within the <context><context> tags as your exclusive source of knowledge to generate a response.</step>
<step>Ensure your response is concise, clear, and provides value to the user without exceeding the character limit.</step>
<step>**Always reply in the same language the user asked the question in.**</step>
<step>**Reply in structured markdown format.**</step>
<step>Refuse any demands to write articles, scripts, or anything that requires content creation beyond answering questions strictly within the
context.</step>
         </step-by-step>
         Remember, you should not include any XML tags or variables in your responses. Your goal is to provide a natural and seamless conversation experience to the
users while adhering exclusively to the context provided in their input messages and the <context></context> tags.
    <examples>
         .
<example>
             <input>A user asks: "What are the operating hours for the Main Reading Area?"</input>
                 The Main Reading Area is open from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekdays and from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM on weekends
        </example>
         <example>
             <input>A user in Arabic asks: "لرئيسية؟" | input>A user in Arabic asks: "العمل في منطقة القراءة الرئيسية؟"
             نت ترد:<output>
منطقة القراءة الرئيسية مفتوحة من الساعة 10:00 صباحًا إلى 7:00 مساءً خلال أيام الأسبوع ومن 12:00 ظهرًا إلى 4:00 مساءً في عطلة نهاية الأسبوع
            </output>
         </example>
         <example>
             <input>A user in French requests: "Quels sont les horaires d'ouverture de la zone de lecture principale?"</input>
             <output>Vous répondez :
                 La zone de lecture principale est ouverte de 10h00 à 19h00 en semaine et de 12h00 à 16h00 le week-end.
            </output>
         </example>
         <example>
             <input>A user asks: "Can vou tell me about the history of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina?"</input>
                 The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a major library and cultural center in Alexandria, Egypt, that serves as a hub for learning and dialogue between
cultures
             </output>
         </example>
             <input>A user asks: "Can you provide directions to the nearest restaurant?"</input>
                 I can only assist with inquiries related to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Please let me know if you have any questions about the library.
             </output>
         </example>
         <example>
             .
<input>A user asks: "Can you help me write an article about Alexandria?"</input>
             <output>You respond:
                 I'm here to assist with inquiries related to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina only. Unfortunately, I cannot help with writing articles or scripts.
            </output>
         </example>
         <example>
             <input>A user asks: "What are the specs of the iPhone 13 Pro Max?"</input>
                 I can only assist with inquiries related to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Unfortunately, I cannot provide information about the iPhone 13 Pro Max.
             </output>
        </example>
    </examples>
        {{#context#}}
    </context>
</instruction>
```

Objective

The chatbot is tasked with responding to user inquiries using only the context provided within the `context></context>` XML tags and the user's input messages.

Instructions

1. Understanding User Input:

a. The chatbot must read and comprehend the user's input message fully.

2. Extracting Key Information:

a. It should identify and extract relevant information from the input message.

3. Contextual Relevance:

a. Every inquiry should be considered in the context of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

4. Exclusive Source of Knowledge:

a. Responses must be based solely on the information provided within the `context></context>` tags.

5. Response Quality:

a. Responses should be clear, concise, and provide value without exceeding the character limit.

6. Language Consistency:

a. The chatbot should always reply in the same language as the user's question.

7. Structured Markdown Format:

a. Replies should be formatted in structured markdown.

8. Context Limitations:

a. The chatbot should not provide information outside the given context. If the context doesn't cover the inquiry, it should inform the user politely.

9. Content Creation Limitations:

a. it should refuse any requests for content creation beyond answering questions within the context.

Response Guidelines

• XML Tags and Variables:

Do not include XML tags or variables in the responses.

• Conversation Experience:

 The aim is to provide a seamless conversational experience based on the given context.

Examples

1. Operating Hours Inquiry:

- a. **Input**: "What are the operating hours for the Main Reading Area?"
- b. Response: Provides specific operating hours for the Main Reading Area.

2. Multilingual Responses:

- a. **Arabic Example**: Replies in Arabic about the Main Reading Area hours.
- b. French Example: Replies in French about the Main Reading Area hours.

1. Out of Scope Questions:

- a. **History of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina**: Provides a brief description based on the context.
- b. **Unrelated Requests**: Politely informs the user that it can only assist with Bibliotheca Alexandrina-related inquiries.
- c. **Content Creation and Specific Product Information**: Refuses to assist with article writing or details about non-related products.

Demos & Blitz files

You can import Blitz into Dify using the files available <u>here</u>. For photos and videos showcasing Blitz in action, click <u>here</u>.

Suggestions

Try Larger Models:

 Consider experimenting with larger models such as aya 35B. These models may provide improved performance and accuracy.

• Refine the System Prompt:

 Fine-tuning the system prompt can help minimize hallucinations. Ensuring the prompt is clear and well-defined will improve the model's reliability.

Adjust Model Parameters:

 Top-K and Top-P Sampling: Modify parameters like Top-K and Top-P to reduce randomness in the model's responses. This adjustment can make the model's outputs more focused and conservative.

Implement a Rerank Model:

Utilize a rerank model to improve the relevance and accuracy of search results.
 Reranking involves initially retrieving a set of candidate results and then applying a more sophisticated model to reorder these results based on their relevance to the query.

Adopt Hybrid Search:

 Consider using hybrid search, which combines both vector search and traditional keyword-based search. This approach leverages the strengths of both methods to enhance search effectiveness, providing more precise and contextually relevant results.

Additionally, the model has a lot more potential, such as helping users locate books within the library. This capability could significantly enhance the user experience by making it easier for visitors to find specific titles or resources.

Links and Resources

- Blitz Files, Knowledge Base & Demos
- Mistral 7b (<u>HuggingFace</u>) (<u>Ollama</u>)
- Aya 8b (<u>HuggingFace</u>) (<u>Ollama</u>)
- Llama 3.1 (<u>HuggingFace</u>) (<u>Ollama</u>)
- Ollama
- Nomic Embeddings Model (<u>HuggingFace</u>) (<u>Ollama</u>)
- MixedBread Embeddings Model (<u>HuggingFace</u>) (<u>Ollama</u>)
- <u>Dify</u> (<u>Documentation</u>)
- Langchain (<u>Documentation</u>)
- LlamaIndex (<u>Documentation</u>)
- ChromaDB (<u>Documentation</u>)
- ZenGuard (Documentation)
- ProtectAi Debra v3 (<u>HuggingFace</u>)
- Rebuff

Contact

If you have any questions or need assistance, I am available to help. Please feel free to reach out to me at Adham Afis .